



**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:  
BOULDER CIVIC AREA PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY**

**BUDGET: \$325,000 USD**

**DEADLINE: Thursday, May 11, 2017, 11:59 p.m. MST**

**Introduction**

The Boulder Office of Arts + Culture is seeking an artist, or artist team, for a site-specific public art commission to complement the newly-reconfigured Boulder Civic Area. This park setting is the heart of Boulder and hosts many municipal and cultural facilities, the Boulder Creek Path, and an abundance of multi-modal facilities.

Possible locations and themes within the Civic Area have been identified, with particular interest on the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Spine. This location is a new focal point within the park, highlighting a custom-designed bridge over Boulder Creek that connects the University Hill area with the Pearl Street Mall, a cultural and commercial destination. This commission is open to artists/artist teams working in all media. The estimated budget of \$325,000 USD is all inclusive. The art selection process will be managed by the Office of Arts and Culture Public Art Program.



**About the Civic Area**

Boulder's Civic Area is the heart of the city, with nature at its core, home to the municipal campus, and flanked by bookends of civic, cultural, and commercial sites. The Civic Area is an ever-vibrant environment that invites its community to play, engage, learn, contemplate, and converse. The site formally includes the area between Canyon Boulevard and Arapahoe Avenue and 9th and 14th Streets. This location is historically significant to the city. The location has been host to many uses with the creek serving as an access point into the immediate mountains one mile west. All Civic Area use has and will continue to respect the incredible vitality and power of Boulder Creek.

The Civic Area’s core green space is currently undergoing a transformation which will result in an intentionally-designed, flexible park space: restoration of the natural creek corridor; introduction of a new bridge and corridor that unites University Hill (to the south) and Pearl Street (to the north) to the Civic Area. The core of the Civic Area is designed to welcome users to and through the site.

Existing Civic Area amenities include Boulder Municipal Campus, Boulder Public Library, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Dushanbe Teahouse, Boulder County Farmers’ Market, the Glen Huntington Band Shell, Boulder Creek and the Boulder Creek Path, regular programming and additional cultural offerings.

Upcoming Civic Area amenities will include a nature play area, public art, café terrace, performance hill, restored riparian banks, creek access points, gardens, realigned pedestrian paths, and a new, custom-designed bridge and pedestrian underpass.



For more details on the Civic Area project, visit the following resources:

Boulder Civic Area project website: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/civic-area>

Boulder Civic Area fly-through rendering: <https://vimeo.com/179101876>

Boulder Civic Area Master Plan:

<https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Civic Area Masterplan 2015 FINAL-1-201507011615.pdf>

### Public Art: Parameters & Goals

The selection panel identified specific goals for this public art with the hope of creating a unique work of art that complements the above-mentioned park uses:

Appropriate & Unique: The selection panel seeks a unique, one-of-a-kind artwork.

Location: The selection panel has identified the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Spine as the most significant site for this public art project, but is open to expanding beyond this location. The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Spine is the main pedestrian corridor through the park that is aligned with 11<sup>th</sup> Street to the south and north, offering new site lines and access points to the Civic Area from University Hill and Pearl Street, respectively. With the intent to be connected, a new, custom-designed bridge further supports the spine as metaphor for a connective park. The selection panel is interested in the following concepts, and the finalist will have flexibility to identify a precise site within the areas adjacent:

- Signature Artwork: a meeting place on a civic scale, highly visible and serving as a destination
- Gateway or Threshold System along the spine: a single or series of “gateway(s)” to announce your arrival and ongoing experience within the Civic Area

Applicants should be aware that additional public art opportunities are anticipated within and adjacent to the Civic Area, as this is a multi-phased site with adjacent projects that complement the overall site. These will be separate calls, but will be reviewed in a holistic approach. Immediate, complementary public art projects include temporary projects within the Civic Area, mural opportunities along the Boulder Creek Path, and site-specific opportunities for University Hill and Pearl Street Mall.



**Materials & Media:** The selection panel is open to artwork in **all media and** materials, including kinetic or light-based media. The Civic Area is most active during the day, with significant activity on weekends in spring – fall. Park hours are from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

**Durability & Maintenance:** All public art projects in Colorado are exposed to weather, physical stresses and subject to vandalism and should be fabricated of highly durable, low-maintenance materials. Semi-finalists are encouraged to consult with a professional conservator or fabricator prior to the submission of a final proposal. Artist proposals awarded contracts will be reviewed by the selection panel, the Office of Arts and Culture, the Technical Review Committee (a project-specific technical group comprised of city staff), the Boulder Arts Commission, and the City Manager’s Office to ensure conformity with city standards of construction, maintenance and durability, and ADA standards. All finalists are expected to stay within the budget and to complete work in an approved timeframe.

