

Public Art Opportunity

Request for Artist Proposals

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 6, 2019

TOTAL BUDGET FOR ART: TBD

GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of DeWitt Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is seeking to award a Painted Crosswalk Public Art Project to enhance and enrich the environment of the arts in the City of DeWitt's Central Business District. The City is seeking design proposals for a work of public art in the form of painted crosswalks to be located at the intersection of Bridge Street and Main Street (see attached aerial). The art piece is envisioned as being highly visible to both automobile and pedestrian traffic, and to act as an iconic landmark representing the unique character of the City of DeWitt and the downtown business district. The embodiment of this project will engage the community through a visual, spatial, and sensory experience while defining the central point for Downtown DeWitt.

Artists are required to make the installation of the painted crosswalks a community involved process. The art installation will be organized on a specific date, TBD, in order for community members to participate in the process.

CALL

The competition is open to all artists, architects, designers, etc.

A short list of up to three (3) artists will be created by the selection committee and each artist will be asked to further develop their design proposal. **A design stipend of up to \$100.00** will be paid to each of the short-listed artists upon completion of a formal design proposal and submittal of required expenditures.

This project is open to all artists, but preference will be given to artists living or working in Clinton, Eaton, or Ingham Counties.

PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The art piece will be located at the intersection of Bridge and Main Streets, which is the central point of the downtown Central Business District. Downtown DeWitt is a traditional downtown serving the area residents with many amenities and businesses. People and businesses are attracted by the City of DeWitt's quality of life, schools, and other amenities. Downtown DeWitt has always been the focus of the community and is its commercial center. The focus of the downtown has been to encourage more people visiting the downtown through an increase in retail businesses, restaurants, and streetscape improvements. The location for the painted crosswalks is intended to encourage visitors to visit the downtown and encourage future placement of public art pieces.

DEWITT OVERVIEW AND HISTORY OF PROJECT AREA

The City of DeWitt is located just north of Lansing in the heart of mid-Michigan and is primarily a bedroom community.

DeWitt was named after DeWitt Clinton, Governor of New York during the 1830s. It was first settled by Captain David Scott, who moved there from Ann Arbor on October 4, 1833, and platted the land. At that time the Village of DeWitt had the distinction of being the County Seat from 1839 to 1857. The area that is now Memorial Park was once known as New Albany and was a competing municipality up until 1850's. The Village of DeWitt adopted a new charter on June 7, 1965 and officially became incorporated as the City of DeWitt.

The City of DeWitt was voted the 75th best place to live in the US by CNN Money in 2005. The City of DeWitt has a rich history that includes settlements by Native Americans in the 1760's, a bustling Interurban Rail system from 1910 to 1930.

The City of DeWitt has long recognized the importance of the arts, including in the Preamble of the City of DeWitt Charter..."the municipality recognizes the economic and social importance of having cultural amenities within it, including the arts, which allow a desired quality of life to be enjoyed here."

The City of DeWitt will make available "DeWitt Area History" for anyone seeking additional information on the history of the City of DeWitt.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The intersection has been chosen as the location for the painted crosswalks due to the high volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the Central Business District making this one of the most visible intersections in the City of DeWitt. The downtown is home to many businesses and residents. The average daily volume of vehicles is approximately

6,000 per day. Each crosswalk measures approximately 50-foot long and 8-feet wide. If different, each of the four crosswalks should complement each other.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Design must be extremely durable, suitable for outdoors in a secluded area without 24 hour surveillance, resistant to vandalism, and able to withstand the elements. Art piece is intended to be of a durable weather resistant paint (oil or latex based is acceptable)
- Artwork commissioned for this project will become the property of the City of DeWitt. The City of DeWitt will have no obligation to display the artwork for any particular time period.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The DeWitt Public Art Committee will manage stages of this project, including circulating the Request for Proposals, fielding questions on the project, reviewing proposals, and making a recommendation on the bid award. The DeWitt City Council will finalize selection, authorize work and issue contracts.

The criterion for selecting proposals includes but is not limited to:

1. Originality: creativity and uniqueness demonstrated in previous projects.
2. Submittal of all required application materials as outlined in this RFP.
3. Style, scale to site, and appropriateness: Artwork should demonstrate compatibility to the Central Business District, surrounding neighborhoods, and the City of DeWitt. The art piece should celebrate the past, present and future of the City of DeWitt.
4. Technical considerations and feasibility: Based upon the artist's history and experience in completing public art projects within the timeline and budget, as well as the sustainability of the project.
5. Quality and craftsmanship exhibited by past work.
6. Safety and Maintenance: Artwork should be durable and resistant to theft and/or vandalism. Materials should require minimal periodic maintenance and be readily available if restoration is necessary.
7. Plan for community involvement.
8. Budget.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT

1. Current Resume with contact information (two page limit).
2. Letter of Interest briefly addressing how you would approach the project. This document should be no longer than one page (single-space, 1-inch margins, 12 pt. font).
3. List of professional references. Please include name, address, phone number, and e-mail address for each individual.

4. Five (5) JPG images of previous work saved to CD or emailed to the address provided below. Label CD with artist's name and contact information. Every image file must be titled first with the number of the image in the order to be viewed (use "0" in front of single-digit numbers), followed by the artist's last name [for example: 01_Smith; 02_Smith, etc].
5. Annotated image list (two-page limit). Please list the file name and brief description of each image, including title, date, medium, dimensions, and budget or price.
6. Please do not submit paper materials in plastic covers, binders, or folders. Use only paper clips to bind your materials. Materials not requested will not be reviewed.
7. Artist renderings or drawings of proposed artwork.

All materials must be received by proposal deadlines.

PROJECT TIMELINE

RFP creation/release	August 7, 2019
Deadline for application	September 6, 2019
Review of qualifications and selection of short list	September 13, 2019
Final Proposal Due	September 27, 2019
Selection of finalist	October 4, 2019
Art piece finished	October 31, 2019

*Please note, this is a tentative schedule depending on number of applications we receive.

BUDGET

The project budget is all inclusive of project costs, including artist's fees and expenses, taxes, materials, permit fees, travel, insurance fees, transportation costs, fabrication, and installation.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

It is expected that the winning artist will be available for a public dedication of the art piece/gateway sign. The City of DeWitt will work with the artist to ensure that the City and the artist receive publicity for this significant placemaking piece.

The City is expected to use the completed art piece/gateway sign as part of their branding. As such, illustrations, photos, or representations of the art piece may be used in print, web, and other mediums.

APPLICATION DELIVERY

Postmark or deliver proposal materials by September 6, 2019 4:00 pm
 Downtown Painted Crosswalks
 City of DeWitt
 414 East Main Street
 DeWitt, MI 48820

All materials submitted become the property of the City of DeWitt and will not be returned unless a self-addressed stamped envelope, with sufficient postage, is provided. We will make every effort to protect submitted materials; however, the City will not be responsible for any loss or damage. The City of DeWitt accepts no responsibility for costs incurred by the artist in responding to this RFP and reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal submitted.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions or need any additional information or images, contact Andrea Schowengerdt, DDA Coordinator at 517-669-2441 or email dda@dewittmi.org.

