

JORDAN RIVER BOAT RAMPS

CALL FOR ARTISTS: Request for Qualifications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, February 19, 2021 at 5:00 PM MDT

PROJECT BUDGET: \$144,000

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Jordan River, which runs from Utah Lake to the Great Salt Lake through Utah and Salt Lake Counties, is a unique environmental and recreational amenity. Pedestrians and cyclists enjoy the river bankside on the Jordan River Parkway Trail while paddlers utilize the river itself, on the Jordan River Water Trail. In an effort to provide expanded infrastructure to support canoeists, kayakers, and other recreational users on the Jordan River, three new boat ramps will be constructed and a fourth upgraded. The Jordan River Water Trail project aims to create a series of formal boat access points at strategic locations. This will improve the current conditions along the river for recreational boaters, legitimize the user-created access points, and create new access points that are safer and more functional for paddlers. The Jordan River continues to be the ecological, environmental, and recreational heart of the west side of Salt Lake City. The stretch of the river within the community and the Jordan River Parkway alongside it are unlike any others in the Salt Lake Valley and this project will continue to highlight this unique amenity within Salt Lake City.

All four ramps will be open for use by the summer of 2021. Collectively, these four river access sites span over ten river-miles and provide substantially expanded opportunities for the safe enjoyment of the Jordan River.

The Jordan River Boat Ramp project provides the unique opportunity for the creation of artwork at four distinct sites in Salt Lake City, each linked by the river trail and parkway. The Salt Lake City Art Design Board is pleased to pursue artwork which can respond to the natural environment of the river along with its recreational uses, visually link the four sites, and engage with the sites at the neighborhood level while celebrating the River's essential significance to the Salt Lake region.

ELIGIBILITY

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is open to all professional artists and/or artist-led teams residing in the following states: Utah, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, and Wyoming. Applicants will be considered regardless of race, gender, gender variance, sexual orientation, national origin, age, religion, marital status, political opinion or affiliation, or mental or physical ability. To be considered, artists must have demonstrated experience accomplishing work of similar scope and scale, and using appropriate materials for Utah's variable climate.

ARTWORK GOALS

The Salt Lake Art Design Board seeks an artist or artist-led team to create site-specific artwork that:

- Can be engaged with as both individual installations and as a collective whole;

- Reflects input gathered through a meaningful community engagement process;
- Raises awareness of the river's educational, ecological, and cultural importance to the community;
- Visually links the boat ramps along the Jordan River Water Trail, functioning as a wayfinding element and marking each ramp;
- Is of the highest quality - creatively and technically - and exemplifies strong, imaginative design and storytelling that contributes to community and connection;
- Considers and incorporates sustainable concepts and materials;
- Resists general wear, vandalism, or theft; offers easy, minimal and low-cost maintenance; and is suitable for a dynamic, bank-side location;
- Meets all public safety, structural, and maintenance standards and complies with the Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA), Salt Lake City requirements, and all other applicable laws, codes, and regulations.

A note on site specificity: The area around the Jordan River, as it is known today, was once home to the Goshute, Eastern Shoshone, and Diné Bikéyah peoples. This stolen and colonized place represents the rich cultural landscape of these Indigenous Peoples and continues to have spiritual, cultural, and emotional significance to these communities, who are still here and thriving in and around the Salt Lake valley. The Jordan River is a major geographic feature in the Salt Lake region and is hugely important as both an ecologic and recreational site. As a regional asset, the River engages visitors throughout the valley. The Jordan River boats ramps are significant on a neighborhood level as well, and located throughout the west side of Salt Lake City, from Glendale to Rose Park. These are among the most racially diverse and historically marginalized communities in the City. As such, artists are encouraged to engage meaningfully in the communities surrounding the boat ramp sites, through research and conversation at the neighborhood level. **Applicants are urged to consider site-specificity with 'site' defined to include sensitivity to the history and current context at the neighborhood level in addition to the regional level.**

BOAT RAMP LOCATIONS

- 1700 South Ramp, at 1700 South and approximately 1100 West
- Fisher Mansion Ramp, at 1200 West and 200 South
- Gadsby Ramp, at 1223 West and North Temple
- Riverview Ramp, at 1800 North and Redwood Road

PROJECT BUDGET

The total commission of \$144,000 is inclusive of artist's fees and related expenses for design, supplies, community engagement, fabrication, insurance, transportation, travel, permits, and installation. Any fees incurred for design/artwork related engineering, electrical, infrastructure modifications and assistance from the contractors shall be the responsibility of the artist. The artist should include a contingency plan of at least 10% of the project's commission in the budget for their final proposal. The honorariums of \$2,000 paid to finalists do not come from the commission budget.