### **Applying for these opportunities**

In response to this RFQ, applicants will be asked to submit up-to eight digital images, up-to two video or audio samples, a résumé or CV, and a statement of interest of no longer than 2000 characters via [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org) (CaFÉ™). From these applications, the selection panel will choose three to five semi-finalists who will be brought in for an interview with the panel. If a formal proposal is requested, the artist will be provided an honorarium of \$1,500 to prepare and present the proposal in person. Semi-finalists are strongly encouraged to conduct a site visit, and will be expected to pay for travel expenses from the honorarium. From the interview or proposal, artist(s) will be selected for this commission.

**Eligibility:** This project is open to artists, regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, national origin, age, religion, marital status, political opinion or affiliation or mental or physical handicap. Artists working in any media are eligible to apply. Artists are not required to have previous experience in public art.



Can a team apply?: Applicant(s) may apply as a single artist or multi-person collaboration. In the case of teams, please submit a single résumé for the whole team (see details below).

Selected artists for the commission will collaborate with the Civic Area Project Management Team and Civic Area Technical Review Committee when finalizing their designs for installation. Public art commissions must go through applicable review and permitting processes.

Applicants are encouraged to review a sample public art contractual agreement prior to applying for any public art opportunities. The draft contract can be found here: <https://boulderarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Sample-Public-Art-Contract-2016-2220.pdf>

## **Budget**

The budget for this commission is approximately \$325,000 USD which will be allocated to the artists/team selected by the selection panel. This contract amount is inclusive of all costs associated with the project including, but not limited to, honoraria for semi-finalists, the artist's design fee, other consultation fees such as structural engineering, insurance, including Colorado Workers Compensation, small tools, materials, fabrication, transportation and installation, including any building or site modification required, travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, project documentation, contingency to cover unexpected expenses and any other costs of any kind. For all work done on city property, prevailing wage requirements will be applied. The project timeline will not allow for the artwork to be integrated within existing construction. Budget will need to include all foundational and infrastructural supports.

## **Tentative Timeline**

(Except for online application deadline, timeline is subject to adjustments):

Thursday, May 11, 2017, 11:59 p.m. MDT	Deadline for entry (via CaFÉ™ system)
May 17 - 23, 2017	Semi-Finalist Selection
May 26, 2017	Notify Semi-Finalists
May 26 – June 26, 2017	Proposal Development and Site Visit (to be scheduled)
Week of July 10, 2017	Semi-Finalists present Proposals, Community Engagement
August 2017	Finalist Notification

## **Project Selection Panel**

The Boulder Civic Area Public Art Selection Panel is comprised of six voting members. The Technical Review Committee is comprised of roughly ten additional non-voting advisors.

## Selection Process

Between three to five artists/artist teams will be selected as semi-finalists, and will receive a \$1,500 honorarium. Those selected will receive more specific information regarding the site and have the opportunity to meet with the Selection Panel and Technical Review Committee during a site visit. The Selection Panel will interview and/or review proposals from the semi-finalists and recommend finalists for the commission.

Additionally, community engagement is a vital component in Boulder's decision-making process. Semi-finalists should be prepared to present or have their proposals presented to the public in some fashion during the decision-making process. The final recommendation of the Selection Panel will be presented to the Boulder Arts Commission and the city manager for final approval.

## Materials to be Submitted

*Please read this section carefully. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered without exception. The applicant's name must appear on all materials submitted.*

All materials must be submitted online, via the CaFÉ™ website ([www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org)). There is no application fee to apply or to use the CaFÉ™ online application system.

Digital Images: To be considered for this project, the applicant must electronically submit up-to eight digital images of previously completed artworks through the CaFÉ™ system. Artists who wish to submit kinetic, sound or media works may include up-to two videos and up-to two audio attachments.

Instructions on how to format images to CaFÉ™ specifications can be found at [http://www.callforentry.org/imaging\\_tips.phtml](http://www.callforentry.org/imaging_tips.phtml). Assistance in using the CaFÉ™ system is available during regular business hours by calling 303-629-1166 or 1-888-562-7232, or e-mail [cafe@westaf.org](mailto:cafe@westaf.org). If you do not have access to a computer, call 303-441-4342 to make arrangements to use the Office of Arts and Culture computer.

Statement of Interest: Please submit a statement of interest that briefly outlines your interest in the Boulder Civic Area Public Art project and experience working on projects of this kind (2000 character maximum) via CaFÉ™.

Résumé/CV: Submit a one- to two-page current résumé or CV, via CaFÉ™ that highlights your professional accomplishments as an artist. Please name your résumé file accordingly: *Last name.First initial* (i.e. *Smith.J.doc*). Résumés over two pages will not be downloaded. If applying as a team, please submit one résumé with one to two pages per team member.

Questions about the project: Please contact Mandy Vink, public art coordinator and Civic Area public art project manager: 303-441-4342 or [vinkm@boulderlibrary.org](mailto:vinkm@boulderlibrary.org)