CALL FOR ARTISTS: Greening of Lafayette Plaza

**Background:** In October of 2014, the City of York was successful in receiving a planning grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Through this grant and matching funds raised from more than a dozen local donors, the City and its partners just began a planning process that will serve to reimagine the northern core of the downtown (the area bounded by George Street, Market Street, and the Codorus Creek) as ground zero for our community’s efforts to improve multimodal connectivity, stormwater mitigation, and recreational opportunities. Included in that planning scope of work is the development of a City of York Green Action Plan as well as the conceptual design of the extension of the Heritage Rail Trail through the downtown, plans for strengthening two east-west corridors as multimodal connectors, a feasibility study of a green road through the Northwest Triangle, two City tree analyses, and a master site development plan for Lafayette Plaza. Technical work is already underway on these efforts and conceptual design work is slated to begin in January and February of 2016.

**Artist’s scope of work:** Downtown Inc’s goal, as the project partner responsible for process management and community engagement, is to incorporate the consideration of culture, history, and the arts from the earliest stages of public space planning. In addition to efforts to best accommodate all forms of transportation and make the most of opportunities to protect the watershed, we must first and foremost design these spaces so they best serve the people that will use them. This innovative approach would ask the selected artist to give broad consideration to the entirety of the planning agenda as it relates to public space, but would require focus from the artist on providing insight on the development of the master site development plan for Lafayette Plaza, that area behind the Colonial Court House at the corner of Pershing Avenue and Philadelphia Street. The artist will be asked to consider the environmental and economic goals of the project, the potential uses of the project area and adjacent properties, and of course the opportunities presented by the space itself.

Specific responsibilities of the selected artist will include the following:

- Participation in 1-2 site walk-throughs with Downtown Inc staff
- Participation in 2-3 private planning meetings with Mahan Rykiel, Buchart Horn, Land Studies, and Downtown Inc (the first of which will likely be held in mid-January 2016)
- Attendance at a public meeting/charrette (tentatively scheduled for the evening of January 28th) and active participation in a second such meeting
- Delivery of 2-3 sketches or renderings of how arts and culture can be incorporated in conceptual designs, especially in Lafayette Plaza and potentially in ways that would be integral to stormwater mitigation measures (an example would be the artistic use of reclaimed materials in such measures – creating patterns that invite and inspire)
- Delivery of a 2-4 page synopsis or brief slideshow on how arts and culture can be advanced in stages as part of project development for this project.
Selection: Downtown Inc is now accepting letters of qualification from local artists who wish to take part in this planning effort. Letters will be vetted by a committee formed by Downtown Inc and award announcements will be made by December 23, 2015. The committee will consider all applications, however additional consideration will be afforded to applicants exhibiting an understanding of the York community, culture, and history as well as past experience in planning, urban design, or physical landscape efforts.

The selected artist will receive a $4,500 stipend for their work.

Deadline for submission of letters of qualification: 8:00 PM Wednesday, December 16, 2015.
Contract awarded Wednesday, December 23, 2015.
Work to begin mid-January, 2016.
Work expected to continue into Fall of 2016.
Deadline for deliverables: October 31, 2016.

Letter submission guidelines:
No longer than two pages
PDF format only

Send your letters to tmiller@downtownyorkpa.com
NO LATER THAN 8:00PM, Wednesday, December 16, 2015.

For more information, contact:
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