



## **CALL FOR ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS**

### **DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2017**

#### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The City of Kansas City, Office of Culture and Creative Services (OCCS) seeks two artists to participate as part of the core design team for the West Bottoms Reborn project. The selected artists will collaborate with the team to research, plan, design, and execute the project. The OCCS requests qualifications from artists who live and work within a seventy-five mile radius of Kansas City, Missouri. Up to five finalists will be selected and interviewed. From the group of finalists, two artists will be recommended for the project.

Each selected artist will act as a consultant to the team and will be expected to meet with the team for 8 hours on a weekly basis, requiring a 400 hours total commitment, in addition to attending Advisory Committee meetings and project presentations. A stipend of \$15,000.00 will be provided for each artist; the timeline for this project is February 2017 through May 2018.

#### **PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE**

The West Bottoms (WB) is located in a low-lying area where the Kansas and Missouri rivers converge. The historic railroads and stockyards were the locus of 90% of KC's late 1800s economic activity, making it KC's first downtown. Major floods in 1903 and 1951 led to KC's commercial core moving uphill to its present downtown location. After decades of relative neglect, WB has entered a phase of redevelopment spurred by its long association with an emerging art scene. Brick warehouses have been repurposed for artist studios and galleries. The original urban fabric remains somewhat intact, fragmented by highway viaducts, remnants of rail yards, and abandoned industrial facilities. It embodies, in spite of disrepair, an unprecedentedly expressive urban environment.

Currently West Bottoms has become a place of awakened interest in the possibility of its revitalization and there are a number of projects that are in various stages of planning, design and implementation. However, the majority of these projects are focused on the repurposing of building structures while the questions of the improvement of the public right of way and public realm remain relatively neglected.

This project aims to harness and build on the vibrant art scene in the West Bottoms as an integral resource for the strategic revitalization of public realm through an integrated planning and design approach. The Kansas City Design Center (KCDC) will lead a core design team made up of 12 graduate architecture and affiliated disciplines students through planning, design, and execution of the project. The core design team will work to develop analytical strategies to explore the myriad infrastructural, geologic, economic, and cultural systems in place, and their nascent relations as a generative power that can be used towards defining a more viable idea of a public realm.

The artists will engage in this dialogue regarding the existing urban environment and the discovery of new [unconventional] possibilities for the definition of potential public space as consultants and participating core design team members. To that end, we will ask them to bring their own perspectives in considering: the disjointed physical nature of the built environment as a latent quality, as well as the

impact of water, rain, and the river on the West Bottoms; the impact of economic growth and decline on the built environment; the history of the area through geography and archeology; and the relationships of adjacent narratives, both current and historic.

The benefit of the project will be twofold. First, it will provide the missing public space essential to enhancing the collective quality of life in the area. Second, it will provide a precedent and interface through which resident artists will engage with the community and secure their organic and sustained integration with the community.

The timeline for this project is February 2017 through May 2018, and is scheduled based on the following activities:

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Benchmark(s)</b>
February 2017	Artist/teams selected
February – March 2017	Inventory, analysis, and development of selection criteria for public and open spaces; stakeholder meeting
March 2017	Community/stakeholder presentation and initial site selections
March – May 2017	Conceptual design work for selected sites
August 2017	Finalize/revise conceptual design with (new) student group; selection of final site for full design development
Sept – December 2017	Design development, construction documentation, community progress/feedback meetings, and construction fundraising campaign commencement
January – May 2018	Design implementation, fabrication, site installation and construction
Summer 2018	Public celebration

#### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES - DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2017**

Interested candidates must email a Letter of Interest and Resume to: [publicart@maa.org](mailto:publicart@maa.org)

Candidates may attach up to 5 images and/or 5 short video clips (these should be condensed to fit the maximum allowable 25mb's) or provide a website link. Please reference "West Bottoms" in the subject line.

#### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The selection of artists shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements set forth in this RFQ and show a strong interest in creative placemaking as part of a team within a public environment. The selection panel will also consider the following evaluation criteria:

- Experience or a goal of working within an integrated design team;
- Demonstrated interest in and commitment to practice of public art;
- Understanding of the issues, concepts, cultural precedents, and challenges of making public art; and
- A record of past work displaying artistic excellence and relevance, including: design, craftsmanship, execution, ideas, theories, and concepts.

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT: [publicart@maa.org](mailto:publicart@maa.org) No phone calls please.**

**About the OCCS**

The Office of Culture and Creative Services (OCCS) is a direct result of Mayor Sly James's Task Force on the Arts, consisting of arts, civic and business leaders coming together with intensive citizen engagement processes. The purpose of OCCS is to serve the residents of Kansas City by bolstering and catalyzing arts, culture, and creativity, and by advancing arts as a strategy for economic development, neighborhood revitalization, and cultural vitality for its citizens. OCCS oversees capacity building workshops for arts organizations, professional development for individual artists, and the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund (NTDF) grant program. NTDF provides support to non-profit organizations to help promote Kansas City's distinct and diverse neighborhoods. These funds support cultural, social, ethnic, historic, educational, and recreational activities in conjunction with promoting the city as a premier convention, visitor and tourist center.

**About the KCDC**

The Kansas City Design Center (KCDC) is a nationally recognized, interdisciplinary, service learning design program located in downtown Kansas City. The program centers on a graduate level, yearlong, resident urban design studio which operates as an immersive design laboratory focused on Kansas City. The studio addresses critical issues that intersect community needs and cutting edge urban design theory and applied practice. [www.kcdesigncenter.org](http://www.kcdesigncenter.org)

**About M-AAA**

As a regional arts organization, Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) strengthens and supports artists, cultural organizations, and communities throughout our region and beyond. We achieve this primarily through our national traveling exhibition programs, innovative leadership development, and strategic grant making. We are especially committed to enriching the cultural life of historically underserved communities by providing high quality, meaningful, and accessible arts and culture programs and services. We believe in more art for more people.