

The City of Oklahoma City and its Trusts

Request for Qualifications

RFQ-OCITY-185 Public Art for the MAPS 4 Pedestrian Bridge



The Opportunity

MAPS 4 Pedestrian Bridge Public Art Summary

The City of Oklahoma City announces a call to artists for a work of public art for the new MAPS 4 Pedestrian Bridge. The art award is \$88,000 and the deadline for responses to the RFQ is Wednesday February 25, 2026, at 4 pm CT.

Background

The Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS 4) is a debt-free public improvement program, funded by a temporary penny sales tax, that will raise a projected \$1.07 billion over eight (8) years for a wide variety of projects including the Pedestrian Bridge.

The new bike and pedestrian bridge will provide convenient access to the north and south sides of the Oklahoma River, connecting the Oklahoma River Trail (south) to the Greenway Trail. Located near Eastern Avenue/MLK, the bridge will also provide easier access from Bricktown and RIVERSPORT to the new Horizons District and OKANA Resort. Additionally, this bridge will accommodate visitors traveling to attend the LA 2028 Olympic events held in Oklahoma City.

Goals

The Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs invites artists and artist teams to respond to this RFQ with the intent to design, fabricate, and install a work of art located at the north end of the bridge. This project seeks to honor and acknowledge the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Waco, Keechi, Tawakoni) as the First Peoples of what is now Oklahoma and the Oklahoma City region, as well as the Caddo Nation, whose histories, cultures, and enduring presence are deeply rooted in the surrounding area.

The goal of this project is to recognize and elevate the legacy, cultural knowledge, and historical significance of these Native Nations through a creative and intentional approach to cultural and historic preservation. Positioned over the Oklahoma River and adjacent to the First Americans Museum and OKANA Resort, the bridge occupies a meaningful cultural landscape. The artwork will be integrated among these significant assets and should thoughtfully reflect their importance to the region's past, present, and future.

Artists may draw inspiration from Indigenous iconography, origin stories, lifeways, and contemporary expressions of tribal enterprise and resilience, while avoiding misrepresentation, stereotypes, or literal depictions of Native American people. Artists are expected to engage in rigorous research and to approach the work with care, respect, and cultural responsibility. The final work must be durable, robust, and low maintenance, ensuring its longevity as a meaningful public acknowledgment of the land's original peoples.

A brief contextual essay for the purposes of this project can be found attached to this packet.

You can learn more about the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes [here](#).

You can learn more about the Caddo Nation [here](#).

You can learn more about the Chickasaw Nation [here](#).

Scope of Services

Description of Services

The selected artist and/or team (Artist) will:

- Perform all work as detailed in the Public Art Commission Agreement to design, fabricate, and install a permanent work of art and an art identification marker

Contract Management Expectations

The Artist, either personally or through their agent(s), is responsible for project management. The Art Award/Project Budget covers all aspects of the entire project, including but not limited to design, engineering, construction, installation, rental, liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, transportation, shipping, travel, lodging, design district review and other incidental expenses.

Contract Payment

The total Art Award of **\$88,000** includes all costs for designing, creating, and installing the artwork, including but not limited to materials, engineering, research, fabrication, travel, transportation, required insurance and all necessary permits and certificates.

How We Choose

Eligibility

As required by state law, this opportunity is open to all practicing artists who are at least 18 years of age; however, Wichita, Caddo, and other Native American Artists are especially encouraged to respond to this RFQ. Artists selected as finalists must attend the required in-person site visit. Artist teams may include artist apprentices younger than 18, when prior written permission is provided from the apprentice's parent or guardian.

Selection Process

Selection involves a three-step process: initial review by an evaluation committee; first selection by the full selection committee resulting in choosing finalists who will create and present conceptual design reports; final selection by the full selection committee after finalist presentations. The selection committee may include but is not limited to an Arts Commissioner, a professional art consultant, selected representatives, and stakeholders.

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria to be applied and interpreted by the Selection Committee include:

- Artistic excellence and originality, as evidenced by representation of past work in images and other supporting materials;
- Evidence of ability to handle a project of this size and scope;
- Appropriateness of Artist's approach and style to the Project's intent and site;

- Stated availability to work within the Project time frame and to be present for required meetings; and
- Price and current market value of Artist's work in relation to the scope and value contemplated for this commission.

Project Schedule

Schedule of events for RFQ-OCITY-185. **By responding to this RFQ applicants acknowledge that they are available to meet on the designated dates.** The City reserves the right, as deemed necessary, at its sole discretion, to adjust this schedule by written notice to all the Artists who have timely responded to the RFQ.

