



## **CALL TO ARTISTS: Request for Qualifications Urban Farm Environmental Public Art Project**

**Total Budget: \$120,000**  
**Semi-Finalist Design Phase Stipend: \$1,000 - \$2,000**  
**Deadline for Submissions: June 10, 2015**

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA) in partnership with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) and the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) is seeking qualifications from artists or artist teams for a public art project that will result in an environmentally-focused sculpture in a new urban farm to be created in the Washington, DC neighborhood of Capitol View (Ward 7). Up to five artists/artist teams will be selected for a short-list phase. Semifinalists will receive a \$1,000 to \$2,000 stipend to be used for design proposal and travel. The total project budget for the public art is \$120,000. The winning artist/team will collaborate with DCCA, UDC, UWFP and a project team comprised of District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA) members who will provide site design and build out.

### **PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

As part of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP)—a national effort spearheaded by the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, and Department of the Interior to restore urban waters and revitalize the communities that surround them—a team of federal, city and local nonprofit representatives began meeting to identify ways to address environmental and public health issues in the Anacostia watershed, Washington, DC. Anacostia has suffered from polluted stormwater runoff and PCB contamination. Survey research indicated that most anglers were unaware of fishing advisories and as many as 17,000 people were eating fish from the river—many due to hunger.

Partners began exploring how best to address this problem and connected with the University of the District of Columbia Center for Sustainable Development to explore the idea of an urban farm and aquaponics facility. A three-year lease agreement was signed in February 2015 by the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) granting UDC the use of a site across the street from the Capitol Heights Metro Station (see site map on page 7). The three-acre site will be turned into an urban farming and aquaponics facility to achieve the following goals:

- Promote urban agriculture;
- Improve food access and nutrition through community-centered farmers markets;
- Provide job skills and entrepreneurship training in farming and stormwater management best practice construction and maintenance;
- Unite stormwater management best practices with urban farming;
- Implement a nature playscape for neighborhood youth to play outdoors;
- Create opportunities for environmentally focused public art.

In February 2015, the project was selected by the District of Columbia Building Industry Association's (DCBIA) Community Improvement Day, which will leverage a membership of contractors, architects, engineers and other industry professionals to provide complete site design and build out with extensive community involvement.

**Artwork Details / Scope of Work:**

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) was invited to make meaningful contributions to the urban farm through public art. The scope of the project includes the design, fabrication and installation of a sculpture to be sited within the urban farm (see page 8 for site map and page 9 for site design). The sculpture will be located at the main entrance to the farm across the street from a metro entrance. The sculpture area will include bio-retention basins, pervious pavers, educational signage, seating and wildflower plantings. The artwork should accomplish the following:

- Address one or more of the following sustainable practices—stormwater management, watershed management, energy efficiency, and/or biodiversity.
- Serve as an iconic gateway element that welcomes visitors to the site.
- Have the ability to be dismantled with some ease to be relocated to another site in the Washington D.C. area once the three-year land lease expires.

The selected artist/team chosen as a result of the DCCAH selection process will be expected to collaborate with a project team consisting of select members of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) and members of the District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA) who will be providing site design and build out. The artist will work with the UWFP and DCBIA team members to design the area surrounding the artwork to fully integrate the artwork into the park area.

The project site currently does not have utility service (electric, water, etc.). Some utilities will be added as part of the farm/aquaponics development, however, the artist should consider green alternatives to provide power if required as part of their artwork.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

This RFQ is open to all professional artists/artist teams over the age of 18 located in the United States. Applicants with previous work experience in creating environmentally focused public art are preferable.

**BUDGET:**

The total budget for design, fabrication and installation for the artwork is \$120,000. The budget includes design, fabrication, engineering, installation and travel. Semi-finalists will receive design proposal stipends ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 based on the extent of travel required.

**TIMELINE:**

May 13, 2015	Announcement of RFQ
June 10, 2015, 5:00 pm EST	Deadline for receipt of application materials
week of June 15, 2015	Review of qualifications and selection of up to 5 semi-finalists
mid-July 2015	Semi-finalists proposal presentations and final art selection
July – November 2015	Artwork Fabrication
September 2015	Foundation work begins at site
September 26, 2015	Site build out completion at DCBIA Community Improvement Day
November/December 2015	Sculpture installation

## SELECTION PROCESS:

DCCAH will convene an art selection panel, representing diverse interests and expertise, to review the qualifications of applicants who respond to this call. The panel will select up to five semi-finalists based on credentials, prior work experience and overall capacity to complete the project.

### Selection Criteria:

- Work samples demonstrate high standards of artistic excellence.
- Quality and craftsmanship exhibited by past work.
- Written concept exhibits high quality, innovation, and thoughtful creativity.
- Demonstrated experience with site specific public art projects and uses personnel with demonstrated arts expertise to plan and implement artistic content.
- Maintainability: structural and surface soundness, durability, and resistance to vandalism, weathering, excessive maintenance and repair costs.
- Ability for proposed artwork to be dismantled with some ease for relocation to another site once the three-year lease expires.
- Feasibility: artist's proven track record/ability to complete the work on time and within budget.
- Substantive experience working with community representatives, landscape architects, engineers, business and government entities.

Each semi-finalist will be awarded a \$1,000 to \$2,000 stipend to be used to create a site-specific design proposal and for travel to DC as necessary. The semi-finalists will present their proposals to the DCCAH art selection panel who will select one finalist for the project. The selected artist's/team's design proposal will be reviewed by the DCCAH Commission Board for final approval. The artist or team whose design is approved will then enter into an agreement with DCCAH for fabrication and installation of artwork.

