

Requests for Qualifications:  
**Sculptural Trail Signage Design & Pilot  
Fabrication**



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:  
SCULPTURAL TRAIL SIGNAGE DESIGN & PILOT FABRICATION

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Hyattsville Community Development Corporation (CDC) is **seeking an artist, designer, or team to create the design and develop pilot production of a sculpturally-influenced wayfinding trail signage framework or platform for locations along the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail**. This project will be conducted for and in close collaboration with the Hyattsville CDC, as detailed further below.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

This project is partially funded by a grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, and developed in partnership with the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Inc., and local trail-adjacent municipalities. Our goal is to produce exceptional trail signage, placed at trail intersections near local activity centers to bolster economic development, heritage tourism, and other activity centers. The structure upon which signage information is conveyed will serve equally as a work of public art itself.

*The Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail*: more than a decade in the making; when all of its four mile extent is completed, the Trolley Trail will connect communities along the Route One Corridor to trails leading into the District of Columbia's bike trail network. These communities include the municipalities of College Park, Riverdale Park, University Park, and Hyattsville. While there is currently minimal directional signage, we envision the end product of this RFQ to highlight the amenities of each community the trail traverses, through the inclusion of informational signage (the template of which will be designed by HCDC staff in conjunction with its project partners and funders).

**Eligibility:** Individual artists, designers, or artist/design teams who live in or have studios within the State of Maryland are eligible to apply. Local established and emerging architectural or industrial designers, sculptors, woodworkers, metal-workers, or artists working any durable media are especially welcome to reply.

## DESIGN CRITERIA

Emphasis in this RFQ will be on demonstrable ability to design an aesthetically unique; structurally appropriate; convenient to fabricate pilot/model: specifically a design that addresses the following issues and qualifications. CDC staff will work with the selected artist or artist team in determining the final production process.

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**Where content is integral to signage structure**, editing or updating information requires more costly replication on some or all of the signage. The envisioned signage structure we seek will enable the easy installation of interchangeable signage templates in several positions upon the work. The selected artists have free range to design the structure using materials, as they see fit, but should keep *modularity* in mind while doing so.

Therefore, the signage structure should:

- Be easily replicable in nature
- Be comprised of easily obtained, ubiquitous materials
- Allow for easy, secure insertion and removal of unique, local information
- Thoughtfully incorporate design elements reflective of the cultural identity associated with the Trolley Trail communities, the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, and/or Prince George's County

Considering form and structure, the Artwork must:

- Not pose any potential risk of injury to the public;
- Withstand unshielded, outdoor conditions
- Be durable year-long;
- Be of a low or no maintenance design; and
- Have the capacity to be easily installed / uninstalled.

Based upon qualifications presented in response to the RFQ, our selection team will identify three respondents from the pool of artists, designers, or teams to work with before selecting a final design.

While we are not asking for designs at the first stage of review, we do request submission of a simple concept sketch, no more than 3" x 5", in order to better convey how the artist might approach form, given the functions delineated; and as a demonstration of the artists' initial thoughts about the project.

### **BUDGET & FUNDING**

Based upon the RFQ responses, three finalists will be invited to submit more detailed design concepts. **Each of the three finalists will receive a \$1,000.00 stipend.** The CDC staff will then work closely with each finalist to prepare for the final juried review of their proposed designs.

**The finalist selected will receive a commission of \$35,000.00;** in exchange for which, unlimited licensed use of the selected design and three working prototypes will be delivered.

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## SUBMITTING QUALIFICATIONS

Respondents should submit the following materials in PDF or Word format by **Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**, in order to be considered for one of the three finalist positions:

- Artist/Team Name, Point-of-Contact name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail, address, and website
- A one-page résumé or curriculum vitae
- At least three current, verifiable references
- A one-page artist's statement
- A brief written expression of interest that articulates your motivation in responding to the RFQ: no more than one page in length
- **1 concept sketch** (2MB max per PDF/JPG/GIF/TIF/PNG image), as described in the Design Criteria section
- Up to 5 images of previous work (2MB max per PDF/JPG/GIF/TIF/PNG image)
- A list of your images with your filename, title of artwork or description, media, size. Please write your filenames as follows: *teamname\_imagewidth\_title*: i.e. *fair\_001\_artwork.jpg*

Committee decision for final 3 artist/artist teams is anticipated for no later than Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. All finalists will be asked to attend a bid review meeting, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Each finalist will have until **Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**, to prepare their final submission for the jury. Final jury notification of the awarded artist/artist team is anticipated for no later than Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

## EXAMPLES

Feel free to utilize the following examples or others you may find during research to assist in your creative process, and reach out to the HCDC team for any questions or clarification of the desired elements: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ly9rievwd6j08cq/AAB-KjVN9WIVCyHqmy\\_dpReoa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ly9rievwd6j08cq/AAB-KjVN9WIVCyHqmy_dpReoa?dl=0)

## PLANNED LOCATIONS

The signage will be installed in locations along the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail in the Town of Riverdale Park, the City of Hyattsville, and City of College Park.

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Exact locations TBD, but signs will be located at transition points to highlight local activity nodes.

## **SCHEDULE**

Once selected by the jury, a detailed timeline will be developed with the selected artist for fabrication, production process and installation; and a work agreement signed. Production and completion of the signage should take no longer than 10 weeks. Installation of the signage will be scheduled thereafter, but is anticipated for late Fall 2016/early Spring 2017.

## **JURY**

- *a designee for the **Town of Riverdale Park***
- *a designee for the **City of Hyattsville***
- *a designee for the **City of College Park***
- *a designee for the **Prince George's County Department of Parks & Recreation, Arts & Cultural Heritage Division***
- *a designee for the **Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Inc / Maryland Milestones***
- *a designee for the **M-NCPPC***
- *a designee for the **Hyattsville CDC***

## **SUBMISSION**

Please e-mail all application materials to our e-mail inbox: [rfp@hyattsvillecdc.org](mailto:rfp@hyattsvillecdc.org)

**Subject:** *Artist Name* – Trail Signage RFP

Receipt of submittals will be acknowledged, but cannot be returned. Hyattsville CDC reserves the right to amend the project scope and character as it develops, and will provide notice to all parties of interest. Hyattsville CDC reserves the right to reject any and all RFQ submissions and further reserves the right to re-issue the RFQ. Hyattsville CDC reserves the right to correct inaccurate awards. This may include, in extreme circumstances, revoking the awarding of a finalist already made to a respondent and subsequently awarding the opportunity to another respondent. Such action on the part of Hyattsville CDC shall not constitute a breach of contract on the part of the CDC once the CDC has made this determination.

**Please send any questions and comments to:**

Molly O'Connell, Program Manager  
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