

Request for Qualifications: CALL TO ARTISTS



Maple Valley Iconic Art Project

Application Deadline: February 21, 2020

Artwork Opportunity

The City of Maple Valley, Washington invites Pacific Northwest professional artists/artist teams to submit their qualifications for consideration to design and create site-specific artwork to enhance a highly visible retaining wall recently constructed along the SR-169 corridor through the city.

The goal of this project is to create artwork that will transform a prominently located retaining wall into an engaging and iconic symbol of the City that generates a sense of welcome and unique community identity. Positioned along a main corridor, the retaining wall is viewed by not only local residents, but by visitors to our community and commuters passing through. Careful consideration will be given to the message of the artwork for the largest “blank canvas” in the city.

About Maple Valley

Maple Valley is one of the most dynamic cities in the Puget Sound Region area. The City’s unique combination of natural amenities, thriving local businesses, and convenient location attract people of all ages. The City’s businesses and residences are supported by its outstanding parks, trails, and open space opportunities.

Situated within 30 minutes of Seattle and Tacoma, Maple Valley offers an extraordinary location to enjoy all that the region has to offer. Maple Valley residents are close enough to take advantage of all of the cultural amenities that Bellevue, Tacoma and Seattle offer. Maple Valley is home to three lakes, one golf course, and miles of open space trails making it an outdoor recreation hub. Lake Wilderness Park lies in the heart of the City and offers leisure activities in the water and on land. The City is one of the fastest growing market areas in Washington State, doubling its population since incorporation in 1997.

Historically known for coal, timber, and rail, and once a lakeside resort getaway for nearby Seattle residents, Maple Valley is a dynamic, enjoyable and safe place to live. Civically-engaged residents, supportive community services and an abundance of outdoor activities, make it a great place to Live, Work, Play, Every Day!

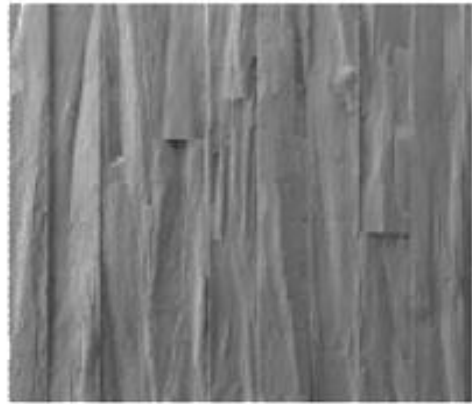
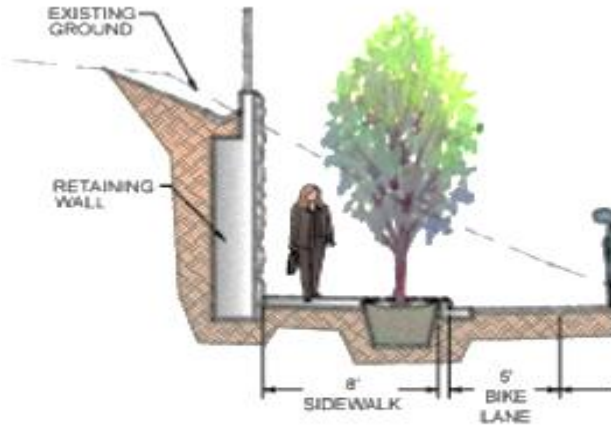
SR-169 Widening Capital Project

The SR-169 Widening Capital Project consisted of widening and improving the roadway from Witte Road SE to SE 225th Street, adding a second northbound lane, providing two full travel lanes in each direction, and removing the bottleneck at Witte Road. Other improvements on the east side of the corridor include a sidewalk, controlled access features, a northbound bike lane, a transit stop, street lighting, stormwater enhancements, and a 950 foot long retaining wall.

Retaining Wall Specifications

The retaining wall is approximately 950 feet long and is located on the east side of SR-169 between Witte Road and SE 225th Street. The nominal height of the wall is 12 to 15 feet and tapers to approximately 5 feet at each end; following the natural contour of the land. Construction of the retaining wall is soldier pile consisting of wood inserted into metal H beams with a gray concrete “Split Stakes” fascia finish. A 30-inch high metal fence was installed along the top of the retaining wall.





SPLIT STAKES FINISH



Artwork Specifications & Criteria

- All genres of art that are feasible for enhancing the retaining wall will be considered, including mixed media. Depending on the type of media, specific guidelines may apply.
- The artwork must reflect the spirit and essence of the community and be an iconic statement that both local residents and visitors identify with Maple Valley.
- It is preferable for the artwork to be visually appealing for commuters, pedestrians, and for those viewing the artwork from locations across the street.
- Placement of artwork should take into consideration landscape elements. The City plans to select the type of trees in front of retaining wall in March/April 2020. The City may also consider limiting planter wells to shrubs only.
- Materials used for the art must be of a durable nature that can withstand weather and elements with minimal maintenance.
- Artists should take into consideration driver safety, avoiding materials that are reflective, distracting, etc.

