

**City of Knoxville Public Arts Committee
Request for Qualifications: Public Art**

The City of Knoxville's Public Arts Committee invites artists (and artist teams) to submit a statement of qualifications for iconic, site-specific, permanently installed public art to be located in the public space, currently named Cradle of Country Music Park, located at the corner of Summit Hill Drive and Gay Street in downtown Knoxville, Tennessee. Up to five (5) finalists will be selected to participate in a site visit, develop a proposal, and return for interviews. Coordination will be required with the selected landscape architect for site design in tandem with the artwork. Artists who have experience designing and completing projects with a similar budget and scope are encouraged to apply.

Those intending to submit their qualifications for this project are advised that works that have been previously created for other spaces are discouraged. Works that have been previously exhibited in other locales are disqualified.

Eligibility: This opportunity is open to all professional artists or artist teams over the age of 18.

The timeline for this project is as follows. All dates are tentative with the exception of the Qualifications Due Date stated below:

Time Line:

Deadline for questions pertaining to RFQ.....	January 5, 2018
Qualifications Due Date.....	January 16, 2018
Anticipated artist selection.....	February 6, 2018
Anticipated site visit for finalists.....	April 2018
Anticipated artist interviews.....	May 1, 2018
Winning artist notified.....	May 15, 2018
Contract development.....	June 2018
Design process begins.....	July 2018

For all questions pertaining to this RFQ and for more information in general, call (865) 523-7543 or email lz@knoxalliance.com.

Project Details and Background Information: The designated location for the commissioned work or works of art is the city park located at the corner of Summit Hill Drive and Gay Street in downtown Knoxville. This park, currently known as the Cradle of Country Music Park, is slated for redesign; design teams participating in a design charrette developed six distinctive park concept plans, which can be reviewed at <http://knoxvillepublicart.com/downtown-park/>. In 1986, the Cradle of Country Music Park was developed to recognize Knoxville's role in the birth of Country Music and is included on the East Tennessee Historical Society's self-guided walking tour. It is the City's intent to potentially rename the park. The City has not determined what the new name will be. The City is letting potential qualifiers know this so that they do not feel as if the work of art has to have something to do with Country Music. The redesigned, re-named park will provide desperately needed space for outdoor performances and recreation, and will serve as a gathering place and point of civic pride. The work of art and redesigned park should also serve as a connector between Market Square,

the Old City, and the 300 Block of Gay Street across Summit Hill to the 100 Block of Gay Street. A map of the current park is provided, as Exhibit "A" with this RFQ.

The park is located at one of downtown Knoxville's most commonly used gateways and, as such, is a highly visible area where as many as 14,000 cars pass by daily. The homes of more than 3,000 residents surround the park which is located in the center of the one square mile Central Business Improvement District. Downtown Knoxville is always vibrant. Festivals such as the Big Ears Festival, Rhythm N' Blooms, HoLa Hora, the International Biscuit Festival, and the Rossini Festival, fill the streets of downtown year round. The nearby historic Bijou and Tennessee theaters provide stages for world-class entertainment. The city's many cultural attractions feature everything from art to artifacts, while the historic Old City to the east of the park offers over a dozen clubs and restaurants within a two block area. On any given day visitors can catch a parade, street festival, farmers' market, or First Friday art walk. The park is situated directly across the street from the Knoxville Visitors' Center where live Americana music is performed at 12:00 noon each day and within the city's designated Arts District.

Project Budget: The maximum budget for artwork for this project is \$500,000, which includes artist fees, design fees, travel expenses (reimbursed to the artist based on published GSA per diem rates), equipment rental, traffic control costs, engineering expenses, shipping and transportation to the site, installation, any applicable permit fees and taxes, any costs associated with the development of site-specific concept(s), contingency, and any other expenses related to the design, including fabrication and installation.

Two-Step Artist Selection Process: The selection process will be two-phased. The first phase will be the evaluation of qualifications, from which a pool of up to five artists/teams will be selected to conduct a site visit, develop a proposal, and return for interviews. An honorarium of \$5,000 will be provided to each (and up to five) finalists/teams. An award will be made from these proposals.

