

# Call to Artists

*Commission for a site-specific exterior artwork for Water Street Tampa*

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**  
**Friday, February 23, 2018 • 5:00pm EST**



**WATER STREET  
TAMPA**



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## *Commission for a site-specific exterior artwork for Water Street Tampa*

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**City of Tampa, Water Street Tampa, University of South Florida**

**Project Budget \$600,000**

The City of Tampa's Art Program Division and Strategic Property Partners, LLC, the developer of Water Street Tampa along with The University of South Florida Art in State Buildings Program, seek to commission a professional artist to create a site-specific exterior artwork to be placed or integrated in the open plaza area designed by Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects. The Plaza is situated between the University of South Florida's Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute, designed by HOK Architects, and a high-performance office tower designed by COOKFOX Architects.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Project:** A commissioned public artwork for a plaza within Water Street Tampa, designed by Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects
- Stakeholders:** City of Tampa, Strategic Property Partners LLC, University of South Florida
- Location:** Water Street Tampa, Florida
- Completion Date:** Spring 2020
- Project Budget:** **\$600,000.** This amount is inclusive of all costs associated with this public art project including, but not limited to, artist fees, artist consultants and subcontractors, insurance conforming to City of Tampa's standards, engineering, materials, fabrication, transportation, installation and post-installation documentation. Budget listed is a budget estimate. The amount of the commission may adjust slightly.
- \*Please note that artists submitting from outside of the United States may be subject to a 30% tax withholding from the Internal Revenue Service.
- Artwork:** The ideal artwork should incorporate multiple elements in the space and may consider relevant themes including health, well-being, the environment, weather, science and medicine.

### ABOUT THE SITE

The selected artwork will be located in a **Plaza** within the **Water Street Tampa** neighborhood.

The Plaza is situated between the University of South Florida's Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute, designed by HOK, and a high-performance office tower, designed by COOKFOX Architects, which will also house Water Street Tampa's community Wellness Center.

Situated on the Garrison Channel and Hillsborough Bay, Water Street Tampa is surrounded by existing cultural, entertainment and community anchors including the Tampa Convention Center; Amalie Arena, home of the National Hockey League's Tampa Bay Lightning; Tampa Bay History Center; and Florida Aquarium. Water Street Tampa will include approximately two million square feet of new office space, including the first new office towers in downtown Tampa in nearly 25 years; approximately one million square feet

of new retail, cultural, educational, and entertainment space that complement the active pedestrian experience at the street level; 3,500 new rental and for-sale residences, nearly doubling the number of housing units available within downtown Tampa; and two new hotels with over 650 new rooms, including the city's first 5-star hotel. In total, an estimated 23,000 people will live, work and visit Water Street Tampa each day.

Water Street Tampa will connect the surrounding community anchors via a network of 12.9 acres of new and enhanced parks and public areas that lead to the waterfront, the Tampa Riverwalk, and the nearby five-mile path along Bayshore Boulevard, offering a variety of recreational opportunities. Notably, the Plaza serves as the central space to the block and as an artery through Water Street Tampa's network of open spaces and parks.

Water Street Tampa aims to set a new standard for wellness and sustainability in the built environment, and will become the world's first WELL Certified community under the WELL Community Standard, developed by the International WELL Building Institute. The WELL Community Standard guides how a community's resources—natural, human and technological—are used effectively, equitably and responsibly to encourage health and wellness among all community members. WELL Certified communities, including Water Street Tampa, will implement design and technology strategies to improve concepts of air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, sound, mind, temperature, materials, and community. Proposed materials for artwork should complement WELL Community requirements.

Scheduled to open in the Fall of 2019, the University of South Florida (USF) will relocate the Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute to downtown Tampa from its current suburban campus into a new world-class facility. Strategic Property Partners, the developer behind the Water Street Tampa neighborhood, donated the land for the facility to USF.

USF Health's Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute will host an estimated 2,200 faculty, staff and students to live, work, and study when it opens in late 2019. Serving as a modern centerpiece of scientific innovation, world-class clinical care and life-changing discoveries, the state-of-the-art facility will include learning and conference spaces, an auditorium, laboratories, faculty offices and a clinical research and care unit. The USF Health Heart Institute at the Morsani College of Medicine will unite NIH-funded researchers with the expertise to create new therapies, practicing cardiologists with the experience to administer them, and patients deeply in need of both. The downtown site will position the medical school in close proximity to USF Health's primary teaching and clinical affiliate, Tampa General Hospital, as well as its world-class simulation center, the USF Health Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation and other surrounding facilities.

Designed by Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, the Plaza embraces its location within the Florida ecosystem and reveals important aspects of the region's unique ecology while simultaneously structuring and harmonizing the public space between the adjacent buildings.

