

MLK Memorial in Portland

Request for Qualifications

Deadline for responses: TBD

Budget: The City of Portland has a total of \$100,000 in funds for this effort. Additional funds may need to be raised to complete the winning selection.

About the Project

The Portland City Council established the Martin Luther King Recognition Task Force to consider how the life and legacy of the Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. may be best acknowledged and recognized, in the form of renaming a street, park or similarly situated public space, by the City of Portland. The members appointed by the City Council offered their recommendations to the Sustainability and Transportation Committee for review and consideration. Any recommendations by the Sustainability and Transportation Committee will be taken up by the full City Council.

Why Portland

Portland is a community committed to social justice and civil rights; to being the home community of multi-generational families of Mainers of all backgrounds who actively engaged in the struggle for social justice during the civil rights movement. A community that seeks to establish a memorial to recognize Dr. King as a leader of the civil rights movement; to recognize the impact of the civil rights movement and provide a focal point for our continuing commitment as a community to combat prejudice, racism and discrimination and work affirmatively to promote social justice.

Location

At this time, the Task Force is recommending that the City explore locating a memorial in a public plaza on the Bayside Trail between Franklin Street, Marginal Way, and Somerset Street.



This location was also suggested during the Bayside Trail Public Art Master Plan, which was developed in 2010, and included a description of the MLK memorial area:

The Martin Luther King Memorial Area Between the Pearl Street Extension and the Franklin Arterial, a large, sculpted open space provides multiple opportunities, including gathering space, areas to reflect on Dr. King’s legacy, seating, a children’s play area (which could include experiential art elements, designed in community collaboration).

Competition Theme

The memorial is intended to inspire visitors to reflect on Dr. King’s life and the values he espoused, prompting each of us to consider how we can contribute to realizing his vision of an equitable and fair society. The City encourages proposals that can offer a programmatic element so that it is more than just a plaza or statue.

Eligibility

This RFQ is open to all artists, architects, landscape architects, or teams (hereinafter referred to as “the Artist”) engaged with public art, site responsive design, project management, and construction administration. Artists from the Portland area are encouraged to apply.

Selection Criteria

- The Artist demonstrates a history of competency in project management and construction administration of projects of significant scale.
- The Artist has organizational experience in proactive organizing and partnering with multiple, and possibly disparate, stakeholders with cultural sensitivity.

- The Artist's statement demonstrates an interest in social justice, resilience, and racial equity.
- The vision for the project speaks to the memorial's significance to Portland and responds to the Portland's Public Art Committee's mission to approve innovative and transformative artworks that:
 - Enhance and enrich the lives of the city's residents, visitors and employees by incorporating the visual arts into public spaces
 - Contribute to the city's civic pride and sense of identity
 - Increase access to works of art for residents and visitors to the area
 - Enhance Portland's reputation as a city which celebrates the arts
 - Celebrate the multicultural and diverse character of Portland's communities with place specific art
 - Encourage collaboration between artists, landscape architects, urban planners, architects, engineers and other designers.
- The Artist's body of work shows a strong, clear artistic vision.

Selection Committee

The selection committee is co-chaired by City Councilor Jill Duson and Reverend Kenneth Lewis of the Green Memorial AME Zion Church in Portland.

Additional committee members include:

- Regina Phillips, MLK Task Force Member
- Christina Richardson, Youth Rep
- Pam Cummings, Abyssinian Meeting House Board President
- Kara Wooldrik, Portland Trails
- Ethan Hipple, City of Portland Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department

There is one additional member we are awaiting confirmation from.

Anticipated Process

Stage 1: Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Applicants are asked to submit:

1. Artist descriptions, including bios, preferred pronouns, resumes/CVs
2. Artist statement
3. Project vision explicating artist's conception of the memorial's significance for Portland and its visitors from around the world, now, and in the future
4. Past work samples with an annotated image list*
5. List of references

*Please note that we are not requesting full design work at this stage.

Stage 2: Request for Proposals (RFP)

Up to three applicants will be invited to develop proposals to include a written project statement, visuals, models, schedule, and budget, followed by an in-person interview and presentation. These three applicants will each be paid \$2,500 for work on their proposals. After review of the materials and candidate interviews, the Selection Committee will recommend a winning artist.

Anticipated RFQ Timeline

RFQ Available: April 2019

RFQ Deadline: May 2019

Artist interviews (if needed): May and June 2019

Anticipated RFP Timeline

June 2019 - Announcement of three artists

June - August - Artist research and proposal development

September - October - Interviews, presentations, proposal exhibition, and public comment

November - announcement of final artist

Note: It has not yet been determined whether or not the MLK Memorial will become an official piece of the Public Art Committee's collection. Should that become the case, it will have to adhere to the City's Guidelines for the Public Art Ordinance.