SELECTION CRITERIA & PROCESS

The Salt Lake Art Design Board, in consultation with project stakeholders, will review all properly submitted applications and will select a short-list of three finalists to propose artwork for review. All finalists will enter into an agreement with the City. After proposal presentations, the

Salt Lake Art Design Board will recommend an artist or artist-led team, and one alternate, to the Mayor for final approval.

The selection of an artist or artist-led team and alternate team for this project will be based on having met some or all of the following criteria:

- Artist’s professional experience represents a developed and successful body of site-specific public art projects of a similar scope and scale as demonstrated by visual documentation;
- Ability to meet deadlines and budget and to perform work in a timely, professional manner;
- Willingness of the artist to consult and work collaboratively with the Salt Lake Art Design Board, community stakeholders, and City partners to successfully integrate the work into the site;
- Ability to understand sense of place and design in a context-sensitive manner as demonstrated by visual documentation;
- Artist’s process and work reveals something about the world, communicating unique perspective/s, inviting the viewer to question, discover, explore new ideas—the storytelling is compelling, and exploration feels relevant and deeply considered;
- Artists process and work represents an artistic challenge or stretch, there is risk involved;
- Artist has an authentic relationship/connection to the content/community involved in the work;
- Artist has created works of permanent nature that do not require excessive maintenance or repair costs and meet public safety requirements and Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Request for Qualifications Opens – January 15, 2021
Information Meeting – February 3, 2021 at 3pm online via webex
Application Deadline – February 19, 2021 at 5:00pm
Finalist Selection – March 4, 2021
Finalist contracting and design phase – March/April 2021
Finalist Proposal Presentation – June 3, 2021
Commissioned Artist Contracting – June/July 2021
Installation of Artwork Complete – Spring 2022

The optional online info session can be joined at this link:

<https://saltlakecity.webex.com/saltlakecity/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee5f898b455612b39a73cc4859b26ef1d>

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Artists may apply individually or as a team. Submissions that arrive on or before **5:00pm MDT on February 19, 2021**, and meet all the application requirements will be reviewed. To be considered for this project, applicants must submit all of the required materials via the Submittable website ([Submittable.com](https://www.submittable.com)). There is no application fee. No other method of submission will be accepted. If you need technical or adaptive assistance, please contact Submittable at (855) 467-8264. Any materials not specifically requested as part of this

application or exceeding the maximum page length or format requirements will not be considered or reviewed by the selection committee. Late or incomplete applications, and those not submitted within the following parameters, as determined by the Salt Lake City Public Art Manager, will not be considered. The applicant's name must appear on all submitted materials.

1. **LETTER OF INTEREST: (first name_last name_letter of interest.pdf)** A letter not to exceed one page (500 words) outlining your interest in this project and experience working on comparable projects of similar scope and scale. Please also describe your community engagement process and what meaningful community engagement means to you in 1-3 sentences Letter must include address, email, phone number, and website of artist..
2. **RESUME OR CV: (first name_last name_resume.pdf)** A resume not to exceed two pages including artist training and professional experience. If applying as a team, submit a resume for each team member.
3. **PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES: (first name_last name_references.pdf)** A list of two professional references with contact information (name, title, organization, mailing address, phone number, and email address).
4. **IMAGES OF RECENT WORK: (first name_last name.title1.jpeg, first name_last name.title 2.jpeg, ect)** Five to ten (5 -10) jpeg images of completed and installed original past artwork of similar, scope, scale and budget. Each image must not exceed 1MB in size. Artwork data must be entered into appropriate fields on Submittable, including: title, date, medium, dimensions, location, budget, and brief description of the work.

ARTIST AGREEMENTS

Each of the three selected finalists will enter into an agreement between City and the artist/team for design development. Once the selected artist or artist-led team's design is selected and approved, they will enter into a commissioned work agreement between the City and the artist/team. The selected artist/team must carry general liability and auto insurance, and must either provide proof of Workers' Compensation Coverage or apply for a Workers' Compensation Coverage Waiver. The artist/team must submit engineering drawings for approval prior to the start date of fabrication. View a sample [Artist Design Agreement here](#) and a sample [Artist Commissioned Work Agreement here](#).

FINALIST PROCESS & PRESENTATION

The selected finalists will develop their conceptual proposals and give a presentation to the Salt Lake City Art Design Board and project partners. The site-specific proposals should convey their ideas and plans through scale designs, renderings and/or scale models with a statement that describes, in detail, the project's intent, community engagement process, proposed materials, fabrication and installation methods, project schedule and an itemized budget.

Finalists will receive a \$2,000 stipend for all design development, meetings, presentations, and community engagement, which is inclusive of any travel expenses, hotel, shipping, etc.

The selected finalists must email a color rendering of the proposal to the Salt Lake City Public Art Program Manager, by Wednesday, May 26, 2021, by 5:00 p.m. MDT. Materials will be distributed to the Design Board and project partners prior to the finalists' presentation.

