

# Request for Proposals for Artwork: **YOUTH BASEBALL: Coaches and Players** Permanent Display



## A. General Information

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| <b>Request</b>      | Bentonville Public Art Advisory Committee and Bentonville Parks and Recreation is seeking proposals from artists to create a permanent work of public art to be located in Phillips Park in Bentonville, Arkansas. |
| <b>Project Name</b> | Youth Baseball: Coaches and Players  |
| <b>Deadline</b>     | February 5, 2024 at midnight CST   |

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## B. Considerations

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| <b>Display Period</b>                       | Permanent installation with a 50+ year lifespan.  |
| <b>Eligibility</b>                          | Any artist, graphic designer, architect, landscape architect or any other designer is eligible to submit a proposal.  |
| <b>Conformance with Public Art Policies</b> | Proposed artwork must comply with the public art policies adopted by city ordinance (provided on page 8).   |
| <b>Prohibitions</b>                         | Artwork cannot contain logos, tag lines or be in any way thematically linked to a commercial business, establishment, product or service. Artwork cannot be obscene (as defined by A.C.A. § 5-68-302 <i>et seq.</i> ) or violate other state or Federal laws. |

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### [About the Public Art Advisory 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. Learn more about Bentonville's art at [bentonvillepublicart.com](https://bentonvillepublicart.com) and watch a short video at: <https://youtu.be/hsmQXl4GBC8>.

## C. Display Site

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**Location** Phillips Park, 2108 SE J Street, Bentonville, Arkansas

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**Description** The artwork will be displayed in [Phillips Park](#) Baseball Complex, centrally located in Bentonville, Arkansas. This 50-acre park is currently undergoing a 17-million-dollar renovation which will include seven new baseball fields, new concessions building and restrooms, new parking, and more. The land was donated more than fifty years ago by Harlan Phillips. The artwork must be suited to continuous outdoor display and able to be maintained by the City.

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**Display Area** The display area will be interior to Phillips Park. The exact display location will be determined by the scale of the artwork selected. Please indicate whether the proposal artwork can be scaled up or down.

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**Community Description** Bentonville, located in Northwest Arkansas, is in one of the fastest growing regions in the country with a population nearing 60,000. In the past 20 years, Bentonville has transformed itself from a sleepy small Arkansas town to a bustling center of commerce and a hub for arts, culinary and outdoor experiences. Home to Walmart, the largest retailer in the world, the daytime population swells to nearly 80,000. The opening of [Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art](#) in 2011 initiated a significant reinvestment in downtown Bentonville and attracts visitors from around the world. [The Momentary](#), located in a decommissioned cheese factory-turned-creative-hub, is an extension of Crystal Bridges with a focus on contemporary art. With three restaurants named James Beard Award Semifinalists, the culinary scene includes farm-to-table menus and modern takes on High South cuisine. Bentonville is the self-proclaimed “mountain bike capital of the world” boasting an extensive network of nearly 70 miles of trails connected to the 400-mile [Oz trail systems](#) across Northwest Arkansas.

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## D. Creative Brief

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**Objective** Recognize and celebrate the volunteer coaches and youth baseball players. Artwork that represents the legacy of the Bentonville Youth Baseball Board and the relationship between the volunteer coaches and their players.

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**Inspiration** The Bentonville Youth Baseball Board has been managing the Bentonville Youth Baseball program for more than 50 years. Upon completion of the Phillips Park renovation, the Bentonville Youth Baseball Board will dissolve as the Bentonville Parks and Recreation Department takes over the youth baseball program.

The Bentonville Youth Baseball Board has donated money toward the installation of an art piece to serve as a symbol of their legacy in Bentonville. They are seeking a piece that will represent young players, volunteer coaches, and all others who made the league such a success. The installation will include a sign or plaque dedicating the artwork to the Bentonville Youth Baseball Board, listing the names of all past board members.

The board was inspired by a bronze sculpture in Denver at the Rockies Ball Park.



**Bentonville Youth Baseball History** The Bentonville Youth Baseball Board worked approximately eight months per year preparing for two seasons: Spring (mid-February through May) and Fall (September through early November).

When the league started in the 1950's, there were four teams: Braves, Cardinals, Dodgers and Giants. The fields were approximately two-thirds the size of regulation diamonds and games were six innings. No admission was charged so that anyone would be able to attend. Funding came from voluntary contributions and support from local businesses, banks, Rotary Club, and Kiwanis Club.

