



PORTSMOUTH NH 400 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: BOHENKO GATEWAY PARK SCULPTURE GARDEN

Portsmouth NH 400 is a nonprofit 501c3 organization founded to celebrate Portsmouth NH's 400th anniversary in 2023. It is soliciting proposals from qualified artists for public art to be installed in 2023 in the City's Bohenko Gateway Park. Proposals are being accepted through September 23, 2022.

PNH 400 has arranged its organization and programs around seven specific themes or pillars: arts and culture, commerce and trade, community and neighborhoods, education, maritime and military, signature events, and legacy projects. The Legacy Task Force is charged with spearheading projects that will last beyond the 2023 celebration, enriching the city for years to come.

After soliciting input from the community and the city, the plan is to create a maritime themed sculpture garden in the city's Bohenko Gateway Park.

BOHENKO GATEWAY PARK SCULPTURE GARDEN BACKGROUND

Imagine a sculpture garden welcoming visitors to Portsmouth, NH as they take the Market Street Gateway from Interstate 95 to the city's downtown. That's the vision of the Portsmouth NH 400 Legacy Task Force.

Located in the city's already existing Bohenko Gateway Park, this new sculpture garden will have a maritime theme, celebrating the river and all that is connected with it through public art. Visible from the Route 1 Bridge between Portsmouth and Kittery, Maine, the park offers sweeping views of the North Mill Pond and the Piscataqua River and features a winding pathway and a small pavilion with benches overlooking the water. According to city staff, the location could accommodate 6 to 8 sculptures. While the task force recognizes that this would be ideal—because of time and financial resources—the plan is to begin with a more limited number with plans to expand after 2023.

Just a short walk from the bustling downtown, this sculpture garden will attract visitors and residents of our seacoast community, providing the perfect location for quiet reflection, a family picnic, or educational programs on our maritime history.

Portsmouth NH 400 is inviting artists to submit designs and selection will be based on the Public Art Procedural Guidelines that were created by the city. A committee, including representatives from the community and the city as well as others with expertise in public art, will select the finalists. Plans are to install the public art during the 400th celebration in 2023. Funding for the project is coming from the PNH400 budget as well as grants and donations which are currently being sought.

BUILDING A LASTING LEGACY

ARTIST PROPOSALS FOR
THIS PROJECT ARE BEING
ACCEPTED THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

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MARITIME THEME

In the introduction of the book "Cross-Grained & Wily Waters: A Guide to the Piscataqua Maritime Region", Editor W. Jeffrey Bolster writes:

"This region at the meeting place of Maine, New Hampshire, and the Atlantic Ocean has long beckoned people. For thousands of years, Paleo, Archaic, and Abenaki natives appreciated its shellfish and game. Then English and other Europeans were attracted by a mind-boggling abundance of coastal codfish, along with easy waterborne access to majestic stands of white pine."

Once one of the nation's busiest ports and shipbuilding cities, Portsmouth's location on the Piscataqua River with access to the ocean has long shaped its history in many ways, from shipbuilding (gundalows and clipper ships), to commerce, to military (first Naval shipyard). In addition to celebrating humans or human creations, concepts may focus on the natural maritime world, including plants, animals, and the landscape. Creative interpretation of the maritime theme is welcome.

TO EXPLORE MORE ABOUT PORTSMOUTH'S MARITIME HISTORY

- Visit this link to read maritime-themed stories written by local historian Dennis Robinson.
- Contact the Portsmouth Public Library Reference Desk, 603 766-1720, or visit their special collections to research Portsmouth's maritime history
- Contact the Portsmouth Athenaeum

BUDGET

The total budget is \$200,000. While some initial funding has been secured, we are working to raise additional funding through grants and corporate and individual donations. This budget will cover one or more sculptures (exact number to be determined). The budget must cover design, fabrication, transportation, documentation and installation expenses including installation insurance. Project work must be completed in accordance with all applicable statues, laws, and regulations. Permitting may be required depending on location of the installation.

