



REQUEST for QUALIFICATIONS to provide PUBLIC ART DESIGN SERVICES for AMIGOS PARK

March 20, 2017

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is issued by Open Architecture DC, a pro-bono design collective, to select candidates to assist with the design and installation of custom public art elements for a small urban park (hereafter Amigos Park) at the corner of Mt. Pleasant Street NW and Kenyon St. NW in Washington, DC.

RFQ OBJECTIVE

OADC seeks assistance for the incorporation of public art into the design of Amigos Park. This could take a variety of forms, including murals, mosaics, sculpture, furniture, and signage. The artist will work as a subconsultant of OADC, and will be expected to attend periodic design meetings, as well as public meetings with the Friends of Amigos Park. The artist should be able to discuss artistic methods and concepts with a diverse public, and should have a willingness to work with our team and with an unknown variety of community stakeholders, including those who may be skeptical of the project.

Community input is an important aspect of the project. We are seeking an artist who can effectively distill the unique culture of the Park's users and setting into a vibrant artistic expression that can be implemented as an integral part of the Park's design.

SITE

The proposed park location is located at 3146 Mt Pleasant St NW, the northwest corner of the intersection of Mount Pleasant and Kenyon streets. The site, partially owned by 7-Eleven Inc, is approximately 80' long by 20' wide, and contains several trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. The site is fenced off with a low steel fence, and is terraced with a series of low timber walls. It is bound by sidewalks on Kenyon St., Mt. Pleasant St., a service sidewalk owned by 7-Eleven, and a driveway off Kenyon St. for access to a small parking lot.

The sidewalks have become an informal daily gathering place for community members who buy coffee and food at the 7-Eleven, as well as various passers-by.

HISTORY and BACKGROUND

In 2012 Arturo Griffiths, a neighborhood resident and ANCID commissioner (2014-16), approached OADC about the possibility of developing the site into a public park. OADC convened a project team to explore options for a park and produced a conceptual design for a small plaza with seat walls, paving, and murals. We continue to revise and develop the design, with a final version to be delivered in Summer 2017.

In 2017, the project partnered with Green Spaces for DC, a 501(c)3 non-profit that provides legal support and guidance for groups affiliated with parks. Their involvement has allowed for the recent establishment of the "Friends of Amigos Park," a 501(c)3 non-profit organization to serve as the governing body for oversight, maintenance, and fundraising activities for the Park.

Currently, the Friends of Amigos Park are initiating negotiations with 7-Eleven to secure necessary permissions and easements required to implement the Park designs. OADC continues to convene semi-regular meetings to discuss design and planning for the Park, with an ultimate goal of providing a set of Design Development-level drawings of the final design.

ARTIST DELIVERABLES

We will require the artist to produce drawings necessary to describe and elaborate their final design at a level consistent with our Design Development package. This will include scalable, dimensioned drawings and/or specifications describing the size, layout, orientation, materials and finishes, maintenance, and installation. These documents will be included in OADC's final Design Development package, due in Summer 2017.

The artist will produce additional drawings, models, videos, or other supporting material as necessary to develop and communicate the design throughout the design process until final design.

The artist will provide rough estimates of cost and schedule required to implement their design. Eventual implementation and installation of the final public art design will be negotiated under separate contract, with the Friends of Amigos Park or other regulating body, and is outside the scope of this Project and RFQ.

COMPENSATION

There will be no compensation for RFQ submission and award of project. Final compensation for the design will be subject to negotiation with the Friends of Amigos Park and OADC.

RFQ SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit:

- Brief description of your work / focus / ethos;
- Reason(s) you would be suited for the Project;
- Digital samples of completed public art projects (.jpg, .pdf preferred);
- Resume and/or CV;
- Website if available

Preference may be given to projects featuring substantial public input and involvement, so please provide supporting description for applicable work.

SCHEDULE

- April 12th - RFQ submissions due
- April 12th to April 18th - Interviews of qualifiers (via telephone or in-person)
- April 19th - Notification of Project award
- April 20th - First design meeting with OADC and Friends of Amigos Park

Send all submissions and inquiries to:

Matt Johnston, Project Co-Leader

Open Architecture DC

www.majohn13@vt.edu



Site location. Adjacent to 7-Eleven at corner of Mt. Pleasant and Kenyon Streets NW



Current design with seat walls, deck/stage, gravel and unit pavers



Perspective view of park (previous design)