

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) PHASE I: CREATIVE PLACEMAKING PROJECT



KANSAS CITY  
MUSEUM  
FOUNDATION

### Important Dates:

- Pre-Submission Information Session from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at the Kansas City Museum
- Submissions due by 4:00 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, June 7, 2017

### Introduction and Project Description

The Creative Concourse Committee is seeking Kansas City-based artists to assist and collaborate in an innovative *creative placemaking project* for The Concourse Park located in the Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood of the Historic Northeast community in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Creative Concourse Committee is comprised of residents of the Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood, and representatives and leaders from community partners including the Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Association, Greater Kansas City Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), the Kansas City Museum, which is managed and operated by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department, and the Kansas City Museum Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports the Kansas City Museum.

According to the National Endowment for the Arts: “In creative placemaking, partners from public, private, non-profit, and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural activities. Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired.”

This creative placemaking project is comprised of two Phases:

**Phase I:** Design a creative process to gather community input and to determine a creative solution; and

**Phase II:** Develop and implement the creative solution.

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is for **Phase I only**. For this RFQ an artist may submit an individual application as a “Project Artist,” or an artist may coordinate an “Artist-led Project Team” and submit an application for that Project Team. The Artist-led Project Team may consist of the artist and two additional professionals whose expertise and experience would be beneficial to the project (e.g. an architect, designer, community organizer, nonprofit administrator, entrepreneur, etc.). Project Artists and Artist-led Project Teams may be from a broad range of artistic disciplines, including but not limited to the visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, media arts, and interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary arts.

A creative placemaking grant from LISC via the Kresge Foundation has been awarded for Project Artists or an Artist-led Project Team to work in cooperation and collaboration with the Historic Northeast community to *design a creative process to gather community input and to determine a creative solution* to a very real and current neighborhood public safety problem: increased vehicular traffic in The Concourse Park that is causing an unsafe environment for pedestrians, park users, and children at play. Project Artists or an Artist-led Project Team will work with residents of the Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood, park users, members of the Creative Concourse Committee, architecture and planning staff from the City of Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department, and other stakeholders to gather community input and to determine and recommend a creative solution, which brings a culturally diverse neighborhood together to increase awareness, engagement, social cohesion, vigilance, and public safety.

While recent upgrades as well as added amenities and programming in The Concourse Park have significantly augmented community engagement and revitalization, there has also been a dramatic increase in vehicular and

pedestrian traffic. In particular, speeding along Gladstone Boulevard, which children cross to get to the playground, has been problematic and has made pedestrians and park users feel unsafe.

To identify the needs of the community and determine a creative solution to the current public-safety problem, Project Artists or the Artist-led Project Team will be expected to create a dynamic and innovative creative process that is designed to elicit and integrate input and feedback from residents of the Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood and frequent users of The Concourse Park. The process may include community meetings, as well as more non-traditional creative events and happenings (e.g. performances, community dinners, etc.) that inspire residents and park users to communicate, unite, and take more ownership in The Concourse Park.

Once input has been gathered, the Project Artists or Artist-led Project Team will work with the community, including the project partners, to determine and recommend a creative solution to the public-safety problem. Once the creative solution has been accepted, the Project Artists or the Artist-led Project Team will be eligible to participate in the continued development and implementation of the creative solution and invited to submit a proposal for Phase II: Develop and implement the creative solution.

### **Background**

The Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood is one of six neighborhoods that comprise the Historic Northeast community. Scarritt Renaissance is a diverse neighborhood of approximately 7,000 residents comprised of people from around the world. Acquired by the City of Kansas City, Missouri in 1899, The Concourse Park is located in the heart of the Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood at Benton Boulevard and St. John Avenue with a main thoroughfare of Gladstone Boulevard.

For nearly a decade, the Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Association has been working closely in collaboration with community partners like LISC, the Kansas City Museum, the City of Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department, and the Mattie Rhodes Center to improve the quality of life for all residents in Scarritt Renaissance. Most recently, collaborative efforts have resulted in nearly \$500,000 invested in The Concourse Park via The Concourse Park Master Plan. The Concourse Park now offers incredible amenities like twin 50' embankment slides, a children's playground, and new basketball and futsal courts. The Concourse Park also hosts important community events like Chalk Walk, Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Dusk concert series, and a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

### **Project Vision**

The Creative Concourse Committee believes that creative placemaking and artist collaborations can be not only about bringing arts and culture into a neighborhood, but also cultivating the arts and culture that are already there. Specifically, the Committee values the experience, expertise, and creativity of artists, and desires to use creative placemaking as an important process and tool for community engagement, as well as social and cultural cohesion in the Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood. In particular, creative placemaking in this neighborhood is about collaborating with people who live, work, pray, and play in a neighborhood to create a space that results in a vibrant, safe, and pride-filled community. The Creative Concourse Committee aims to create a park that is inclusive of all community members—a park where residents, visitors, friends, families, and most importantly, children and youth, feel safe and welcomed. Finally, the Committee envisions this project connecting The Concourse Park to the greater parks system within the Historic Northeast.