### QUESTIONS:

Please feel free to contact the following **DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities** staff members with questions:

**Elizabeth Carriger**, Public Art Coordinator, [elizabeth.carriger@dc.gov](mailto:elizabeth.carriger@dc.gov), 202-724-5613

**Tonya Jordan**, Public Art Manager, [tonya.jordan@dc.gov](mailto:tonya.jordan@dc.gov), 202-724-5613

### PROJECT PARTNERS:



**The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH)** provides grant funds, programs and educational activities that encourage diverse artistic expressions and learning opportunities, so that all District of Columbia residents and visitors can experience the rich culture of our city. For more information on DCCAH visit: [www.dcarts.dc.gov](http://www.dcarts.dc.gov). As a program of DCCAH, the **DC Creates Public Art** program provides high quality art installations and administrative support services for the public so they can benefit from an enhanced visual environment. The program purchases, commissions and installs public art throughout the District of Columbia to cultivate dynamic, vibrant and nurturing communities through the use of art and design. For more information on DC Creates Public Art visit: <http://dcarts.dc.gov/service/public-art-collections>.



The **College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES)** of the **University of the District of Columbia (UDC)** offers research-based academic and community outreach programs that improve the quality of life and economic opportunity of people and communities in the District of Columbia, the nation and the world. For more information on CAUSES visit: [http://www.udc.edu/college\\_urban\\_agriculture\\_and\\_environmental\\_studies/welcome](http://www.udc.edu/college_urban_agriculture_and_environmental_studies/welcome)



The **Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP)** is a coalition of 14 federal agencies to address environmental and economic challenges in cities across the country ([urbanwaters.gov](http://urbanwaters.gov)). The partnership reconnects urban communities, particularly those that are economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts. For more information on UWFP visit: <http://www.urbanwaters.gov/>.



The **District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA)** is the professional association representing both the commercial and residential real estate industries in the nation's capital. Its membership of nearly 500 companies and organizations comprises several thousand real estate professionals. Association members are engaged in all aspects of real estate development and include developers, general contractors, architects and engineers, lenders, attorneys, brokers, title companies, utility companies, community development organizations and other industry members. For more information on DCBIA visit: <http://www.dcbia.org/>

#### **OTHER PARTNERS:**

- U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- American Forests
- Groundworks Anacostia
- District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA)
- District Department of the Environment (DDOE)
- DC Office of Planning (OP)

#### **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

**(Applications must be submitted through [SlideRoom](#). Instructions provided below.)**

#### **For Individual Applicants:**

1. Completed **Application Form** (see attached form on page 6). If you would prefer to type the form, please include full legal name(s) (and other professional name as applicable), mailing address, daytime phone, evening phone, email address, Website (optional).
2. Current **CV/Resume** highlighting experience with site-specific work, public art commissions and environmental art projects.
3. A **Cover Letter** describing how this project relates to your past work and how you would approach the project. The letter should not exceed two pages.
4. **10 digital images** or **video** of previous work. Digital images and video should be submitted as JPGS or MOV files. Submit only "high" quality jpgs (do not use gifs, tiffs or other formats). Each file must be 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. Please do not embed images into PowerPoint or PDF documents.

5. **Annotated Image List** corresponding to submitted images/video that includes image number, title, medium, dimensions, date of work and budget.

6. List of at least three **Professional References**. Please include name, address, phone number and email address for each individual.

**For Design Teams:**

In addition to the **Application Form, Cover Letter, CV/Resume, Image List** and **References** detailed above:

- **Work Samples** should consist of up to **20 digital images or video** of previous work. Please include artist's or designer's name associated with each work on the corresponding image list.
- **CV/Resume** for each member of the team.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

The selected artist/team shall be required to enter into contract with DCCAH for the duration of the project. Throughout the duration of contract, the artist/team and subcontractors will be required to maintain license and carry professional liability insurance.

**DEADLINE:**

Submissions must be received by **5:00 PM EST on Wednesday, June 10, 2015**.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

Applications must be submitted online through **SlideRoom**. Please follow the link <http://dcarts.slideroom.com> and select "**Urban Farm Environmental Public Art**" to upload all requisite application materials. In order to access the application portal, all applicants will first be prompted to create a SlideRoom account, at no cost. Once logged into the newly created account, applicants will be able to submit all materials outlined above. SlideRoom will allow applicants to save incomplete applications and return to them for completion until 5:00 PM EST on the Wednesday, June 10 deadline. Any incomplete submissions at the time will be disqualified.

**The SlideRoom cost for each application is \$10.00** and is payable online at the end of the SlideRoom application.



**APPLICATION FORM**  
**DC Creates Public Art!**  
***Urban Farm Environmental Public Art Project***

Please complete this form and include with application materials.

Applicant's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Mobile (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Web site (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Tonya Jordan**, Public Art Manager, [tonya.jordan@dc.gov](mailto:tonya.jordan@dc.gov), 202-724-5613

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST:**

- \_\_\_ Application Form
- \_\_\_ CV/Resume(s)
- \_\_\_ Cover Letter
- \_\_\_ 10 images/video (up to 20 for teams)
- \_\_\_ Annotated Image List
- \_\_\_ Professional References

## SITE MAP

5900 E. Capitol Street NE at Southern Avenue SE



The area to the right is the three acre site for the Urban Farm. The site to the left will be used for farming by Freedom Farms and the central parking pad will be shared between the two sites.



View of site looking northeast



View of site looking west

# SITE DESIGN

Preliminary Site Design as of May 11, 2015

