



## **Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from interested artists**

**Images: Minimum 5; Maximum 10**

**Entry Deadline: May 1, 2023**

**Budget: \$14,500**

The Mount Vernon Area Arts Council (MVAAC) is seeking qualifications from artists for a three-dimensional artwork to be installed as the first step in the creation of a sculpture trail.

**Background:** The Mount Vernon Area Arts Council is partnering with the City of Mount Vernon, IA, to create a sculpture trail along an existing walking path in Mount Vernon. The trail runs along Hahn Creek for approximately a quarter mile and intersects the route of the old Lincoln Highway. The path is concrete and lighted by reproductions of old-fashioned streetlamps. The land is owned by the City of Mount Vernon and is part of its park system.

**Description of Opportunity Project Goals:** The selected artist(s) will create a three-dimensional piece which will serve as the anchor of a multi-piece, multi-year installation.

The artwork will be site specific but is not limited to a particular medium. Artwork will be installed outside and must be able to withstand the elements for years to come. Prospective artists are encouraged to view the space if possible. The sculpture site is visible from the city's main street. Foot traffic visitors can park adjacent to the trail for easy access from either Nature Park or the First Street Community Center.

The artwork must follow city ordinances. Most notably, any lighting must be downward direction. If the artwork requires site preparation (concrete base, etc.), the artist will work with the City of Mount Vernon to ensure proper installation.

**Budget:** The budget for the artwork may not exceed \$14,500, including design, fabrication, transportation and installation.

**Process:** A selection panel will review qualifications for the project and select two finalists to illustrate their concepts through drawings and interview. Selected artists will receive \$250 for concepts and presentations.

The final selected artist or artist team will be asked to fully develop the concept and present their idea to the selection panel.

### **Selection Criteria**

- Artistic excellence as demonstrated by past work
- Understanding of the project and ability to create artwork that responds to the goals of the project
- Ability to meet the project timeline



Anticipated Timeline:

- Deadline for submittal of qualifications: May 1, 2023
- Review applications and select three (3) finalists: June 1, 2023
- Finalist's concepts, interviews and presentations: July 1, 2023
- Approval of artist proposal: August 1, 2023
- Completion of installation: by December 31, 2023

Artist or artist team must submit the following:

- Typed letter of interest
- Current artistic resume, no longer than two (2) pages
- At least five (5) but no more than ten (10) digital images of previous artwork
- Names & contact information of two (2) references
- Deadline: Artists must submit their applications by May 1, 2023 via email [mvertcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mvertcouncil@gmail.com) or by USPS to MVAAC, Box 297, Mount Vernon, IA 52314.
- For questions about this project or the application process: [mvertcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mvertcouncil@gmail.com) and include *Sculpture Trail* in the subject line.