By 2018, there were more than 100 teams ranging in age from 4 to 16. An average of 300 volunteers committed their time to operate the league and coach an average of 1,272 players each year.

Special moments and features from little league baseball include meetings on the mound, sitting on the bench, and player's high fiving the other team after the game.



Visit these links for more details on Bentonville's little league program:

Bentonville Youth Baseball 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:  
<https://clipchamp.com/watch/div4rekCzOE>

Bentonville Youth Baseball Road thru the Past 60 Years: <https://clipchamp.com/watch/C9cGfNh4qVH>



**Audience**

All visitors to Phillips Park, particularly ball players, coaches and volunteers.

**Tone/Voice**

Volunteerism, coaching, teaching, consoling, instructing, encouraging, camaraderie and community.

**Inspirational Images**



## E. Funding & Budget

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| <b>Funding Available</b>    | The Bentonville Youth Baseball Board has donated \$20,000 for this project.  |
| <b>Detailed Budget</b>      | <p>Artists are required to submit a detailed budget. Proposals without a detailed budget will not be accepted. Budget should include the following:</p> <p><b>Total Fabrication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Material costs (including amount and description)</li><li>• Production costs (including amount and description)</li><li>• Installation costs (including amount and description)</li></ul> <p><b>Artist Fee</b><br/>Cost including fee for artistic development (not to exceed 20% of total cost)</p> <p><b>Travel Costs</b><br/>If applicable, proposed travel fee (including travel, lodging and meals)</p> |
| <b>Budget Consideration</b> | Changes in fabrication methods and material costs can vary dramatically and can be further discussed after selection.  |

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## F. Submittal

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**Submissions** Submit proposal using online application form at:  
<http://www.bentonvillear.com/FormCenter/Planning-8/Public-Art-Proposal-70>

Only those proposals submitted before the deadline, using the online application form, providing all required information, and uploading required documentation will be accepted.

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**Submission Requirements**

- Online application.** Completely filled-out online proposal form that requires the following information:
  - Contact Information for Artist(s) and Collaborator(s)
  - Title of Artwork, Medium, and Proposed Dimensions
  - Narrative describing the artwork and the inspiration
  - Details regarding installation and maintenance
  - Requirements for access to electricity or water
  - Fabrication time
  - Requirements for installation, including foundation needs
  - Life expectancy
  - Maintenance requirements
  - Budget consistent with Section D. Budget above
- Attachments.** The following items will need to be uploaded to the online application. Required attachments may be uploaded in a Word or PDF format.
  - Sketch/image of proposed work including dimensions and materials
  - Artist’s CV/Resume
  - At least three (3) images of previous artwork including the title, date, media, location and brief description

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**Deadline** February 5, 2024 at midnight CST

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**Contact** Shelli Kerr, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager  
305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR 72712  
479-271-3122  
[skerr@bentonvillear.com](mailto:skerr@bentonvillear.com)

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## G. Selection

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|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Selection Process</b>       | <p>Using the selection criteria below, the Committee will evaluate all proposals submitted by the deadline. At a regularly scheduled Public Art Advisory Committee meeting, the committee will select the preferred proposal. The committee meets once per month.</p> <p>The selected artwork must then be approved by both the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (meets once per month) and City Council (meets twice per month). This process can take up to two months.</p> |                                    |  |
| <b>Selection Criteria</b>      | 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?   |
|                                | 30%  | Objective & Intent                 | Does the proposal meet the objective of the requested RFP? Does it meet the intent as requested by the donors?   |
|                                | 20%  | Capacity for Project & Feasibility | Does the artist(s) have a proven track record and/or ability to complete the work on time and within budget? Does the artist(s) demonstrate experience for similar artwork in scale, permanence, or context? |
|                                | 20%  | Placemaking & Placekeeping         | Does the artist(s) demonstrate an understanding of the community and setting, including history, identity, geography and culture?  |
| <b>Agreement Required</b>      | <p>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 evaluated.</p>  |                                    |  |
| <b>Invoicing &amp; Payment</b> | <p>When returning the signed agreement, the artist will be requested to submit the first invoice according to the agreement and a completed W-9. 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.</p>  |                                    |  |
| <b>Installation</b>            | <p>After the agreement is signed, the city will coordinate with the artist for timing and any assistance needed by the city. Installation will be coordinated with the design and reconstruction schedule of Phillips Park. The target install for the artwork should coincide with completion of the park, which is anticipated for September 1, 2024.</p>  |                                    |  |
| <b>Maintenance</b>             | <p>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.</p>   |                                    |  |

## 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 artists 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.