

Request for Proposals for Artwork: 150 Years of Bentonville



Request	The City of Bentonville’s Public Art Advisory Committee is seeking proposals from artists to create a work of public art that engages the community to celebrate the city’s sesquicentennial.
Project Name	150 Years of Bentonville
Deadline	Friday, March 31, 2023 before Midnight Central Time

Creative Brief

Objective	Celebrate with a work of public art that engages the community in the sesquicentennial.
Thought-Starter or Inspiration	The city has always had an ambitious, entrepreneurial spirit. In fact, before it was known for retail, art, or its outdoor recreation, it was known nationally for growing superior apples.
Aspiration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shared experiences create community. The work should engage the community in either its installed state or as a part of its creation, sourcing, or production.• The work could integrate historical Bentonville references such as apples and their associates trees, blossoms and orchards (see history below).• Tens of thousands are part of the story of Bentonville. It could include the sourced likenesses of past and current residents.
Historical Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Well before Bentonville, the Osage hunted and fished in the area until 1808. The Cherokee were offered the former Osage hunting ground in exchange for their land further eastward.• Before Bentonville was established, most homesteads in the area had kitchen orchards for family use. In 1836, a nursery was established in Bentonville. As the city was being established in 1873, so was the commercial apple industry. An estimated 40,000 acres of orchard made it one of the nation’s two largest apple-producing counties.

Considerations

Site	Although any public property within Bentonville could be considered, the Committee will work to find an ideal location. Recommendations are welcome. Contact Shelli Kerr (see below) for helpful tips to explore location options using digital maps.
Artist(s) Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in community engagement is strongly encouraged.• Any artist, architect, designer, collective, or team residing locally or in another state is encouraged to submit.• Those without extensive experience or capabilities in fabrication or execution are encouraged to submit a proposal. If requested, the Committee will work to make agreeable connections for executing the selected proposal.
Project Cost	The Committee has earmarked up to \$30,000 for this project but is seeking reasonable proposals regardless of cost. For requested proposals, the creative concept is key. The Committee understands changes in fabrication methods and material costs can vary dramatically and can be further discussed after selection.
Completed Artwork Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For permanent installations, artwork must be suited to continuous outdoor display and able to be maintained by the City.• Artwork cannot contain logos, tag lines or be in any way thematically linked to a commercial business, establishment, product or service.

Process

Contact	<p>Shelli Kerr, AICP Comprehensive Planning Manager, City of Bentonville</p> <p>305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR 72712</p> <p>479-271-3122 skerr@bentonvillear.com</p>
Submission	<p>Artists must agree to meet the Artwork Guidelines (above) and the Public Art Policy (Attachment A on page 5).</p> <p>All proposals must be submitted before the deadline Friday, March 31, 2022 before midnight Central time using the online application form at http://www.bentonvillear.com/FormCenter/Planning-8/Public-Art-Proposal-70. Only those proposals submitted through the online application form with all required documentation uploaded will be accepted.</p>

Proposal Submission**Requirements for Proposals**

- Sketch of proposed work and description noting proposed scale, medium, and materials
- Proposed approach to community engagement during production or sourcing or as installed
- Proposed cost including fee for artistic development (not to exceed 20% of total cost) and, if applicable, proposed travel fee (including travel, lodging and meals)

Optional Request for Fabrication

Artist(s) may request assistance with the fabrication and execution of their proposal. If requested, the Committee will work to match selected proposals with experts in these areas.

Requirements for Fabrication and Execution Proposals

If artist(s) plans to fabricate and/or execute the proposed work themselves, include the following:

- Estimated materials, fabrication, delivery and installation costs
- Requirements for installation
- Requirements for access to electricity or water
- Fabrication time, life expectancy, and any special maintenance needs

Selection

Selection and funding are contingent upon a signed Letter of Agreement between the artist(s) and the City of Bentonville. Before a contract agreement, detailed cost estimates will be required and will be evaluated.

Installation & Maintenance

After an agreement is signed, the City will coordinate with the artist(s) on timing and any assistance needed by the city. Upon acceptance by the city after installation, the city will assume maintenance responsibilities. Details on maintenance requirements for the artwork must be provided by the artist(s) involved in the project.

Payment

- Payment is dispersed as follows: 50% upon a signed agreement and receipt of invoice, and the remaining 50% upon complete installation and receipt of invoice.
 - Travel, lodging and meal expenses for the artist(s) associated with this project are not directly reimbursable.
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Meeting the Community

Community engagement may be aided by several planned events celebrating the sesquicentennial. Details can be found at <https://www.bentonville150.com>. The Committee will work with the selected artist(s) based on the proposed engagement plan.

Selection Criteria**(30%) Artist Merit & Originality**

Is the artistic thought and approach creative and unique? Does the artist have a unique or appropriate cultural, geographic or artistic perspective?

