11th Street Bridge Park Commissions
Request for Qualifications for Public Art

Four Opportunities: Navy Yard Wall, Navy Yard Underpass, Hammock Grove, Mobile Kiosk

Submission Deadline: January 6, 2022 11:59 p.m. CDT
INTRODUCTION

The 11th Street Bridge Park Story
As the old 11th Street Bridge that connected D.C.’s Capitol Hill / Navy Yard and historic Anacostia / Fairlawn neighborhoods has been replaced, the District government and Building Bridges Across the River are transforming the aged infrastructure into the city’s first elevated park. The Park will provide a new venue for healthy recreation, environmental education, and the arts.

The 11th Street Bridge Park will span the capital’s cityscape and include community generated programming including: outdoor performance spaces; playgrounds; urban agriculture; an Environmental Education Center with classrooms to teach students about river systems; public art that shares the rich history of the region; and kayak and canoe launches. Bound by the Washington Navy Yard on one side and the National Park Service’s Anacostia Park on the other, the Bridge Park will be a destination for all and an iconic architectural symbol across the Anacostia River for the city.
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MORE THAN A PARK

The 11th Street Bridge Park is a project that is based east of the River, was designed by these communities, and will be a resource for the residents of these communities to return to recreation on the river.

Goals of the project include:

- Economic: Serve as an anchor for inclusive economic opportunity
- Social: Reconnect the neighborhoods on both sides of the river
- Environment: Re-engage the community with the river and promote environmental education for next generations, improve river health
- Health: improve public health disparities

Over the last five years, the Bridge Park has evolved to become much more than a park by expanding its work to include community development projects and strategies to advance social and economic justice. This is exemplified by the creation of an Equitable Development Plan (EDP) that outlines how the Bridge Park, residents and partner organizations can combat displacement in the Park’s surrounding neighborhoods. Working collaboratively with hundreds of residents and stakeholders, recommendations were proposed in four key areas: arts & culture, small business enterprises, workforce development and affordable housing.

The Bridge Park has since pivoted to implementing the plan, raising over $75M to invest directly in the communities surrounding the Park – nearly equivalent to the estimated cost of building the Park.

Example activities include:

- Starting a Ward 8 Homebuyers Club that established 85 new Ward 8 homeowners
- Deploying $657,103 in low interest or no interest loans to Black-owned businesses
- Starting a series of Community Leadership Empowerment Workshops (CLEW) to train residents in community organizing, personal leadership and the planning process
- Running 18 construction training programs leading to the employment of over 70 local residents
- Helping stand up the Douglass Community Land Trust that currently has over 100 permanently affordable housing units

Read more about the community impact of the 11th Street Bridge Park’s equitable development strategies.

Design Principles

The design principles and list of facilities for the 11th Street Bridge Park were gathered through community meetings with nearby residents, church leaders, business owners and city government representatives. Working collaboratively with hundreds of residents and stakeholders, the design brief for the 11th Street Bridge Park was created and reviewed by our Design Review Committee representing stakeholders from across Washington D.C. 11th Street Bridge Park is designed by the architecture firm OMA and landscape architecture firm OLIN.
Community Engagement

From the beginning, community engagement and feedback have driven the conceptualization and design of 11th Street Bridge Park. The first two years were filled with hundreds of neighborhood meetings on both sides of the river leading to the identification of programming concepts for the park. These concepts were seamlessly woven into the park’s design by the design team at OMA + OLIN who have been working with the community to develop a world class public space for recreation, arts, and environmental education.

The Bridge Park has also been working with artists, cultural leaders and residents to develop and support programming that engages the city with the rich history and culture of the neighborhood, keeping long-time residents and artists at the center of civic discussion and storytelling. Over $500,000 has been raised to support cultural projects in the surrounding neighborhoods. Cultural programming has included: (1) the annual Anacostia River Festival, which attracts nearly 9,000 residents and celebrates the River and communities surrounding the future Bridge Park site; (2) seven Bridge Park Plots - urban farm sites across the neighborhood that address issues of food security and health and house the largest collection of bees east of the Anacostia River; and (3) Conversations with Grandpa, a devised theatre piece featuring local residents that explores male relationships across generations.

Recognizing the importance of addressing the less tangible aspects of neighborhood change—what makes people feel a sense of belonging in a neighborhood and what changes signal cultural shifts—the Bridge Park worked with local residents and artists to add cultural strategies to the EDP at the end of 2018. By identifying some of these signals of change, residents and stakeholders can clearly outline opportunities for action, programming and engagement that enhance neighborhood pride and belonging.

The Bridge Park’s holistic approach and equity-first model of community development has been recognized nationally as a project that is changing how investments can be made in communities that are affected by systemic racism and have been under-resourced for generations. Bridge Park is currently advising similar projects in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas, Durham, St. Louis, Boston, Minneapolis and Milwaukee, among others, to develop their own unique equitable development plans.
The 11th Street Bridge Park will be built on the original pillars of the old road bridge crossing the Anacostia River between Wards 6 and 8.
View of the entry onto the 11th Street Bridge from historic Anacostia.
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

Artists or Artist Teams are hereby invited to submit qualifications to be considered to participate in the design phase for the public art opportunities described below.