### **Project Purpose and Goals**

The main goals of the project are to:

1. Meet the needs of the community;
2. Involve the community with the purpose of creating ownership and inclusion;
3. Use creative placemaking to foster inclusive communication and creative problem solving; and
4. Find a creative solution that will bring the community together to increase public safety.

### **Intent Budget and Length of Commitment**

The total award for Phase I is a lump-sum fee of \$4,000 per artist for approximately 40 hours (if an Artist-led Project Team is chosen, each artist on the team will receive \$4,000). This is inclusive of all time at meetings and any expenses such as transportation to the meetings or other reimbursables. The anticipated length for involvement is three months, approximately June 2017 to September 2017, and will include meetings as well as the creative events/happenings, which will be in Kansas City, Missouri. The first meeting will be the week of June 26, 2017.

The contract with individual Project Artists or Artist-led Project Team will be terminated if participation in all meetings is not met. Meetings will be scheduled with advance notice.

### **Eligibility**

The following are eligible to apply: Kansas City-metro based artists who are at least 18 years of age, and who have worked on collaborative projects (in a paid or volunteer capacity) in Kansas City.

### **Pre-Submission Information Meeting (optional and highly recommended)**

**One information meeting will be scheduled from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at the Kansas City Museum** (3218 Gladstone Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri 64123) where those who are interested in submitting applications may meet members of the Creative Concourse Committee and ask questions about the application process.

### **Pre-Submission Outreach Reflection (optional and highly recommended)**

The Creative Concourse Committee highly recommends that those who submit applications for the RFQ process participate in a neighborhood meeting or community event prior to submitting the application. There is a free summer concert starting at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2017 at The Concourse Park in the Colonnade Building. In addition, there is a Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Association meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 5, 2017 at the Kansas City Museum at 3218 Gladstone Blvd., Kansas City, Missouri 64123.

### **Submission Materials**

Please submit the following to Kansas City Museum Executive Director Anna Marie Tutera via email at [anna.tutera@kcmo.org](mailto:anna.tutera@kcmo.org) by **4:00 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, June 7, 2017**. Submissions received after this deadline will not be considered. The selected Project Artists or Artist-led Project Team will be notified by no later than Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

The Letter of Intent, Two Examples, and Resume must be submitted as attachments to the email in PDF formats; the Images and Video must be submitted via Dropbox or other similar cloud-based platform.

#### **1. One-Page Letter of Intent**

- Please describe any history or connection with the Historic Northeast and its residents and/or another neighborhood in the Kansas City Metropolitan area.
- Clearly describe your interest in the project and how you will be able to contribute to its success.
- Summarize your experience in developing and/or executing creative and collaborative projects (in a paid or volunteer capacity) in the Kansas City Metropolitan area and beyond (i.e. site-specific performances/art installations, interactive and participatory artworks/spectacles, multimedia projects, creative placemaking events, festivals, etc.). Please note if you have had experience working on projects for the public sector.
- Describe how you have used arts and culture to address a community issue/challenge or used a creative solution, creative problem-solving, or an artist practice to build upon a community asset.
- Indicate your experience and willingness to engage community in a creative placemaking process.

\*If you have any special provisions by which you'd like to submit the answer to these questions, via another medium or otherwise, please contact the contact person listed.

## 2. Two Examples of Engaging the Community (No more than 500 words)

- The Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood is one of the most ethnically and economically diverse neighborhoods in the Kansas City Metropolitan area. Therefore, the Committee is interested in how applicants will create opportunities for residents to participate in a creative process to gather input that is true and inclusive of that diversity. The Committee asks applicants to convey at least two (2) concrete ways in which the community could be engaged in the project. This reflection could be submitted in whatever medium the applicant deems appropriate.

## 3. Resume/Portfolio

\*If you are submitting an application for an Artist-led Project Team, please submit the following information listed below for each person on the team.

- Experience: list all relevant professional experience including any commissions, residencies, touring, exhibitions, collaborations, and projects involving the community and work in the public sector.
- Education: list educational background(s) and training(s).
- Experience working with the City of Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department, or any other Parks system of similar size and scale, as well as organizations and institutions locally and beyond.
- A relevant body of work that demonstrates conceptual, aesthetic, and technical mastery in at least one artistic medium.
- Three professional references include names, phone numbers, and email addresses.

### To Submit Applications and for Questions about the Application:

Anna Marie Tutera  
Executive Director  
Kansas City Museum  
Phone: (816) 513-7568  
Email: [anna.tutera@kcmo.org](mailto:anna.tutera@kcmo.org)

### For Questions about the Historic Northeast Community:

David Valdiviezo  
Community Outreach Advocate/Organizer  
Mattie Rhodes Center  
Phone: (816) 581-5646  
Email: [dvaldiviezo@mattierhodes.org](mailto:dvaldiviezo@mattierhodes.org)