Call to Artists: Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

50 Middle Neck Road

Village of Great Neck Plaza, New York

The Village of Great Neck Plaza, in partnership with its resident committee, Great Neck Plaza Public Art Advisory Group, is seeking professional qualifications from artists or design teams for the design, fabrication and installation of a painted mural to be installed on the back wall of a commercial retail building that faces the Village's outdoor municipal parking lot on Gussack Plaza. The Village has obtained permission from the property owner of the building for this artwork. The street address is 50 Middle Neck Road; which is also known as Section 2, Block 301, Lot 63 on the Nassau County Land & Tax Map.

The total project budget for the selected commission is $6,000. Up to three semi-finalists may be selected by the Village to make a determination of the selected site-specific design and artist/artist team.

Project Overview

The commercial building at the proposed location, 50 Middle Neck Road, is occupied by Santander Bank and soon to be opened, New Fu Run Restaurant, a new Chinese restaurant that has been approved by the Board of Trustees and under construction. During the Conditional Use Permit approval process for the Chinese restaurant, the Mayor and Board of Trustees expressed a desire to the property owner of the building to decorate the rear wall with a public art mural. Village elected officials feel that an artfully done mural at this location would enhance the municipal parking lot and would complement the two existing Public Art projects already completed by the Village; the Trompe L'oeil Mural, *A Handful of Keys*, at the corner of Maple Drive and Middle Neck Road, and a mosaic tile piece entitled *Sunset on The Sound* at the Great Neck Train Station. Our goal is to utilize unattractive walls and transform them into beautiful pieces of Public Art. It will soften the large expanse of the rear wall of this building and provide a beautiful enhancement for the Village.

Project Goals

The project goals are as follows:

- Help beautify our charming Village with a new work of Public Art.
- Continue to demonstrate why Great Neck Plaza is a "Top Community" to live in by providing a Public Art work that represents the community. It will enhance the existing neighborhood feel.
- Soften the space, which is currently a large expanse of unattractive wall.
- Create a strong, positive visual impact on the space during the day and at night.
- Encourage a place that is safe and inviting for pedestrians and shopper parking.
- Encourage economic development and frequenting of downtown retail stores.

Site Location & Artwork

The available space for the proposed artwork is along the rear of the building at 50 Middle Neck Road. The property owner and new restaurant going in at these premises, New Fu Run, are planning to provide a rear access doorway from the commercial space to the municipal parking lot. The space for the mural is basically the remainder of the wall between the stairs and the north end of the building. The mural design can be painted with a faux frame, be irregular or ragged edge on the wall, or be painted to the edges of the available building façade space. The Village leaves this detail to be designed by the artist and included in their proposal.

The Village estimates the proposed mural size to be 375 square feet or approximately 25 feet long by 15 feet tall/wide, as illustrated below:

The above design of the locomotive and people waiting to board is merely illustrative of the size and a possible historical mural that might be conceived for this site. It should not be interpreted that this is the type or style of mural desired by the Village and in no way inhibits an artist that wants to submit a proposal from creating his/her own unique, suitable design. Should an artist wish to utilize an historic photograph to inspire a submittal, there are many historic photographs on the Village of Great Neck Plaza's website at: http://www.greatneckplaza.net/Photo%20Galleries/Historical%20Album/index.htm, and on the Historic Preservation Commission's portion of the website regarding building architecture and the historical development of the Village at: http://www.greatneckplaza.net/historic/index.php

Design Presentation

Artists who desire to enter this design competition and be commissioned for completing the mural may submit a concept for the proposed artwork by the following methods:

- artwork presented on 11" by 17" paper, in either color or black and white, line drawing, and
- YouTube video (on a flash drive) may also be submitted to visually and verbally convey the artist(s) proposed design concept. This YouTube video is an option and not required for the design presentation.

Entry Fee

There is no entry fee. If you wish to include materials on other work, artists are encouraged to do so, but are limited to four (4) representative pieces detailing their artwork.

Plaque

The Village will subsidize a plaque to display the title, artists name and date of dedication of the piece of Public Art work.

Terms

No fees will be paid to the artist for submission of a design for the competition. The Village reserves the right to reject any or all of the designs submitted and may choose not to commission the piece. All materials submitted to the Village for this competition are non-returnable. No gallery or commission fees will be paid by the Village for artists under contract with any gallery since the competition proposals will be donated to the Village.