One artist or artist-led team's proposal will be accepted by the Salt Lake City Art Design Board and recommended to the Mayor for approval; the artist and the City will enter into a commissioned work agreement. The selected artist/team will be required to provide General Liability and Auto insurance as specified in the agreement.

The selected artist or artist-led team must be present for installation and is required to remain on site the duration of the installation, which will be coordinated by the Public Art Program Manager. The artist or artist-led team will be responsible for all expenses incurred to commission the artwork, including for travel for the installation of the artwork and should budget accordingly from the awarded commission.

QUESTIONS

All questions regarding this RFQ may only be directed to Salt Lake City Public Art Program staff at the email address listed below. All questions and responses will be posted at saltlakepublicart.org/for-artists/calls-for-artists/ for applicants and potential applicants to review. Applicants may be disqualified if any unsolicited contact related to this RFQ is made with a member of the Art Design Board or project stakeholders other than the Public Art Program staff during the selection process. Communication will occur electronically via email. Questions received after February 12, 2021 may go unanswered, so it is suggested all interested artists begin the submission process as soon as possible.

Contact: publicartprogram@slcgov.com

Website: <http://saltlakepublicart.org/for-artists/calls-for-artists/>

SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The Public Art Program, which commissions artists' work for City-owned buildings and public spaces, was established by ordinance in 1984. The Salt Lake Art Design Board is an advisory group of citizens representing different City Council districts, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, to oversee Salt Lake City's public art program. The Design Board members are selected for their related arts expertise and willingness to serve the community. The Design Board recommends artists to the Mayor for public art commissions in Salt Lake City. The current Design Board members are Justin Johnson, Nancy Rivera, Larissa Trout, Aurelio Velazquez, and Joe Jacoby. The Design Board will consult with representatives from the Salt Lake City Department of Parks and Public Lands and other stakeholders to help inform their artist/team selection for this project.

RESOURCES

Information on the County-wide boat ramp initiative:

- <https://slco.org/parks-recreation/planning/projects/jordan-river-water-trail/>

Information on the boat ramps within Salt Lake City specifically:

- <https://www.slc.gov/parks/jordan-river-boat-access-improvements/>
- <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/346b9f4e12884d58842f58f3df9267bb>

Information on the Jordan River water trail from interlocal entity the Jordan River Commission:

- <https://jordanrivercommission.com/water-trail/>

Jordan River Master plan:

- <https://slco.org/globalassets/2-parks--rec/facilities/umbrella/planning/pdf-listings/trail-masterplans/jordan-river-trail-master-plan.pdf>

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION ADDITIONAL POLICIES

The City may accept *Request for Qualifications (RFQ)* submittals as deemed to be in the public interest; proceed with further selection processes; reject any and all submissions; or may waive any irregularity, informality, or technicality in submittals received. The Artist Selection Committee will determine, in its sole discretion, from the submitted information the most qualified Applicant to meet the stated duties as evaluated under the criteria set forth herein. The determination of the most advantageous proposal shall be final and conclusive.

The issuance of the *RFQ* and the receipt and evaluation of the submittals does not obligate the City to select an applicant submission or enter into any agreement. The City will not pay costs incurred in responding to the *RFQ* unless specified in the *RFQ*. The City may cancel this process at any time prior to the execution of any agreement without liability.

The City reserves the right to revise the evaluation process. Such revision will be announced in writing to all *RFQ* respondents or short-listed teams, depending on the timing of the change. The City also reserves the right to reject any and all *RFQ* responses at any time, or to terminate any negotiations implied in this *RFQ* or initiated subsequent to it. If the Artist Selection Committee receives a submittal it deems incomplete or ambiguous, it reserves the right to request additional information or to reject the submittal.

The Salt Lake Art Design Board and Salt Lake City Corporation reserve the right to reject any or all applications, to reissue the *Request for Qualifications (RFQ)*, or to terminate the selection process or project at any time without prior notice. No applicant shall have the right to make a claim against the Salt Lake City Corporation in the event the *RFQ* is canceled, or the City decides not to proceed with the selection or commissioning process with the selected artist or the alternate artist, awards a contract, or determines not to award any or all contracts specified in this document. No protests will be accepted or reviewed. All submissions are subject to [City Code 2.44](#), governing conflicts of interest.

The City reserves the right to, at any time and for any reason, discontinue negotiations with any initially selected Applicant, and to pursue negotiations with an alternative team. Applicants or their agents are instructed not to contact Arts Design Board members, City officials or employees or attempt to externally manipulate or influence the procurement process in any way, other than through the instructions contained herein, from the date of release of this *RFQ* to the date of execution of an agreement resulting from this solicitation. City, in its sole discretion, may disqualify applicants who violate this paragraph.