Nestled between Wetland and Upland ecologies, the Plaza features constructed systems typical to the conditions of the Coastal Floodplain and the Hardwood Hammocks (islands of hardwood trees). A curvilinear runnel meanders through the Plaza, recalling connection from the upper regions of the Hillsborough River to the channel at Tampa Bay. The runnel also defines a sculptural edge of benches along its meander, and forms the eastern edge of the floodplain plantings. The rigid, linear, western edge of the plantings recalls the constructed channel and docks of Tampa Bay.

Visually compelling and typical of Floodplain ecologies, Bald Cypress trees provide significant shade protection in the sun-drenched southern edge of the Plaza - an immersive outdoor respite in the Florida subtropical climate. The Bald Cypress are also used to announce the plaza within the circulation choreography - strategically, they supplant the oak trees that line the streets in the rest of the district. In the elevated portion of the plaza, the Hardwood Hammocks area, live oak trees define the circulation, providing focal points along the path while casting cool and welcoming shadows across long contours of benches.

The Plaza provides for an ecologically diverse and engaging urban space for both visitors to Tampa and the several distinct user groups who live, work, and learn in and around the surrounding buildings.

Safety is imperative, and low-maintenance materials are recommended to withstand Florida's Gulf Coast intense weather conditions.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

A complete application consists of the following four items. Please be sure to clearly state name, address, email, phone, and website on all documents.

- 1. Written Statement:** Describe the conceptual basis for your practice and approach including how you envision approaching the project. Include experience working with architects, engineers and landscape architects. Maximum length: 500 words.
- 2. Professional Résumé:** Include degrees held, a summary list of public art projects, exhibitions completed during the past ten (10) years, awards, catalogues, current gallery affiliations, grants/fellowships and experience in working with multiple agencies including public agencies. Maximum length two (2) pages.
- 3. Digital Images:** Please include 10 images of completed art works or projects. Suggested file size is 1920 pixels on the longest side submitted as a JPG
- 4. Digital Image ID Sheet:** For each image, please include:
  - Budget
  - Title of Work
  - Medium
  - Dimensions
  - Date of Work
  - 1-2 sentences of explanatory text (not required)
  - Relevant website, Vimeo, or YouTube links (not required)

## THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018 AT 5:00PM EST

- Digital Submissions:** Please upload to <https://www.hightail.com/u/TampaArtPrograms> or email a link from a file sharing service (dropbox, etc.) to [artprograms@tampagov.net](mailto:artprograms@tampagov.net). If uploading to Hightail, all items for submission must be uploaded as one zipped folder labeled with artist's name. You may also mail a USB flash drive to the address listed below.
- Mail submissions to:** Water Street Tampa/USF Health  
Art Programs Division  
City of Tampa  
306 East Jackson Street 5N  
Tampa, Florida 33602
- Contact Information:** E-mail: [ArtPrograms@tampagov.net](mailto:ArtPrograms@tampagov.net)  
Website: [www.tampagov.net/Arts](http://www.tampagov.net/Arts)  
Phone: (813) 274-8531

## THE SELECTION PROCESS

The Water Street Tampa project is open to professional visual artists with demonstrated experience in the execution of projects from concept to completion, meeting a specified budget and timeframe, and working in the public realm with public agencies.

The Art Selection Committee will conduct a blind review of all applicants' submitted images. The Committee will then review artist résumés and statements, recommending finalists to submit proposals. Finalists will work with the Selection Committee and Design Team.

Finalists will develop a design concept, prepare presentation materials, drawings, a model and related specifications in sufficient detail to convey design intent. Selected finalists will receive a \$5,000 fee (inclusive of travel) to present a proposal and model to the Art Selection Committee and Design Team.

## ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

**Friday, February 23, 2018 at 5:00PM**

**Early March 2018**

**Late March 2018**

**Summer 2018**

**Summer 2020**

Submission deadline

Notification to Finalists

Presentation of Proposals by Finalists in Tampa, Florida

Proposal and Contract Finalized

Project Completed

This schedule is subject to change. It is desired that the selected artist will work with Plaza Design Team to integrate the proposed artwork into the design.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Water Street Tampa

USF Health, Morsani College of Medicine

USF in Water Street Tampa

International WELL Building Institute

City of Tampa

[waterstreettampa.com](http://waterstreettampa.com)

[health.usf.edu/medicine](http://health.usf.edu/medicine)

[usf.edu/water-street-tampa/about/index.aspx](http://usf.edu/water-street-tampa/about/index.aspx)

[wellcertified.com](http://wellcertified.com)

[tampagov.net](http://tampagov.net)

The City of Tampa is the county seat and largest city in Hillsborough County, and is the third most populous city in Florida.

Approximately one-third of Hillsborough County's population resides in the City of Tampa.

The City of Tampa is the economic hub of west central Florida. Its economy is founded on a diverse base that includes tourism, health care, finance, insurance, technology, construction, and maritime industry.

**The Plaza, designed by Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, is situated between the University of South Florida's Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute, designed by HOK Architects, and a high-performance office tower, designed by COOKFOX Architects.**





(Courtesy of the University of South Florida/ HOK)