RFQ-OCITY-185 announced		Wednesday, January 28, 2026
Deadline for submissions		4:00pm CT Wednesday February 25, 2026
First selection meeting	Committee Only	Tuesday March 10, 2026
Site visit for finalists	In person required	2:00 pm Friday, March 27, 2026
Finalists presentation	Online required	Thursday, May 7, 2026
Arts Commission meeting		Monday, May 18, 2026
City Council approval		June 2026
Installation		TBD

Note: Revisions may be requested by the selection committee after the selection of final design.

Submittal Instructions & Content

All submission materials, including the required questions and eight full-size .jpg photos, should be combined into a single file then submitted together. Send only the following completed questions listed in the order below. Fillable forms can be found in the **Required Forms for RFQ-OCITY-185** pdf in this packet.

- 1. Artist names, roles, contact information, and references**
- 2. Artist Statement:** In 500 words or less make the case for yourself to be selected as a finalist. Think about what you uniquely bring to this project; how you would approach the design and implementation of the work; what single work in your portfolio gives us the best insight into what you could propose for the MAPS 4 Pedestrian Bridge? Only one artist statement per team.
- 3. Instead of a Resume part 1:** In 250 words or less, tell us what life experience or educational experience of yours is most relevant to this project and to our understanding of who you are. Name up to three with brief explanations.
- 4. Instead of a Resume part 2:** In 250 words or less, tell us more about at least one but up to three of the works in your image submissions. Give us a backstory, insight into your technique ... whatever gives a richer understanding of what you created and why.

5. **Image list:** Include up to eight (8) images of representative work. **Note: Limit to 1MB in size per image.** Each image must include the title, medium, dimensions, location, cost/value, and year of completion.

Failure to complete these requirements may result in the disqualification of your submission.

Notices

- See Sample Public Art Commission Agreement attached in Bidnet. The Agreement includes non-discrimination and non-collusion requirements and information about the Oklahoma Open Records Act and Confidential Information, and a sample VARA waiver. **Submission of an entry shall constitute acknowledgement, understanding, and acceptance of the terms, conditions, criteria, requirements, and evaluations as generally set forth in the Public Art Commission Agreement.**
- The Artist selected for the project shall retain all rights under 17 U.S.C. §101 et seq. (the Copyright Act of 1976), subject to rights of attribution and certain other specific rights, as well as all other rights in and to the Work, ***except ownership and possession. City shall have ownership and possession of Work pursuant to this Agreement, but shall not own the copyright to the Work, which shall be retained by Artist.*** No Work created by Artist for City, pursuant to this Agreement or any other Agreement, shall be considered a “work made for hire” as defined by Title 17, U.S.C §§ 101 and 201(b) (the United States Copyright Act of 1976). 17 U.S.C. §106(a) The Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990, “VARA”) See sample VARA Waiver in Exhibit H in the Public Art Agreement (sample) following Section X below.
- The City reserves the right to amend or withdraw this RFQ-Call to Artists at any time and for any or no reason. Receipt of submission entries by City, or submission of an Artist’s entry to City, or selection of an Artist for purposes of negotiating a contract, confers no rights to any Artist nor obligates City in any manner. City reserves the right, at its sole discretion and for any reason, to reject all submission entries and not award any contract, and to solicit additional or different submission entries at any time. City incurs no obligation regarding this Call to Artists, or any contract resulting therefrom, until a Public Art Commission Agreement is fully negotiated, and all documents have been properly submitted and executed by all parties.
- The costs of developing a submission entry are solely the responsibility of the Artist. City shall not provide reimbursement for such costs. City shall not be liable for any Artist’s preparation costs for any reason, other than the \$1,000 fee paid to an Artist or Artist team invited by the Selection Committee to produce a Conceptual Design Report for the Selection Interview. **Submission of an entry shall constitute acceptance of the terms, conditions, criteria, requirements, and evaluations set forth in this Call to Artists, and operates as an offer and a waiver of all objections and Proposer-originated modifications to the contents of this Call to Artists.**

- All information in submissions to this RFQ, and any resultant Conceptual Design Reports by finalists for this project are considered to be public record by the Oklahoma Open Records Act.
- All entries properly submitted shall be received and reviewed by City. City reserves the right to reject any entry deemed to be non-responsive for failure to comply fully with the terms of the Call to Artists. However, City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request clarifications, corrections, or additional information and to waive irregularities in execution or delivery of the entry, provided it is in the best interest of City.
- The Selectee must identify a locally based (living within a 120-mile radius of the Project site) Project Representative, who is the main Project contact, and who can be on site or react on 24 hours' notice as needed for construction meetings and other contingencies. Artists may designate themselves, if locally based.