



CALL FOR ARTIST OR ARTIST TEAM Request for Qualifications

Artwork Opportunity

The City of Bellingham is seeking an artist or artist team to work with City staff and community stakeholders to design artwork to be installed within or adjacent to a portion of a new pervious sidewalk to be installed along W. Maplewood Avenue between Northwest Avenue and Alderwood Avenue in the Birchwood Neighborhood.

\$25,000 is available for design, materials, fabrication, and installation of the artwork. Submission Due Date: No later than 5:00 PM, February 17, 2017

Submit to:

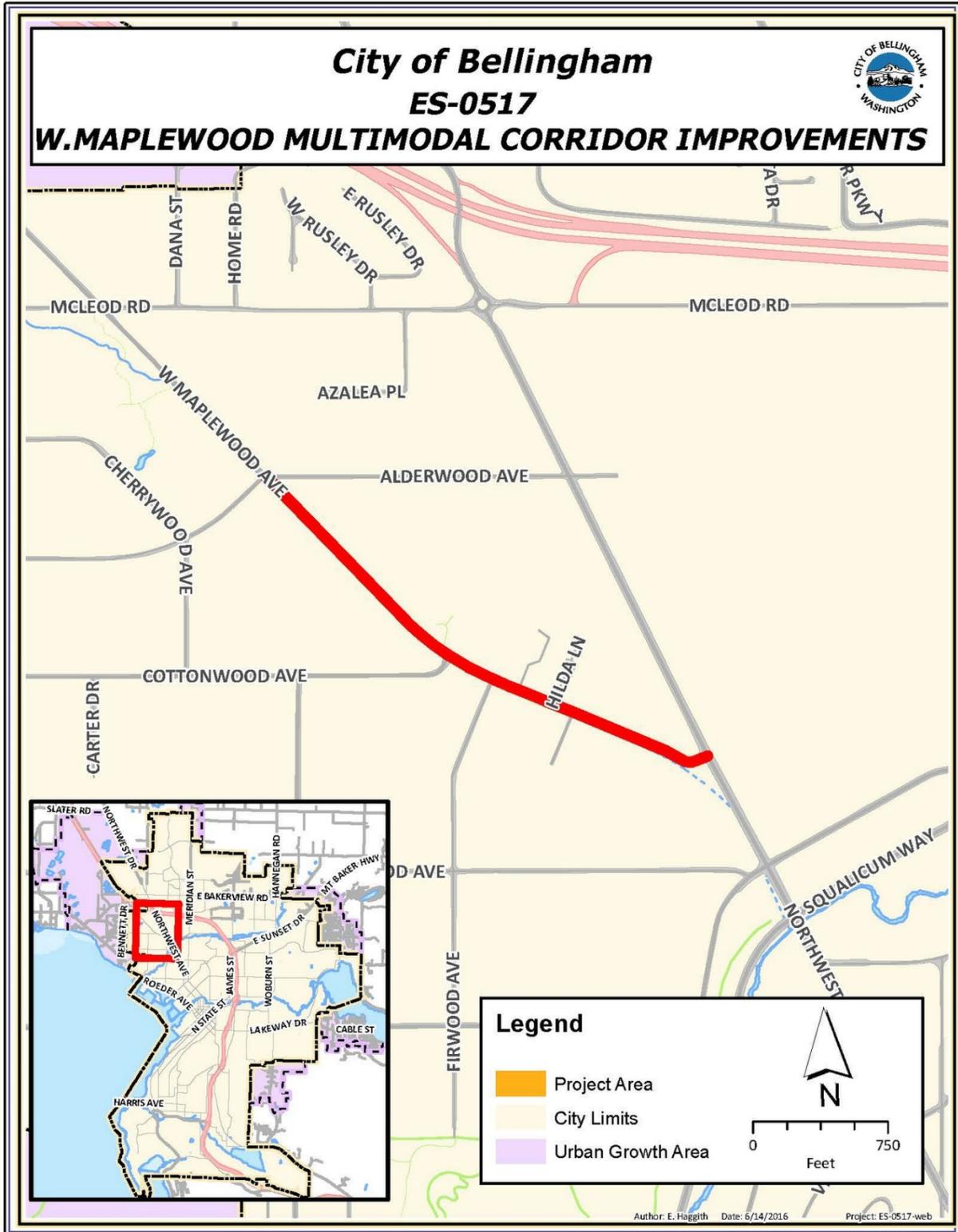
Darby Cowles, Planning and Community Development
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-778-8389
dkcowles@cob.org

Background

The Birchwood Neighborhood is an interesting study in contrasts. The neighborhood has historically consisted of single family homes built on extremely large lots. Mature landscaping, open fields and narrow streets lend a rural atmosphere to the neighborhood. Growth of apartment and condominium complexes characterize Northwest Avenue and W. Maplewood Avenue. In addition, there is a large commercial area located in the vicinity of the intersection of Northwest Avenue, W. Maplewood Avenue and Birchwood Avenue. It is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Bellingham, with anecdotes of more than 18 different languages spoken at Shuksan Middle School; and one of the lowest-income neighborhoods in Bellingham, with 61 percent of Shuksan Middle School students eligible for free or reduced lunch.

