

**City of Paducah and
Creative and Cultural Council
Request for Proposals
Southside Neighborhoods Public Art Project**

Introduction

The City of Paducah, in partnership with the Creative and Cultural Council, is seeking artists to design and implement a public work of art for the Southside Community. Applicants are encouraged to be intentional and responsive with their proposals; interpreting, and creating awareness of Paducah's historic past, giving voice to/elevating local communities, and sharing the vibrancy of the City's contemporary character and cultural narrative. The competition is open to all professional visual artists, aged 18 and older, with public art experience that is commensurate with this project's scope.

Proposals must comply with the requirements outlined in the RFP. Incomplete and late proposals will not be reviewed. **Proposals must be submitted to the following address by 4:00 p.m., March 14, 2025.**

**City of Paducah
300 South 5th Street
Paducah, KY 42003
ATTN: City Clerk's Office**

Please include on the outside of the application package "Southside Neighborhoods Public Art Project."

Questions regarding this Request for Proposal must be submitted in writing by February 7, 2025. Questions must be submitted via email to Hope Reasons, Grants Administrator for the City of Paducah at hreasons@paducahky.gov. Answers to the questions will be posted on the City of Paducah website with the Request for Proposal information.

Paducah's Southside Neighborhoods

The Southside Community has a rich history dating to the early 1800s. Originally known as "The Bottoms," the neighborhood was established as a working-class community where many African American families settled. Over time, it became a vibrant center for commerce and culture in the city. It was an enclave to many private homes, churches, businesses, and community organizations that played essential roles in the civil rights movement. Despite facing challenges such as urban renewal projects and economic decline, the Southside community has continued to preserve its history. Its community serves as a reminder of the resilience and contributions of African Americans in the city and nationwide.

The location of the project will be the Paducah Southside Community along the Walter Jetton Boulevard. Nearby focal points include the Dunlap Building which houses the Paducah Symphony offices and Jetton Schoolhouse Apartments, Hotel Metropolitan, Coleman Park, and multiple churches. The artist will work with the City on the specific location along Walter Jetton Boulevard for any engineering or permitting requirements.

The goals for this project include beautification, cultural development, and inclusivity. Beautification focuses on enhancing the environmental and aesthetic appeal of the Southside Community. Cultural development reflects the community's character and history, enriching the area's identity. Inclusivity is that the work is reflective of the Southside's diverse population and culture.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all professional visual artists, aged 18 and older, with public art experience that is commensurate with this project's scope. Creative and Cultural Council members, City of Paducah staff, and selection committee members are not eligible to participate.

Applicants must reside within a 90-mile radius or have previously lived within a 90-mile radius of Paducah/McCracken County.

Community Engagement

Public engagement is a key component of successful public art and is a requirement for this project. It can involve the community in a variety of ways, including:

Creative process

The public can be involved in the creative process, from directly participating in the creation of the artwork to providing conceptual input.

Community input

The public can provide input into the final outcome of the project. This can be done through a public meeting, a community-based committee, or other methods.

Community collaboration

The public can collaborate with the artist to develop the artwork. This can help to ensure that the art reflects the community's diverse perspectives and voices.

Soliciting content

The public can be asked to share their thoughts on the community, such as by writing a word on a dry erase board. The words can then be used to guide the artist's content for the artwork.

As part of the application process, each artist is asked to provide a brief plan regarding how they will incorporate community engagement into their project.

Proposal Requirements

The individual or team submitting a proposal for this project must be in good standing with the City of Paducah. If awarded this project, the artist will be required to have a current Business License with the City.

