

Request for Qualifications

SOUTH GRAND RITZ PARK ART INSTALLATION

Deadline: Monday March 20, 2015

The South Grand Community Improvement District (SGCID), as a result of the creation of the Ritz Park, is seeking an artist or artist team to develop a permanent art project that can be installed in the Ritz Park located at 3147-49 S. Grand Blvd. The selected artist or artist team may include but is not limited to artists, engineers, writers, poets. Prior public art experience is helpful, but not required.

The artwork/sculpture to be commissioned will best draw inspiration from the setting of the landscape, engage the community and reflect diversity. Interested artists are encouraged to review the architectural design of the building's north courtyard and create a sculpture proposal that would energize the space, honor South Grand, and support the mission of the surrounding neighborhoods. Submissions will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Concept
- Spatial Context
- Quality

The Project Board reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

The inserts need to comply with the following:

- Department of Justice Code of Federal Regulations Americans with Disabilities Act Access Guidelines – ADAAG http://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm
- Public Right-of-Way Access Guidelines – PROWAG (Best Practices) Draft Guidelines - <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way>

The artwork will need to fit discreetly into the Ritz Park without taking away site of line to the stage area. The size, location and dimensions of these sections can be determined by the artist, and will need to be coordinated and finalized prior to construction. The artist will be responsible for the final design, fabrication and installation of the artwork into the Ritz Park. Final design specifications will be reviewed by members of the project design team and/or City officials.

The goals for the project are to:

- Raise the creative profile of South Grand as viewed by residents and outsiders.
- Attract visitors to South Grand.

- Reinforce South Grand as a cultural destination by highlighting its distinct identity with a unique and memorable work of art.

Description of the Ritz Park

South Grand Ritz Park located at 3147-49 South Grand Blvd serves as a park with green space and fountains. The park functions as an outdoor theatre as well as a place for visitors, residents, and employees along the South Grand corridor to relax with friends and/or attend events that will be hosted by the business district such as movie, concerts, plays, markets and festivals.

About the South Grand Neighborhood

The eclectic area between Arsenal and Utah along South Grand has been dubbed the “International Community” of St. Louis. Home to cultural events, convenient services and flourishing shops, South Grand is an affordable, safe and fun place to play, work or live. Where else in the city can you find a vegetarian-friendly café, an award-winning Vietnamese restaurant, a hip martini bar and neighborhood pharmacy all in the same block?

For more information see <http://www.southgrand.org>.

Scope of Services

The selected artist will work under a design contract with the South Grand Community Improvement District. Funding is based upon what is raised from the Kickstarter campaign. Upon approval of the designs, the artist and the South Grand jury will determine the timeline for fabrication and installation of the artwork.

Specifically, the **scope of services** for the selected artist will include but not be limited to:

- Meet as necessary with the South Grand jury to understand the scope of the construction project and explore the best approach for installation in regards to timing and method.
- Based on the outcome of those meetings, prepare a Conceptual Design for public review. The Conceptual Design submission shall include a budget and a schedule for integration with the Ritz Park.
- Present Conceptual Design to stakeholders and community for review.
- Revise Conceptual Design as necessary and present Final Conceptual Design to artist selection jury for recommendation for final approval.

- Prepare a Final Design, identify fabricators, and prepare a budget and fabrication schedule adequate for obtaining any necessary permits. Make presentations as necessary to the neighborhood stakeholders.

Budget

Currently there is not a budget in place. The artist that is chosen based on community vote will be then promoted through a Kickstarter to raise funds.

The three finalists will receive \$500 to develop a proposal for review by the selection committee.

Artist Identification and Selection Approach

This is an open call to artists limited to practicing artists in a 60-mile radius of Missouri and Illinois.

A selection committee consisting of 5-7 South Grand stakeholders including representatives from the Community Improvement District, residents, and local artists and arts professionals will be convened to select an artist for the project.

The committee will review qualifications and select up to three artists as finalists. The three finalists will be paid a \$500 honorarium to develop a design concept. The committee will reconvene to review the finalist's concepts and select one for the corridor.

The selected artist will hold a contract with the South Grand Community Improvement District for the Conceptual Design, Final Schematic Design, fabrication and installation of the artwork.

Selection Criteria

The selection committee will review artist qualifications and make selections based upon the following criteria:

- Quality and originality of completed art projects as shown in examples, including ability to develop a project that is site-specific.
- Demonstrated understanding of the project and ability to create an artwork that responds to the goals of the project.
- Ability to collaborate with other design professions in an efficient and effective manner, particularly in regard to fixed budgets and tight timelines.

- Ability to engage a wide audience through the visual integrity of the work.
- Proven ability to create works of art that meet the goals of the project.
- Appear at events for the Grand Unveiling

Submission Requirements (Design proposals are NOT accepted at this stage.)

- A typed **Letter of Intent** with a brief description of how you would approach this project and an introduction of your team members, if applicable. The letter should also describe how this project relates to your past work and why you are interested in working on it. This letter should not exceed two pages.
- Current artistic **Resume**, no longer than three pages, highlighting experience with site-specific work and/or commissioned work.
- Up to **10 DIGITAL images** of previous artwork. Digital images should be submitted on a CD-R and submitted as jpgs. Submit only “High” quality jpgs (do not use gifs, tiffs or other formats). Each file must be less than 3 MB and labeled with a number indicating the viewing order, followed by the artist’s last name. The numbers must correspond to the accompanying Image List. Example: 01_Jones; 02_Jones. If using Mac OS 8 or 9 include a “.jpg” extension at the end of each image. Example: 01_Jones.jpg. All images will be viewed on PCs, not Macs. Do not embed images into PowerPoint or submit moving image or audio files.
- A corresponding **Image List** with image number, title, medium, dimensions, brief description, date of work and budget or price.
- The names of three **References** with current contact information including phone numbers and email addresses.

Artist Selection Schedule (Dates to change based upon issuance of RFQ)

Issue call to artists/RFQ: February 20 2015

Qualifications due: March 20, 2015

Committee selects finalists: March 27, 2015

Finalist proposals due: April 13, 2015

Presentation to Public: April 24, 2015

Committee selects artist: May 1, 2015

Kickstarter Campaign Begins: May 1, 2015

Artist coordinates design integration with City of Saint Louis and SGCID: June 1, 2015

Artist finalizes design: June 19, 2015

Fabrication August-September - dependent on construction schedule

Installation dependent on construction schedule

Questions?

Contact South Grand Community Improvement District: via phone (314)772-5750 or by email rachel@southgrand.org.

Mail or Hand Deliver Statement of Qualifications by March 16, 2015 to:

Rachel Witt

South Grand Community Improvement District

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