The W. Maplewood corridor is characterized by a mix of single-family homes, apartments, and scattered repair and service facilities. A small commercial cluster extends a short distance from Northwest Avenue, and the corridor serves as access for children walking to Shuksan Middle School and nearby Birchwood elementary. The City has received a federal Safe Routes to School grant to improve pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle safety along approximately 3,000 linear feet of W. Maplewood, between Northwest Avenue and Alderwood Avenue. The project will add curb, gutter and sidewalks to the east side of the street, bicycle lanes in both directions, and improve street lighting and accessibility.

Vicinity Map



Project Goals

The project is subject to the City's One Percent for the Arts program, which dedicates one percent of large capital project budgets for the incorporation of artwork. The inclusion of artwork in public places reinforces Bellingham as a regional arts destination, increases quality of life and attracts tourism and visitors to the area. The artwork budget (including design, fabrication and installation) is approximately \$25,000.

The primary goal of this project is to add aesthetic interest to the W. Maplewood corridor by incorporating artwork that celebrates and promotes neighborhood identity and pride. Artwork may be incorporated into concrete flatwork, steel railings, or other surfaces. Artwork locations and installation methods will be determined in collaboration between the selected artist/team and City staff. The following conceptual installation methods have been identified through the early phases of project design:

- As part of one or more 2-foot x 5-foot (approximate dimensions) hardscaped sections set aside in intervals within the pervious sidewalk system;
- Incorporated directly into the pervious sidewalk section (requires a certified pervious pavement installer as part of the artist team);
- Within a 2-foot area available behind the sidewalk (available length of approximately 30% of the corridor improvements);
- Within stem walls and/or handrails at the back of sidewalk that will be constructed along with the street improvements;
- Other method proposed by the selected artist/team that comply with the City's goals of skid resistance, ADA accessibility, durable/non-fade/weather resistance, and compatibility with pervious system materials/maintenance.

The Arts Commission is interested in artwork that is developed through engagement with the residents and other stakeholders of the W. Maplewood corridor. Other considerations should be that the artwork considers the limited timeframe and project budget.

Required Qualifications

The selected professional artist or artist team will work with the City's project team and W. Maplewood stakeholders to develop and fabricate artwork to be incorporated into street improvements. To be considered for this Request for Qualifications, the artist or team must meet the following criteria:

- Experience in design and installation of artwork in the public realm, preferably work on larger capital projects for government agency(s);
- Experience engaging with community members to develop artwork or artwork concepts;
- The ability to furnish all supplies, materials and equipment necessary for the design, execution, fabrication, and transportation of artwork to the site;
- The willingness to provide high-quality documentation photos at the conclusion of the project;

- The ability to provide proof of required insurance and an endorsement listing the City as additional insured during the duration of the project. Coverage shall include but is not limited to:
 - Workers Compensation Statutory Amount
 - Automobile Liability \$1,000,000
 - Broad Form Comprehensive Liability \$1,000,000/occurrence
\$2,000,000 aggregate
- Ability to perform the requested work within the budget and timeline outlined in this call.

Process

- The City will hire an artist/team as a result of the Request for Qualification submittals.
- The artist/team will meet with the City staff team to develop specifications regarding proposed artwork location(s), design criteria and any design limitations or requirements.
- The artist/team will work with the City and community partners to conduct outreach with the neighborhood residents and other stakeholders to develop an artwork concept.
- The artist/team will refine the artwork concept and present to the Arts Commission for approval.
- The artist/team will develop a final artwork proposal for approval by the City team and Arts Commission.
- The artist/team will fabricate the artwork (or oversee fabrication) and either install it directly or have it delivered to the City/contractor for installation at an agreed-upon timeline between June-December 2017.

Project Timeline

February 17, 2017	Request for Qualifications deadline
February-March	Artist/team selected, contracted
March-April	Conceptual design phase
May-June	Final design phase
June-December 2017	Fabrication/installation

NOTE: TIMELINE FOR FABRICATION, DELIVERY AND POSSIBLY INSTALLATION TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH CITY TEAM AS PART OF ARTIST CONTRACT, DEPENDING ON THE DESIGN CONCEPT DEVELOPED.

To Apply

Application materials must include:

- Letter of interest that addresses your approach to this public art project.
- Resume(s), include name, address, phone number, e-mail address and website for all members of the team, along with descriptions of previous work and/or relevant employment.
- Description of previous public art installations and experience working with the public to generate artwork concepts, if applicable.
- Color digital images of previous relevant work with annotated image descriptions.
- Two professional references (each team member will need to provide).

Materials must be received no later than 5:00PM, Friday, February 17, 2017. E-mail all materials to dkcowles@cob.org or mail/hand deliver to 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225. If you choose to mail or hand-deliver your materials, submittals must be on a PC compatible CD or jump drive.

Please keep in mind this is a Request for Qualifications only, not a request for proposals or art projects. Specific artwork proposals will be developed by the artist/team once the selection/hiring process is complete.

The City of Bellingham, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises as defined at 49 CFR Part 26 will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex in consideration for an award.