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CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS (DCA) AND OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER KEVIN DE LEÓN LITTLE TOKYO PUBLIC ART PROJECT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP), PHASE 1 PRE-BID MEETING VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

RFP PROPOSAL DEADLINE: September 10, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

THIS PROJECT FACT SHEET HAS BEEN UPDATED WITH INFORMATION THAT WAS PRESENTED DURING THE ZOOM PRE-BID MEETING THAT WAS HELD ON 8/26/21. NEW INFORMATION WILL BE EMBEDDED IN PURPLE. UNFORTUNATELY, DCA IS UNABLE TO POST THE FULL ZOOM PRESENTATION DUE TO INFRINGEMENT RIGHTS.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Office of Councilmember Kevin de León of the 14th District are seeking a qualified artist or artist team to create a public artwork that will be installed at the heart of Little Tokyo. The City would like to commission an artist or artist team to install an artwork that celebrates Little Tokyo values, its unique culture, and its rich history.

TECHNICAL PARAMETERS

Please see [Appendix A for site specifications](#). The exact location of the artwork foundation is indicated within the dark red area, approximately 310 square feet, and includes the 5ft set-backs per City requirements; the red square with the green outline indicates where the elements of the artwork can protrude. Existing light posts, poles, and power lines cannot be removed or relocated. The artwork does not need to occupy the entire footprint. The selected artist will need to obtain their own engineering certified documents. **The red-shaded area on Appendix A is the location where the foundation of the artwork can be situated; the foundation cannot be within the green-shaded area. There may be an overhang of artwork in the green-shaded area; if footings are needed to support art elements that will protrude in the green-shaded area, the footing in the green-shaded area cannot exceed 1 ft in depth or be placed above the sewer line.**

The property wall on the south side of the plaza should not be part of the art design and should remain untouched; the City will paint the wall once the artwork installation has been completed.

Height: currently there are no height restrictions for the artwork; however, visual sight-lines for drivers should not be obstructed. Additional review for height will be provided once the final design is selected. **DCA reiterated that**

there are no height restrictions at this time, but proposals will be reviewed in great detail at the next state of the RFP process.

Sound: sound element(s) should not obstruct a pedestrian’s ability to hear the sound from the pedestrian push button.

Colors: color palette is open-ended, however, it should not simulate traffic control design visible on stop signs, traffic lights, pavement markings on the road.

Miscellaneous: seating, landscape, and water features are prohibited features.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

September 10, 2021	RFP Round 1 is due
October 2021	Professional Peer Panel is convened; submissions are reviewed; 5 finalists are identified and advance to Round 2; finalists have 4-6 weeks to fine-tune proposal
November 2021	Professional Peer Panel convenes for a second time; artists present designs; community presentation of final designs
December 2021	Professional Peer Panel convenes third and final time; artist identified; commence contract process

NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY AND LANDSCAPE

Please see [Appendix B](#) for a more in-depth background about the desired needs for the artwork as it relates to the neighborhood. Little Tokyo is a 137-year historic Japantown that is the center of the Southern California Japanese American community and a cultural hub for broader AAPI communities. Little Tokyo is home to more than 50 public artworks and 15 major Japanese American and AAPI arts and cultural institutions, celebrating arts and culture as essential to its cultural and economic sustainability. The corner of Alameda and 2nd Street is heavily transited and sits on the main thoroughfare that connects neighborhoods to the south of Downtown, to the center of Downtown, and to the north of Union Station. The area surrounding 2nd Street and Alameda is seen as the gateway to the Little Tokyo neighborhood, and it is used as a major access point within Little Tokyo. The neighborhood recently improved its sidewalks and streets to make the community safer and support all modes of transportation and pedestrian flow. The commissioned artwork will enhance the unique aesthetics of the local area and aim to increase pedestrian activity, while acting as a visual marker for the neighborhood. The artwork will celebrate the rich history and culture of the vibrant Little Tokyo community. Candidates are highly encouraged to visit the site in-person, in advance of the pre-bid meeting or RFP submission.

PROJECT SITE

The project is located in the heart of the Little Tokyo neighborhood of Los Angeles, on the **south west corner of 2nd Street and Alameda**. The location is considered a major gateway into the historic Japantown and is a highly trafficked pathway. Directly adjacent to the project location to its south west is longtime Japanese American-owned Honda Plaza, which houses a number of legacy Japanese American businesses; across the street to the north west sits a parking lot that serves businesses along 2nd Street and Central, such as Shin-Sen-Gumi Ramen; the north east corner sits a large residential building; to the catty corner sits the Department of Water and Power (DWP) and the building’s parking lot; south of the DWP building is Angel City Brewery, which is a major attraction in the Arts District. Currently, as described, the project location offers a unique opportunity to beautify the neighborhood and draw pedestrian traffic to Little Tokyo’s many small businesses and cultural institutions.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMPONENT

As part of the community engagement component, the artist selected for this project MUST identify a Little Tokyo community entity, organization, or stakeholder as a local subject matter expert to partner with on this project. Strong consideration will be given to those applicants that provide examples during Round 1 of the RFP on how the community collaboration will take place. The artist's community partner should be involved, in an advisory capacity, during the planning, design, and implementation of the artwork during Round 2 of the RFP. The artist's community partner will be essential to the artwork's integration into the community. **Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) representative, Scott Oshima, provided a 10 minute presentation that provided background on the historical and cultural context of the project location. Information from the presentation can be found in the documents that comprise "Appendix B". DCA does not have a list of preferred community partners, but you can refer to the Sustainable Little Tokyo Public Art Guidelines for recommendations.**

PROJECT BUDGET

The budget for the project is \$250,000. The budget is all-inclusive and must cover all expenses associated with the design, fabrication, lighting, artist fee, installation, including certified engineering services, City permits as required, procurement of general liability insurance for installation, local business taxes, and all other miscellaneous expenses associated with the project. **The City will assist with the facilitation of permits, as it relates to City departments. General liability insurance will be needed during the time that the artist will be on site for installation.**

The City will prepare the site for the artist for the purpose of supporting and facilitating the implementation of the art project. Budgets for proposal should include site preparation costs if it is integral to the design.

QUESTIONS

All questions must be directed to Tania Picasso, Arts Manager, at tania.picasso@lacity.org and will be answered on an ongoing basis throughout your proposal development. Please see Appendix C for the complete RFP.