Artists will be asked in the application for which opportunity they are applying. Artists may apply to more than one opportunity, but it is not required. If you would like to apply to multiple opportunities, you will need to submit a separate application for each. Artists/artist teams applying for any of these opportunities can be located anywhere in the country but must have a team member with a connection to the DMV (D.C., Maryland, Virginia) area (see map below). This connection must be addressed in the letter of interest.

The 11th Street Bridge Park Curatorial Committee will review eligible applications and select up to 3 finalists for each public art opportunity. Finalists will receive a $750 stipend to cover fees associated with concept development for a later virtual presentation to the Curatorial Committee, via Zoom.

After finalist presentations, one artist/artist team will be commissioned to develop, fabricate, and install each artwork. Additional requirements will be outlined in instructions to finalists. Please note that funds for fabrication and installation will be secured after a project proposal has been selected. The fabrication and installation phases will occur in a few years. More information is included about the process later in this document.

The Committee is made up of 9 members, including: a member of the Bridge Park’s Design Review Committee with public art expertise; two youth who live and/or went to school in Ward 8; an elder who was born and raised in the community; two local artists and administrators who live and/or work in the community and also work at leading arts institutions; the lead architect from OMA; the lead landscape architect from OLIN; and the Director of the Bridge Park.
Project Information

Bridge Park Public Art Opportunities: Anacostia Approach, Navy Yard Wall, Navy Yard Underpass, Hammock Grove, Moveable Kiosk

There are a total of five public artworks being commissioned as part of the Bridge Park. The Anacostia Approach artist has been selected and will be announced Spring 2022.

This RFQ is for the 4 opportunities on the Bridge Park: Navy Yard Wall, Navy Yard Underpass, Hammock Grove, and a Moveable Kiosk. Each site is unique and could house many different types of art work. A detailed description of each site and the works applicable to installation there are on the following pages.

Artists will be asked in the application for which opportunity they are applying. Artists may apply to more than one opportunity, but it is not required. If you would like to apply to multiple opportunities, you will need to submit a separate application for each.
1. Navy Yard Wall

The Navy Yard entrance is the primary access point from the nearby neighborhoods of Barracks Row and Capitol Riverfront. This open green space welcomes residents and tourists alike from Capitol Hill, the booming Yards development and the oldest Navy Yard in the U.S. that employs over 15,000 workers.

The Navy Yard Wall greets people entering the park on the Navy Yard side of the bridge. The wall provides a blank canvas for a mural.

A successful public artwork for this site would:

- be a signature piece that orients and invites visitors into the park while welcoming neighbors home
- connect to the environment, community and overall history; such as the river and its uses, notable residents, local stories, civic engagement, music, food
- bring beauty and levity to the area
- engage the community in the design process in some way
- be durable and of high quality and include an anti-graffiti coating

Budget: $15,000
2. Navy Yard Underpass

The Navy Yard Underpass is located under the bridge covering a portion of the entrance from the Navy Yard side of the bridge. This site is designated for works using light, and/or sound, and/or projection.

A successful public artwork for this site would:

- be an experiential light and/or sound and/or projection installation
- connect to the environment, community and overall history; such as the river and its uses, notable residents, local stories, civic engagement, music, food
- bring beauty and levity to the area
- enliven the space during the day and brighten the space at night

Budget: $50,000
3. Hammock Grove

The Hammock Grove is a grassy area that consists of poles from which 10 individual hammocks will be strung for the public’s enjoyment. This lends a casual air of a backyard and will be a popular element attracting all ages but particularly younger visitors. The hammocks provide the ultimate in relaxation while the lawn below encourages people to kick off their shoes and stay a while with the beautiful backdrop of the Anacostia River, providing a serene place for mental wellness.

The Hammock Grove will be a communal resting place inside 11th Street Bridge Park. Selected finalists will be asked to focus on a design for the hammock poles and the hammocks themselves.

A successful public artwork for this site would:

- celebrate the sense of place [casual air of backyard, ultimate for relaxation, etc.]
- connect to the environment, community and overall history; such as the river and its uses, notable residents, local stories, civic engagement, music, food
- be durable, hold up to wear, and easy to clean
- Consist of hammocks that are removable from the structure, and no structure attached to trees
- provide a place for visitors and neighbors to rest, relax, and enjoy the Bridge Park

Budget: $25,000
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4. Moveable Kiosk

The Kiosk will be a mobile unit that can be moved to different locations on the 11th Street Bridge Park, and possibly be used for events nearby the Bridge Park. Selected finalists will be asked to submit designs for the Kiosk; both outside design and use of inside space. This Kiosk should be multi-functional for a variety of local small businesses to use.