Two-Step Park Design Process: The City of Knoxville's Parks & Recreation Department will issue a Request for Qualifications solicitation for a qualified landscape architect or other similarly qualified professional to re-design the current park space to complement the artist's vision. From the plans and designs created by the selected landscape architect, in collaboration with the artist, the City will then bid out the construction work for the new park.

Contract with City of Knoxville: The selected artist/team will contract with the City of Knoxville. The actual artwork and all rights to its image for the sole purpose of promoting the City of Knoxville shall be owned by the City. Contract requirements for the selected artist/team may be reviewed at <http://bit.ly/Art-RFP-Terms>

How Qualifications Will Be Judged: Submissions will be judged/scored on the following, with a maximum score of 100 points:

- Artistic Excellence (maximum 40 points): The artist's work reflects artistic excellence, innovation, and originality as evidenced by professional quality of craftsmanship and mastery of skills and techniques; demonstrates professional approaches to processes and presentation; and/or communicates a unique vision or perspective.

- Professional Experience (maximum 40 points): The artist’s professional experience is adequate to meet the demands of the project, including a proven ability to meet project budgets, deadlines, and to perform work in a timely and professional manner. Public art experience is required.
- Experience working on a project of similar scale (maximum 20 points): Previous work that can specifically demonstrate the successful completion of projects that include partnering with, or working closely in collaboration with, landscape designers, government agencies, and other stakeholders.

Requirements for Submission of Qualifications:

- Completed application form (see page 5).
- Current CV/resume. Teams must submit one resume/CV per team member.
- Statement of intent (limit one page): Applicants should briefly describe their interest in the project and include a description of their approach and proposed design for the project.
- 10 images of previously completed work that demonstrate an ability to design, create, and install large scale, outdoor artwork. Do not collage multiple images into one image.
- Image identification list: An image identification list corresponding to the submitted digital images. Each image should include image number, artist’s name, title, year, media, dimensions, location, project budget, commissioning agency, and collaborators (if applicable).
- 3 professional references. Please include name, title, affiliation, phone number, and email address.

Submission Deadline and Procedures: All required materials detailing the artist's/team's qualifications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 16, 2018. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. To mail or hand deliver your statement of qualifications please send them to the:

Arts & Culture Alliance
 Attention: Liza Zenni
 P.O. Box 2506, Knoxville, TN 37902
 lz@knoxalliance.com

To submit your statement of qualifications electronically, please adhere to the following procedure:

1. Email Liza Zenni at LZ@knoxalliance.com stating that you would like to submit your qualifications electronically. Include your return email address. **DO NOT INCLUDE ANY PART OF YOUR PROPOSAL IN ANY E-MAIL.**
2. You will receive a responding email from Liza Zenni (via Google Drive). This email will contain a link to a unique folder in the City of Knoxville Google Drive.
3. Click on the Folder Link in the email to be taken to the Drive (you may be required to open a Google account to use the folder. A Google account is free of charge. If you are not willing to open a Google account, you must mail or hand-deliver your application).
4. When prompted, “drop” your file into your Google folder.

5. Your Google folder will remain available to you but, for purposes of the RFQ, sealed and secure until the stated deadline. After the deadline, it will be opened and your access will be removed. Until the deadline, you can add, remove, edit, and check contents.

6. If you have any questions about submitting electronically, please call 865-523-7543 or email LZ@knoxalliance.com.

EXHIBIT “A” (Map of the Cradle of Country Music Park)



City of Knoxville Public Arts Committee
Public Art at Cradle of Country Music Park

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

WEBSITE (OPTIONAL): _____

DEADLINE: Submissions must be received by **5:00 PM on January 16, 2017**

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

___ Application Form

___ CV/Resume (teams must submit one CV/resume per team member)

___ Statement of Intent (1 page maximum)

___ 10 Images of Previous Work

___ Image Identification List, including image number, artist's name, title, year, media, dimensions, location, project budget, commissioning agency, and collaborators (if applicable).

___ 3 Professional References, including name, title, affiliation, phone number, and email address.