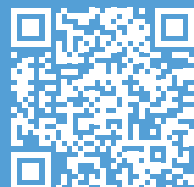
Projects in a range of prices will be considered. It's possible that one signature project will be selected, along with three or four smaller pieces. While we are interested in original concepts, already existing artwork that meets the requirements of this project will be considered, as long as similar art is not being exhibited within 60 miles of the park.

DESCRIPTION OF SITE

www.cityofportsmouth.com/planportsmouth/market-street-gateway-corridor-improvement-project
www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/local/portsmouth-herald/2019/11/27/portsmouth-to-name-park-after/2196543007/

Note: The City of Portsmouth will cooperate in obtaining permits if needed.

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SELECTION PROCESS

A review team including representatives from the City and from the community, chosen for their expertise in public art, will serve as the selection panel for this project and will use evaluation criteria as listed below. The committee reserves the right to choose the number of projects that will be selected.

Proposed projects should connect with the maritime theme and reflect the goals of the PNH400 and consider including community and visitor response and interaction such as:

- Encourage exploration
- Inspire curiosity
- Create connections
- Inform on local culture/history
- Create experience

There are no restrictions on the sculpture type, materials, or point of origin as long as the piece is suitable for year-round installation in a public space, which is located in proximity to a residential neighborhood. Note: sculpture will be outdoors with no protection or covering.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following:

1. Understanding of project goals as expressed in artist's concept
2. Qualifications of artist
 - Previous work and work samples
 - Proven ability to complete site-specific artwork based on past experience
 - Feasibility: artist's proven track record/ability to complete the work on time and on budget
 - Quality and craftsmanship of product as exhibited by past work
3. Artist Concept Characteristics
 - Originality: creativity and uniqueness of proposed artwork concept for this project
 - Quality, suitability, and appropriateness of proposed artwork in relation to the RFP
 - Maintainability: structural and surface soundness, durability and resistance to vandalism, weathering, excessive maintenance, repair costs
 - Public safety components
4. Willingness to include a plan for community or educational component relating to the art.
5. Submittal completeness
6. Proposal price

Note: While we are interested in commissioned art, already existing artwork that meets the requirements of this project will be considered, as long as similar art is not being exhibited within 60 miles of the park.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

PNH400 reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive technical or legal deficiencies, and to accept and negotiate any terms of a proposal that may be in the best interest of the organization. PNH400 may request clarification or additional information of firms.

By submitting a proposal, the artist authorizes PNH400 to undertake such investigation as may be necessary to verify the artist's qualifications and reputation. The artist may be requested to execute a release in favor of third parties who have information relative to the artist's qualifications and reputation. Refusal to execute a release may result in disqualification.

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ADDENDA TO RFP

Addenda to this proposal document, if any, including written answers to questions, will be posted to the website under the project heading. Addenda and updates will NOT be sent directly to artists.

TIMELINE

Public Release of RFP August 8, 2022

Proposal Submittal Deadline September 23, 2022

Selection Committee Review/Interviews September 23-November 11 (anticipated timeline)

Finalist notifications November 14 (anticipated timeline)

Contracts Finalized December 12 (anticipated timeline)

Artwork Production and Installation Phase Begins December 12 and would like artwork installed in fall of 2023.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals shall include the following and shall be organized using each of the elements listed below as section headings:

1. A current resume or CV.
2. A written statement, not to exceed three pages that addresses the artist's concept.
3. A preliminary rendering of the proposed artwork or photos of an already existing piece.
4. Itemized budget estimate.
5. Project timeline.
6. Up to 5 images of recent, relevant work.
7. A list of completed projects/works with references.

Artists will not be reimbursed for cost of proposal. However, stipends may be provided for models, travel, or other incidental costs for finalists if determined by the committee that it will be helpful.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit proposal packages to sculpture@portsmouthnh.org no later than 5:00p.m. on September 23, 2022.

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Ernie Greenslade, chair of the PNH400 Legacy Task Force, sculpture@portsmouthnh400.org.

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