(20%) Capacity for Project and Proposal Feasibility

Does the artist(s) have a proven track record and/or ability to complete the work on time and within budget?

(30%) Community Vitality & Collaboration

Does the artist(s) demonstrate experience of meaningful engagement with community members and partners? Has the artist(s) prior projects involved participation, and/or built relationships? Does the artist(s) have experience working in communities with diverse populations and in projects that bring people together or create gathering spaces?

(20%) Placemaking & Placekeeping

Does the artist(s) demonstrate an understanding of the community and setting, including history, identity, geography and cultures? Has the artist(s) previous work engaged communities and settings?

About the Committee

The Public Art Advisory Committee is appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council. They are responsible for: Serving in an advisory capacity to City Council for recommending artwork to be placed on public property, Providing technical advisement on the development of a public art program, and Following the adopted Public Art Policy.

Attachment A: Public Art Policy

Ordinance No. 2013-40, 06-14-13

1. **Approval.** All requests to display artwork on city maintained property shall be approved by the Bentonville City Council, the Public Art Advisory Committee and if required, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and / or other City Boards and Commissions.
2. **Insurance.**
 - a. **Temporary Works of Art.** The City is self-insured and does not insure temporary display of artwork on city maintained property. The artist who loans temporary works or art for display on city maintained property shall bear the risk of loss from damage, destruction, or theft of the artwork while it is in the care of the City of Bentonville. The artist shall agree in writing to assume sole liability or responsibility for loss, damage, or theft of the artwork.
 - b. **Permanent Works of Art.** Insurance details relating to permanent works of shall be outlined in the contract agreement.
3. **Assumption of Risk and Public Safety.** Display of artwork shall not create an unnecessary safety hazard to the public or city employees and shall be displayed in a manner that does not unreasonably impeded traffic or interfere with public safety.
4. **Types of Display.** Art displays hosted or coordinated by the City may include competitions sponsored by the City, art displays featuring individual artist, themes and art displays featuring groups of artists.
5. **Location.** Artwork may be displayed in public places approved by City Council. Artwork may be physically separated from the main exhibit when, in the opinion of the City Council, warranted under current community standards. Artwork, other than works of art currently in placed at the time of adoption of this ordinance, shall not be displayed on the Bentonville Square.
6. **Compatibility.** Proposed public art shall be evaluated for its compatibility relative to the following:
 - Visibility and public access
 - Public safety
 - Traffic patterns
 - The relationship of the proposed public art project to the site's existing or future architectural features, its natural features, its historical, geographic and social / cultural context
 - The function and use(s) of the facility or site
 - The nature of the site's surrounding neighborhood and potential impact of the public art project on residents, businesses, existing works of art or design elements within the site's vicinity
 - Future development plans for the area which may affect the public art project.
7. **Identification of Artwork.** Works of art should be identified in an appropriate manner to the context of the artwork. Standard, consistent signage details are outlined in the contract.
8. **Sales Prohibited.** Art shall not be sold on city maintained property except as part of an organized event. Sales information shall not be posted or displayed with a work of art; interested buyers shall contact the artist directly for sales information.
9. **Payments Prohibited.** The City (or any organization or person affiliated with the City) shall not accept payments to have art displayed on city maintained property. Furthermore, the display of public art on city maintained property shall not be used by any organizations for fundraising.
10. **Presentation.** As outlined in the contract, all art needs to be finished and ready for display and artists shall remain responsible for all costs associated with presenting, setting up and taking down.
11. **Set Up / Take down.** As outlined in the contract, it shall be the responsibility of the artist to adhere to the details for presenting, set up and take down.
12. **Pick-up and Deliver / Abandonment.** As outlined in the contract, the artist shall adhere to the details for pick-up and delivery location and time. Any piece that is not picked-up by the deadline shall be treated as abandoned property subject to disposal without further notice under applicable laws.
13. **Complaints.** If the City receives signed, written complaints from ten (10) or more citizens of Bentonville about a work of art on display, then the City shall notify the artist about the complaint and allow the artist an opportunity to immediately withdraw the work. Should the artist choose not to withdraw the work, the City shall hold a meeting between the artist and complainants during which they will be given an opportunity to address the appropriateness of the display of the work of art. After the meeting, if the issue is still unresolved, the City Council shall make the final decision on whether the work of art shall be removed, relocated, relabeled, or otherwise modified giving due regard and consideration to the artist's freedom of expression and due process under the First and Fourteenth Amendments in accordance with the forum in which that artwork is displayed.
14. **Removal.** As outlined in the contract, there shall be no removal or disguise of a work of art once it is placed on display unless and until the City Council decides to do so, subject to the right of the artist to remove it.