

CENTRAL LAKES TRAIL PLAY SCULPTURE

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Budget: \$50,000

Application due: Thursday, June 30, 2017

Context and Background:

Springboard for the Arts, PartnerSHIP4Health and the Department of Natural Resources are seeking an artist or artist team to design, fabricate and install an outdoor, permanent play sculpture at the entrance of the Central Lakes Trail in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. The sculpture is intended to create an attractive destination along the Central Lakes Trail, encourage active living, creativity and play for children and their families, and provide an inspiring place to enjoy the surrounding natural environment during all seasons. We also hope to incorporate the ideas from local youth that were generated in spring of 2017, when Springboard staff led a total of 17 creative placemaking workshops, engaging 4th graders and 60 high school students in developing ideas for the sculpture through poems, drawings and clay sculptures.

About Central Lakes Trail and Fergus Falls:

The sculpture will be located at the new Central Lakes State Trail Trailhead outside of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. The Central Lakes Bike Trail is used by thousands of visitors each year, and extends 55 miles through the heart of West Central Minnesota from Osakis to Fergus Falls.

Fergus Falls is located in West Central Minnesota, about one hour south of Fargo, and 2.5 hours Northwest of the Twin Cities, just at the edge of the lakes and prairie. With a population of approximately 13,200, Fergus Falls has a thriving arts community, a charming downtown, plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation, and is actively becoming more bike/pedestrian friendly.

Project Goals:

The final project proposal will be selected based on the criteria below:

Inspires Play and Creativity: Encourage interactive play for children and their families, ideally during all four seasons.

Attracts Visitors: Create a focal point or destination at the new Central Lakes trailhead in Fergus Falls.

Is Sustainable: Utilize materials that will withstand the elements and require minimal maintenance over time.

Is Safe: Not pose any safety risks to the intended audience. For example, for projects that encourage climbing, follow fall height regulations, pinch points, etc.

Is Accessible: Create an enjoyable experience for visitors regardless of age, physical or mental disability.

Budget: \$50,000

Funding for this project is provided by the Super Bowl Legacy Fund. A budget of \$50,000 must cover all associated costs of the project, including but not limited to design, fabrication, materials, labor, transportation, lodging, insurance and installation of the sculpture.

The selected artist will receive a contract for design development, fabrication and installation services. The sculpture shall be owned by the DNR. Artist shall retain copyright, and must allow permission for all partners involved in the project to use images for educational and promotional purposes.

Site:

Located on the East edge of Fergus Falls, this property is currently being developed by the DNR into the new trailhead for the Central Lakes Trail. The site will include a parking lot, restrooms, picnic area, and a bike fix-it station (see page 7).

The designated project site is has a diameter of approximately 40 feet, although this is negotiable depending on the final project design.

The sculpture will ideally be viewable from both pedestrians and bikers on the Central Lakes Bike Trail, and drivers on Highway 210.

Eligibility:

The project is open to U.S. artists with demonstrated experience in public art design and fabrication, who have been previously been commissioned for at least 2 projects of similar scope and budget. Preference will be given to artists with a specific interest and experience in the intersection of play, health and nature.

RFQ Selection Process:

After the initial RFQ deadline on June 30, 2017, a selection committee consisting of local community members and artists will select up to three (3) finalists. Springboard will subcontract with the finalists to prepare proposals for review by the committee, along with facilitating interview meetings with finalists. An honorarium of \$500 will be provided to each finalist to develop one preliminary concept for the art feature at the site. Finalists' proposals should be developed enough to provide a good understanding of how the art will look within the context of the location. Finalists will be asked to present their proposals to the committee in person. Travel support available.

Required Submission Materials:

1. **Cover Page** with contact information: name, address, email and phone.
2. **Letter of interest** (no more than two pages) briefly describing how you would approach this project and its goals, previous experiences related to this project
3. **Three references** with contact information.
4. **Biographical information** – two pages maximum.
5. **Work sample list** – corresponding to the work samples you are submitting. Please include year, budget, material, and dimensions.
6. **Up to 10 work samples** – Image files saved in JPEG (.jpg) format at 72ppi, 1920 pixels on the longest side.

How to Submit

1. Combine submission materials 1 – 5 [above] into one word document or PDF.
2. Attach images in separate files.
3. Do NOT send a design proposal at this time.
4. Send all submission materials as email attachments to:

Email: dominic@springboardforthearts.org

Subject: Central Lakes Trail Sculpture

Inquiries

Email: dominic@springboardforthearts.org

Estimated Project Schedule:

June 30, 2017	Deadline for RFQ
July 18, 2017	Committee review and selection of finalists
July 31 – August 24	Informational meetings/site visits for finalists
August 18, 2017	Interview/presentation with finalists
August 31, 2017	Artist selected and contracted
December 2017	Design development phase completed
June 2018	Fabrication and installation of sculpture

Source Material:

Information about the Central Lakes Bike Trail: www.centrallakestrail.com

Drone footage of the Central Lakes Trail:

www.facebook.com/CentralLakesTrail/videos/1247474335371272/

Results of workshops with area youth asking them what kind of sculpture they would like to see:

<http://tinyurl.com/FFSculptureIdeas>

Project Partners:



Springboard for the Arts

Springboard for the Arts is an economic and community development organization for artists and by artists. Our work is about building stronger communities, neighborhoods, and economies, and we believe that artists are an important leverage point in that work. Springboard for the Arts' mission is to cultivate vibrant communities by connecting artists with the skills, information, and services they need to make a living and a life.

PartnerSHIP 4 Health

PartnerSHIP 4 Health is a collaboration of community and public health partners in Becker, Clay, Otter Tail and Wilkin counties working to prevent chronic disease through sustainable changes that increase physical activity, healthy eating and reduce tobacco use and exposure. PartnerSHIP 4 Health is at work with schools, worksites, communities, health care, child care and human service organizations. PartnerSHIP 4 Health is currently funded by the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), Clearway Minnesota and a CDC Community Wellness Grant.

Department of Natural Resources

Our mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

Examples of Play Sculpture ideas from local youth



Peaceful, Soft, Unique,
Color, Creativity, Illusion



Site Images



Sculpture site, view from bike trail looking east



Sculpture site, view from highway 210 looking west

CONCEPT PLAN
CENTRAL LAKES TRAIL
FERGUS FALLS/TH 210 TRAILHEAD

