WING LUKE MUSEUM

CALL FOR DESIGNERS – REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
Honoring Our Journey 2.0 / Semi-permanent exhibition design concept (redesign)

DEADLINE:
Priority consideration for submissions by Monday, September 11, 2023, at 4pm PT, open until filled. Applications must be received electronically.

PROJECT SUMMARY
The Wing Luke Museum seeks one (1) professional graphic/exhibition designer or design team to draft a design concept for a redesign of the Museum's semi-permanent exhibition.

Currently, the Museum is developing the next iteration of our permanent exhibition, Honoring Our Journey. Over a decade has passed since we opened in our new museum home. And while our permanent exhibition has been successful in engaging school tours, youth, families, and the general public, our Museum, Chinatown-International District (CID) neighborhood, city, region, nation, and world are in a much different state. At the Wing Luke Museum, our annual visitorship has grown from 30,000 in 2008 to 80,000 pre-pandemic to 45,000 as we emerge from the pandemic. In 2018, we significantly expanded our mission to call us to advance racial and social equity. Our city and region have experienced demographic shifts with Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIS) making up approximately 14% of Seattle and 20% of King County (2020 Census). Yet at this time when people need to understand the immigrant and refugee experience and its deep historic roots even more, we have seen a backlash against immigrants and refugees nationwide.

The selected designer/design team will build on the work generated by the Museum’s Community Advisory Committee and work iteratively with this group alongside Museum staff.

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW
Created hand-in-hand with community members through our nationally recognized Community Advisory Committee process for exhibition development, the exhibition starts with a powerful moment in time – the forging of the AANHPI community, uniquely made of many rich and varied cultures and distinct experiences, yet joining together during the Civil Rights Movement under the shared experience of oppression, fight for equal rights, and coalition building with other marginalized communities. From there, we journey back through time in American history, exploring how the AANHPI story is truly an American story, central to understanding the American experience, values, and rights. Whether experiencing the late 18th century Pacific Northwest fur trade through the eyes of Native Hawaiians settling in Fort Vancouver (known as kanakas) or figuring out how to safeguard family during the 1885 and 1886 Anti-Chinese Riots in Tacoma and Seattle and the 1907 Anti-Hindu Riots in Bellingham, whether making the journey with migrant Filipino American workers from the agricultural fields in Eastern Washington to the canneries in Alaska to facing the 1910 Wellington Avalanche – the deadliest in U.S. history – as a Japanese American railroad worker maintaining the line through Stevens Pass, our journey to and within the Pacific Northwest has shaped and continues to shape the story of the Pacific Northwest overall. From the incarceration in U.S. concentration camps by Japanese Americans during World War II to the fleeing of a war-torn home in overcrowded boats by Vietnamese refugees during the U.S.-Vietnam War to the raising of the next generation by Khmer refugees who survived the Killing Fields, the journey is deeply personal and emotional, one that should be remembered, honored, and celebrated.
The exhibition then carries the visitor further to today. Struggles of oppression, exclusion, marginalization, displacement, and assimilation continue. Yet the AANHPI community is resilient and here to stay. Drawing on the Wing Luke Museum’s community partners and stakeholders, focused on intergenerational connections, and lifting up the creativity and innovations of youth, artists, cultural practitioners, and community activists, the exhibition will showcase present-day issues and activism, along with pop culture in-roads and future forward creations. Vincent Chin and Balbir Singh Sodhi, victims of hate crimes in 1982 and 2001, respectively; AANHPI response to detention at the border through Tsuru for Solidarity in 2020; Olympic gold medalist and American snowboarder Chloe Kim; AANHPI actors leading the way in Hollywood’s “Crazy Rich Asians” and “Everything Everywhere All At Once” and rising AANHPI hip hop performers Jay Park and the Fung Brothers; AANHPIs in government and politics from Wing Luke to Gary Locke to Mee Moua to Andrew Yang and more – these are the stories of individuals and organizations that inspire us to connect the past and the future and call us to know our history and stories to fuel present and future activism.

MUSEUM BACKGROUND
As a National Park Service Affiliated Area and the first Smithsonian affiliate in the Pacific Northwest, the Wing Luke Museum offers an authentic and unique perspective on the American story. Nationally recognized for our work in creating dynamic, community-driven exhibitions and programs, we put our community at the heart of each exhibition we create. The stories you see and hear within our walls are their authentic experiences and perspectives. From the struggles of early Asian pioneers to accomplished works by national AANHPI artists, their contributions give us a look at what it means to be uniquely American. Our values are: people give us meaning and purpose; relationships are our foundation; and we desire community ownership and empowerment. As such, we pursue “Arts and Culture as Apothecary,” serving as a place of healing and wellbeing for individuals, families, communities, and society.

Our 60,000 square foot facilities offer three floors to tell our communities’ stories, with contemporary galleries showcasing both temporary and permanent exhibitions as well as preserved historic spaces accessible only through our daily guided tours. Beyond our walls, we tell the story of our neighborhood, Seattle’s Chinatown-International District. While economically challenged, it is a historically and culturally vibrant area, and we see ourselves as a neighborhood concierge and an economic anchor for the nearby small businesses. From restaurants to statues that you might not otherwise notice, there are layers of history and significance that are waiting to be uncovered. The Wing Luke Museum offers guided neighborhood tours and events that will encourage you to discover stories and tastes both on and off the beaten path. For more information, please visit www.wingluke.org.

SCOPE OF WORK
This project includes:
- Design Development with enough specificity for cost estimating, which can include design of exhibition floor plan and spatial layout, larger components, and surface design
- Encompasses concept design and schematic design
- Consultation with the Wing Luke Museum staff during design
- Scheduled review and timely input by the Wing Luke Museum community constituents and staff

Deliverables include: schematic design plans and drawings

The project will then pause for fundraising. Future scope of work could include: finalizing construction documents pending successful fundraising through cost estimating and pricing.
BUDGET
This is a request for qualifications. The Museum will work with whoever is selected to finalize a proposal, not to exceed $45,000 for the selected designer/design team and all subconsultants.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS
Selection criteria will be based on: design and artistic excellence; collaborative experience; and experience with Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific American communities. Experience with exhibitions and experience with marginalized communities are preferred.

The Selection Process: receive submissions (July/August); select finalists (late August); provide finalists site visit of HOJ (late August); interviews (early September); final selection (early September).

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
This Call is open to Designers/Design Teams residing in the U.S. Please submit:
- Cover letter (no more than 2 pages)
- Resume
- Up to 10 images of previous work of relevant work to the project. This should be attached as one PDF document and uploaded to the form below. Please include an annotated image list, including a brief description (no more than 50 words), and title of work, dimensions and medium, if applicable.

Please send submissions to:
https://form.asana.com/?k=hzx50q552kClnXJMoV3Eww&d=1202029308747046

Submission deadline:
Priority consideration for submissions by Monday, September 11, 2023 at 4pm PDT, open until filled. We will not review incomplete submissions so please reach out if you have questions or concerns.

SCHEDULE
July 2023: Release Design RFQ
Early September 2023: Designer Selected
September – November 2023 Designer drafts concept; feedback from staff and community advisory committee
December 2023: Finalized concept

QUESTIONS
For further information, contact Jessica Rubenacker at (206) 623-5124 x 124, or jrubenacker@wingluke.org.