The total project budget for the selected commission is $6,000. Up to three semi-finalists may be selected by the Village to make a determination of the selected site-specific design. The commission fee of $6,000 will be payable per terms to be developed in a subsequent contract agreement negotiated between the selected artist and the Village. In said contract, the selected artist must agree that the mural will be installed, maintained and removed in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the Village and the property owner and, for this purpose, may be required to waive certain rights under the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990.

Deadline

The deadline is 4 p.m. on September 8, 2016. Entries must be per the Entry Form requirements in the RFQ and submissions received in person at Village Hall on or before this time, or postmarked by U.S. Postal Service mail by the September 8th date.

Timeline

The artist/artist team application materials must be received by 4 p.m. on September 8, 2016. The Public Art Advisory Group and the Village then will review submitted materials through September 16. The selection of semi-finalists, if warranted and determined by the Village, will be notified by September 19. Proposal presentations of the semi-finalists will be scheduled during the week of September 26. Selected artist(s) will be notified on or before October 7, 2016. Installation: To be coordinated with Village and dependent on weather conditions and the completion of the restaurant doorway and walkway through the rear of the premises at 50 Middle Neck Road. The expected completion date is during October/November 2016.

Site Description

The site for this public art commission has an area of approximately 375 square feet. This building and rear façade on which the public art is to be placed is owned by a private property owner. The Village has secured an easement agreement and the rights to install the proposed artwork, subject to the approval of the design by the property owner. This Public Art mural is being funded in association with the Village of Great Neck Plaza and a consortium of donors from our Public Art Advisory Group. A new walkway and rear entrance to the restaurant proposed in the retail building will surround the artwork to be designed in this competition. The entire area will be re-landscaped including the planting of low-level shrubs as shown on the site plan drawing for the restaurant.

Visit the village's web site at: http://www.greatneckplaza.net for additional information about Great Neck Plaza, and our Public Art Program.

Eligibility

This project is open to all professional visual artists or artist teams who have previous public art experience and have an interest in site-specific projects.

Budget

The artist/artist team to be commissioned shall be paid $6,000. This amount is inclusive of all costs associated with the project including, the following:
All materials – paint, drop clothes, cleaning supplies, thinners, ladders and scaffolding, etc.
All labor costs for the following:
Preparation of the wall, including power-washing, scrapping of old paint and painting the wall with an appropriate primer for the artwork
Painting of the mural artwork and a final coating with a matt or semi-gloss acrylic vanish and layer of an anti-graffiti polymer
Supervision of the artwork, if local artists and students are proposed to assist the artist
Travel costs to the site
Insurance, as will be required by the Village, until the artwork is 100% finished at the site location and the Village deems the work satisfactorily completed.
Provide an artwork maintenance plan for the completed artwork.

Selection Process

Artist application materials will be reviewed by the selection committee. The member committee is comprised of artists, Great Neck Plaza village officials and staff, Great Neck Plaza Public Art Advisory Group. Depending on the number of submissions received, up to three (3) semi-finalists may be selected to develop a complete design proposal for presentation to the committee. The format for the finalists should include conceptual idea, drawings, and any other information the artist(s) feels is necessary to convey the idea. The selection committee will make a recommendation of one finalist to the Village of Great Neck Plaza Board of Trustees for their approval and commissioning of the selected artist, subject to the review and reasonable approval of the property owner.

Criteria

* Artistic Merit
* Proven ability to create distinctive sculpture as exhibited by past work.
* Uniqueness of approach to this project.
* Track record of completion of work within project timelines & budgets.
* Ability to work within a collaborative team atmosphere.
* Consideration of the Great Neck Plaza area climate and appearance of the piece through all seasons.
* Ease of maintenance of the piece.

ARTIST ENTRY FORM

Artist's Name(s) _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

_____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____

Facsimile Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____

E-mail address _____

Website, if any, to view work _____

Best time of day and method to reach you _____

The Artist's proposed artwork and representative projects should be attached to this Entry Form. The Proposed artwork for this project is requested on 11" by 17" paper, in either color or black and white, line drawing. A YouTube video (on a flash drive) may also be submitted to visually and verbally convey the artist(s) proposed design concept

Submissions are due by September 8, 2016 on or before the 4 p.m. deadline. The Artist must mail (or hand-deliver) the completed Entry Form and all required submission materials to:

Village of Great Neck Plaza
Attn: Public Art Advisory Group
Village Hall
2 Gussack Plaza, P.O. Box 440
Great Neck, NY 11022-0440

Questions:
Please call the Mayor's Office at (516) 482-4500, ext. 114, or email: mayorsassistant@greatneckplaza.net. Additional information about our Public Art Program is also available on our website at: www.greatneckplaza.net.