Please include the following items in your proposal:

- Contact information: Name, address, telephone, email, and website
- Statement of Interest - Describe your interest in this project and how your artwork and technical process would be well-suited for this opportunity.
- Brief statement about your art, your interest in and/or commitment to public art.
- A brief plan regarding how you will incorporate community engagement into your project
- Current resume highlighting experience with site-specific work and public art.
- Contact information for two references familiar with your work.
- Digital images of up to 6 works available for consideration.
- For existing work: up to 3 images
- For proposed work: up to 6 images of models or concept drawings
- Each image must be submitted as a separate JPG file, not to exceed 2MB – **Images must be saved on a flash drive and included with submission package.**
- If submitting a sculpture that is kinetic or interactive, images may be accompanied by a video file.
- Each image file should be named using the “LastName_FirstName_01” format, where the numbers directly correspond to the image identification list described below.
- Numbered image identification list indicating:
 - Title
 - Year created
 - Materials
 - Dimensions
 - Approximate weight
 - Sale price (or insurance value if not for sale)

Also include a brief description of each submitted artwork, including all pertinent information (materials used, interactive or kinetic elements, presentation details, maintenance needed, etc.), as well as description of installation method and requirements for each piece, including:

- Timeline
- Installation procedure
- Anchoring mechanisms
- Sculpture footprint dimensions (if applicable)

Proposal Evaluation

A Selection Committee made up of Creative and Cultural Council representatives, public art professionals, and at least one professional with expertise in planning and zoning, architecture and design, or construction, will be convened to review the applications and select the finalists and sites. All committee representatives will be residents of Paducah/McCracken County.

Each application will be scored based on the following criteria for a total score of up to 100 points. Each criterion has up to 20 points available:

- Artist's Statement of Interest
- Artistic excellence and innovation as demonstrated by past work
- Artist's plan for community engagement
- Project's alignment with the stated goals
- Ease of maintenance, durability, and sustainability of proposed materials

Interviews: The City of Paducah and Creative and Cultural Council may ask the top ranked artists to attend a presentation and/or interview opportunity as part of the evaluation process.

Additional Notes Regarding the Project

The total budget for this project is \$50,000.

A list of historic businesses and schools will be available to the applicant artist upon request to assist with capturing the history of the Southside Community.

The artist is responsible for maintaining and providing proof of General Liability Insurance for the duration of the project.

Due to pedestrian and commercial activity around the project sites, the artwork must be compatible with these activities. Artworks that are hazardous, sharp or dangerous to the public will not be considered. Completed installation must meet all safety requirements and be approved by City officials if necessary.

Proposed projects should have strong visual impact and:

- Must be of a scale and material suitable for long-term outdoor display.
- Must be of sound design, free standing and suitable for public display.
- Must be able to be placed, installed, or anchored in a secure fashion; should a base be necessary; the artist will be responsible for the design of the base and may be responsible for the installation of the base. (Structural engineering may be required to comply with City code).
- Be designed to withstand an outdoor, high traffic, unmonitored environment with no or very little maintenance

The City of Paducah reserves the right to remove damaged or improperly installed artwork. In either case, the City will notify the artist to repair or remove the work. If no action by the artist is taken, the City reserves the right to remove the work and will notify the artist of its course of action.

The City reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all submissions, reissue a subsequent RFQ, terminate, restructure or amend this procurement process at any time. If, regardless of the reason, the contract for the project is not executed within thirty days after submittal to the artist, the City reserves the right to withdraw the selection of the artist. The City reserves the right to negotiate unacceptable provisions incorporated within an otherwise acceptable proposal.

A proposer may not withdraw their proposal within 90 days after the actual date of the opening. Under justifiable circumstances, the City may release a bid/proposal if the proposer can demonstrate that an obvious error was made while preparing the proposal.

Work must be performed in accordance with applicable policies and regulations of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, County of McCracken and City of Paducah. The proposer shall procure all permits and licenses, and shall pay all such fees or charges, and give all notices necessary and incidental to performing the work. Further, the proposer shall be familiar with and comply with all Federal, State, County and City laws, by-laws, ordinances, and regulations, which control the work, actions and operations of those engaged or employed in the work or which affect materials used.

The City of Paducah reserves the right to request additional information as necessary to assess the ability of each proposer to fulfill the requirements outlined in this RFP. Proposers are required to provide any requested information and documentation to assist the City in this evaluation. The City may reject any bid or proposal if it is determined that the artist is not qualified to meet the terms of the agreement and complete the work as outlined. The City also has the discretion to disqualify any proposer based on unsatisfactory performance on previous projects. Additionally, the City retains the right to reject any or all bids/proposals and to waive any minor irregularities or technicalities in the submissions.

The City of Paducah will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability when issuing Invitations to Bid.