- Artists should consider the possibility of vandalism and/or theft.
- Artwork attached to the retaining wall surface should be flush or protrude from the wall up to two (2) inches, depending upon the artwork elements and design. However, artwork attached to the retaining wall surface at nine (9) feet or above the ground may protrude from the wall no more than 18 inches, depending upon the artwork elements and design.
- Artwork anchored to the retaining wall surface will be reviewed for pedestrian safety and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance.
- Artwork fastened to the wall must be anchored in a secure manner with fasteners that can support at least three times the weight of all attached elements.
- Artists are encouraged to visit Maple Valley to view the wall and surrounding area as well as observe community activity.

Budget

It is intended that a range of \$60,000 to \$80,000 shall cover all costs and compensation to the selected artist/artist team. This budgeted range is all-inclusive for the commissioned art project, including design and development, materials, fabrication, installation, insurance, travel expenses, and a five-year maintenance plan.

Artist Responsibility

- Artist is responsible for travel to and from the City of Maple Valley.
- Artist is responsible for transporting artwork and/or materials to the installation site.
- Artist is responsible for installation of the artwork. The City of Maple Valley may provide minimal assistance during installation.
- Artist must be able to demonstrate the selected artwork will be sound, safe, suitable for exhibition in the public realm, and meet all Artwork Specifications and Criteria outlined in this RFQ.
- Artist must provide a detailed schematic and plans for the artwork so the project may be completed by another artist should the original artist be unable to complete the work for any reason.
- Artist is responsible for complying with terms set forth in this RFQ.

Selection Process & Criteria

A selection panel consisting of Public Arts Commissioners and representatives from both City staff and the community will review all responses to this RFQ.

The selection process will consist of two stages:

During the first stage, the Artist Selection Panel will review all qualified submissions and evaluate qualifications of artists based on the following criteria:

1. Quality and strength of past work as demonstrated in the submitted application materials;

2. Ability to create artwork appropriate concepts, materials, and scale for the project;
3. Relevant previous experience in creating site-specific artworks for exterior locations;
4. Demonstrated experience with project of a comparable scope and budget.

Up to three applicants may be selected to continue as finalists.

During the second stage, artists chosen as finalists will be paid a \$750.00 stipend to prepare an artwork project proposal including their design idea(s) with applicable schematic/rendering/scale model, workflow process, itemized budget, timeline, and recommended maintenance schedule. Each finalist will present their proposal to the Artist Selection Panel. The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Design depicts the unique community identity of Maple Valley;
2. Artist consideration of artwork location including multiple audiences;
3. Proposed artwork demonstrates safety and durability; and
4. Feasibility of process, budget and timeline.

Finalists will have access to applicable resources when preparing their proposals and may schedule a site visit accompanied by City staff.

The artist selected for the project will present their artwork proposal to City Councilmembers at a City Council meeting.

The selection panel reserves the right to make no selection from the submitted responses, interviews, or finalist proposals.

Project Schedule

January 29, 2020	Announcement of Call for Artists
February 21, 2020	Call for Artists Submissions Due
February/March 2020	Panel Review of Responses & Finalist(s) Selection
February/March 2020	Finalist(s) Notification
April/May 2020	Finalist(s) Design Presentation & Artist Selection
April/May 2020	Artwork Presentation to City Council
Spring/Summer 2020	Artwork Completion & Installation

**Schedule is subject to change.

Response Guidelines and Required Materials

Responses to this RFQ must include the following items to be considered by the selection panel:

1. Artist/Artist Team Profile;
2. Statement of Interest - 500 words (or less) that explains why the artist is interested in this project and how the artist's practice and work, community, and life experience relate to this project and the posted selection criteria;
3. Work Samples – submit up to five total samples of past work that best illustrate qualifications

related to this project;

4. Work Sample Descriptions – each work sample submitted will require a narrative description; and
5. Resume – two page (maximum) current professional resume.

Responses should be submitted via one of the following methods:

- Email sent to dorothy.stickney@maplevalleywa.gov; or
- Mail to the attention of Dorothy Stickney, City of Maple Valley, PO Box 320, Maple Valley, WA 98038; or
- Hand deliver to the attention of Dorothy Stickney, Maple Valley City Hall, 22017 SE Wax Road, Suite 200, Maple Valley, WA 98038.

Deadline

Responses to this RFQ will be accepted through 5:00 pm local time on Friday, February 21, 2020.

Questions?

Direct inquiries to Dorothy Stickney, Public Arts Commission Staff Liaison:

- dorothy.stickney@maplevalleywa.gov
- (425) 413-8800, extension 625