A successful public artwork for this site would:

- be able to be moved around the Bridge and off site. [ex: pulled behind a vehicle, able to load onto a trailer, have its own engine/steering system]
- fit within a parking space
- be easy for 1-2 people to open, close, lock and unlock
- provide a flexible space that can be utilized for a variety of purposes by local businesses, entrepreneurs, and Bridge Park programming usage [ex: space for a retail shop to set up a pop up environment, space for a coffee shop to bring in pre-made food and coffee for sale. It should NOT have a full operating kitchen.]
- kiosk must be able to be secured when not in use
- connect to the environment, community and overall history; such as the river and its uses, notable residents, local stories, civic engagement, music, food

Budget: $30,000
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Budget

The budget for each opportunity is different:

Navy Yard Wall: $15,000  
Navy Yard Underpass: $50,000  
Hammock Grove: $25,000  
Mobile Kiosk: $30,000

Each not-to-exceed amount must include all fees, materials, transportation, installation, permits, storage, insurance, community engagement activities, travel, and any other costs associated with the project. Total expenses cannot exceed each budget amount. More information about each site will be made available to the selected artists/teams [updated CAD drawings, site plans, etc.].

These projects are broken into two phases; Phase 1 is development and Phase 2 will be fabrication and installation. After an artist is selected for each project, they will develop a concept package that Building Bridges Across the River will utilize to raise any remaining funding needed for fabrication and installation. Once all of the funding is secured, the selected artist will enter into a contract for the remainder of the work, starting with a design refinement period based upon the actual amount of funding secured.

The selected artists will be guaranteed these commissions once funding is raised and will receive that in writing from Building Bridges Across the River. Should funds not be raised, the artworks will not be built.
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Application Process

Stage 1: Invitation to Apply and Open Call

Selection of three finalists per site will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality of letter of interest
- Quality of work samples
- Ability of artist(s) to complete project based on bio and prior work experience

Forecast and the 11th Street Bridge Park are committed to commissioning artists whose work and experience will resonate with surrounding communities, particularly those east of the river (92% black/African American). We are placing particular emphasis on supporting and amplifying the artistic work of BIPOC and Native artists, LGBTQIA+ artists, womxn artists, immigrant artists, artists from rural communities, and artists with disabilities.

The following information will be required in the Submittable application link:

- Which project you are applying for. [You may apply for more than one project, but must apply separately for each one].
- Cover Letter: one page describing your interest in the project, your approach to design, approach to involving the community in your process, and a description of your/your team’s connection to the DMV. 1000-word limit
- Contact Information for team lead and all team members
- Bio and/or Resume: Please limit this to one page. If you have multiple team members, you are allowed to submit one page per team member.
- Work Samples: provide up to 10 work samples. Individuals and teams are limited to 10 work samples total.
- Work Sample List: Please provide title, year, materials, and budget for each work sample provided. If you like, you can also include a brief project description.

*Do not submit a design or concept at this time.*

**Please submit all application materials in Submittable:**


You will need to create a Submittable account if you do not already have one. If you require technical assistance with Submittable, please reach out to them directly. If you have questions about the RFQ or the application, please contact consulting@ForecastPublicArt.org

The application will close at 11:59pm CDT on January 6, 2022. No applications will be accepted after this time. Do not submit a project proposal or design at this time.
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Stage 2: Proposal Selection

Three finalists will be selected for each opportunity and invited to develop full proposals. These finalists will be required to attend a Pre-Proposal Meeting where we will review the application process and share information about each site. Artists will have the opportunity to meet members of the Bridge Park team, the design team, and community members. Stage 2 finalists will each receive a $750 design stipend.

The final winning proposal for each opportunity will be selected by the Curatorial Committee. 11th Street Bridge Park, its project partners, and committees are dedicated to a transparent artist selection process that reflects place-honoring all sites reserved for public art.

Notification & Contract

All applicants will receive notification by email. Please do not contact the 11th Street Bridge Park or Forecast Public Art directly for results. We reserve the right to change, modify, or revise the RFQ, in part or whole.

The selected artist or organization will enter an agreement with the 11th Street Bridge Park. No selection shall be deemed final until a proposal has been fully approved and an agreement properly executed.

Timeline

- RFQ Open: December 6, 2021
- RFQ Deadline: January 6, 2022
- Artist Notification: late January 2022
- Pre-Proposal Meeting via Zoom: week of Feb 7 or Feb 14, 2022
- Artist Presentations via Zoom: week of Feb 28, 2022
- Contract, fabrication, installation: TBD

ABOUT FORECAST PUBLIC ART

Forecast Public Art is a non-profit arts organization founded in 1978 that activates, inspires, and advocates for public art that advances justice, health, and human dignity. Based in Saint Paul, MN and working both locally and nationally, Forecast connects artists with cities, institutions and communities to courageously tackle the vital issues of our time. We partner with decision makers and stakeholders on arts and cultural planning efforts, and support public artists with funding, training and opportunities to create partnerships and advance their public art careers. We also help others find, select, curate, fund and commission public artists. Forecast emphasizes access for artists of color, indigenous artists, and groups that are traditionally excluded.
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MORE SITE IMAGES
All images are renderings from 11th Street Bridge Park design team OMA+OLIN

Great Lawn

Ecological Education Center
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Plaza

Amphitheater
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From Plaza looking down
11th Street Bridge Park Request for Qualifications

Terrace

Urban Agriculture
Anacostia Lookout

Gateway
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Playspace

Playspace
Kayak Launch