

Public Art Opportunity: Traffic Box Art, Columbia, Missouri

THE PROJECT

The City of Columbia, Missouri, invites artists residing in mid Missouri to apply for a public art project to create art on traffic signal boxes in the downtown area within the Special Business District. The goal of the project is to decrease the instances of graffiti on these surfaces while making them artful objects. Once addressed by artists, the Traffic Box Art projects have proven to be very resistant to graffiti and vandalism and contribute significantly to the vitality and attractiveness of the streetscape.

In 2012, the traffic signal box to be addressed is located at the corner of 6th and Walnut Streets. Approximate dimensions of the TSB are 50" H X 36" W X 18" D.

This project is being implemented by the city's Office of Cultural Affairs. Applicants should submit a design proposal as well as qualifications (see Selection Process and Application Information).

THE BUDGET

The total budget for each Traffic Box Art project shall not exceed \$2,000. That includes an artist honorarium of \$1,500 and an allowance for materials of up to \$500. The Office of Cultural Affairs will provide a designated primer and graffiti coat sealant, both of which must be used.

The selected artist will be required by contract to carry basic insurance coverage while working on the traffic signal box. Upon completion of the project the artist will be paid the honorarium and reimbursed for materials.

APPLICATION PROCESS & DESIGN CRITERIA

- Artists must reside in the mid Missouri area. If you are unsure about eligibility, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs before applying.
- Use the template provided to propose a design concept. Be aware that some changes to the design may be required to accommodate site requirements.
- Design must include all visible sides of the traffic signal box.
- Designs must not be offensive, or contain any representations of traffic lights, signs or signals.
- If the design is to include text, it must be included in the design. The traffic signal box may not be used for advertisement or to promote a business, product or viewpoint.
- Designs may not include any breach of intellectual property, trademarks, brands, images of illegal activity or involve the attachment of any object(s) to the box.
- Because this program aims to deter graffiti vandalism, designs should not mimic or take the style of tags or graffiti.
- The finished artwork(s) will be in the public domain and therefore may be vandalized. Accordingly artists should be thoughtful about having large open areas in the design -- for example, large areas of blue skies might give a vandal the perfect spot to deface the work.
- Designs should not include painting any elements other than the traffic signal box. This includes the light pole to which the traffic signal box is attached.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS

The Traffic Box Art Program is designed to enhance The District by adding works of art to the downtown streetscape on surfaces that are often targeted by graffiti vandals. Artwork on traffic signal boxes function as a form of communication to a moving audience with the goal of creating a safe, inclusive and interesting urban

environment. **Successful proposals will foster community pride and convey the sense of the Columbia community. When designing your artwork, think of the vitality of The District and its contribution to the city as a whole, such as arts, music, community events and special attractions.**

Artists should understand that the finished works will be on functioning equipment that will need repair or replacing at some point in time. As such, the Office of Cultural Affairs cannot guarantee how long each traffic signal box will be in use though estimates are approximately 15 years, assuming no unexpected damage occurs such as a car accident.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The city's Standing Committee on Public Art, made up of artists, arts professionals, community representatives and project staff, will review applications and choose a proposal. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of artistic and technical merit as well as relevance of proposed design.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

The project is open to artists residing in mid Missouri. All eligible applicants, regardless of race, sex, religion, nationality, origin or disability, will be considered. If you are unsure about eligibility, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs before applying.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

To be considered, submit the following:

- current résumé
- contact information for two professional references.
- design proposal on the template provided
- a typed statement briefly explaining your design, one page maximum

Artists may submit more than one design proposal. A statement for each design must be submitted. Do not bind application materials or put them in a notebook or folder. Do not send any materials not specifically requested (i.e. photographs, transparencies, DVDs/videos, articles). If sent, they will not be reviewed by the selection panel.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications must be postmarked by February 6, 2012. Faxed or e-mailed applications cannot be accepted. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- résumé
- reference contact information
- template design for each design submitted, if more than one
- basic design statement, for each design submitted, if more than one

MAIL SUBMISSIONS, postmarked by February 6, 2012

City of Columbia, Office of Cultural Affairs, P.O. Box 6015, Columbia, MO, 65205

EXPRESS MAIL, postmarked by February 6, 2012

City of Columbia, Office of Cultural Affairs, 1 S. 7th Street, Columbia, MO, 65201

HAND-DELIVER SUBMISSIONS by 5 p.m. on February 6, 2012

City of Columbia, Office of Cultural Affairs, 1 S. 7th Street, Columbia, MO, 65201

The Office of Cultural Affairs assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to submissions.

INQUIRIES

Sarah Skaggs, 573-874-6387, skskaggs@GoColumbiaMo.com

TERMS, CONDITIONS & RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

This request for Proposals (RFP) does not commit the City of Columbia (City) to enter into an agreement with any applicant and is not an offer for contract. All City arts programs are contingent upon availability of funds. At its sole discretion, the City may reject any or all applications, may modify or terminate the application or selection processes and without prior notice. Notwithstanding the foregoing, applicant shall retain all copyright in the work which may be held by applicant. The applicant certifies that the information contained in the application is true and correct to the best of his or her knowledge. The City is not responsible for damage or loss of materials submitted. Failure to comply with all the requirements of this RFP will constitute an invalid application. The City reserves the right at any time to supplement, amend or otherwise modify this solicitation and to request additional information from any participating artists for any reason and without prior notice. In addition, the City reserves the right to accept or reject at any time prior to the commissioning of a work, any or all proposals; to waive any defect or technicality; and to advertise for new requests for qualifications.