



## **Call for Proposals – Southern Alberta Art Gallery Public Art Project Artist Information Package November 2009**

### **Project Intent**

The City of Lethbridge is inviting artists to participate in a three stage public art competition. The winning submission will receive a commission to create and install a public art work on site at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in conjunction with the grand re-opening of its newly renovated spaces.

### **Background**

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery (incorporated as a non-profit society in 1974) is located in Lethbridge (population 85,492) and has occupied a city-owned building since the first exhibition in 1976. A dedicated staff have sustained and fueled the gallery's mandate: *to foster the work of contemporary artists who challenge boundaries, encourage broad public engagement and promote awareness and exploration of artistic expression. The Southern Alberta Art Gallery's work extends to local, national and international communities.*

Artists from around the world, across the country and our own hometown present a comprehensive range of ideas, subject matter and media within the context of contemporary art. The gallery offers a wide array of educational and public programming including children and teen art classes, professional development workshops for artists, and programs targeted toward seniors and the business community. Our Gallery School program, in which our exhibitions play a central role, offers a wide array of curriculum-based programs in language arts, social studies, the sciences and the fine arts.

In March 2009 the Southern Alberta Art Gallery broke ground on a major renovation intended to vastly improve public spaces such as the library and classroom while providing much needed mechanical, technical and aesthetic upgrades. Originally a public library, the gallery has two main spaces – the Carnegie building erected in 1922 and the modern addition in 1951. Neither were designed for the specific purposes of a contemporary art gallery making the present renovation of particular significance. In conjunction with the current renovations, the City of Lethbridge is pleased to oversee the planning, development and installation of a substantial public art project. The winning commission will be announced as part of the celebrations taking place during the grand re-opening of the gallery.

### **Eligibility**

The competition is open to regional, national and international artists.

### **Site Considerations**

The site for this commission encompasses a glazed alcove at the Northeast corner of the main gallery. Sealed off from the interior, this 5' x 10'8" x 10' space is floor to ceiling glass on two sides that extend into Galt Gardens, a formal, manicured downtown parkland. Galt Gardens also contains a performance amphitheatre surrounded by pergola as well as Rotary Centennial Plaza, a significant water feature. The Southern Alberta Art Gallery is located in the gardens.

Though the commission could be housed in the alcove itself, artists are not confined to this space and are encouraged to think of issues of site more broadly. The alcove may provide a point of departure in dialogue with elements that may also be installed in (or in relation to) the immediate and surrounding areas within Galt Gardens. Artists are encouraged to consider the multiple contexts within which this public art work will be experienced. These include: the site, the gallery, the gardens and/or subjects related to contemporary art discourse, practice and theory (i.e. public art, sculptural practice, institutional critique, etc.).

This location presents a number of interesting challenges and opportunities. For one, the alcove boasts the atypical condition of being a sealed, interior space, free from the elements and public vandalism, and viewable only from the exterior. The alcove will be a secure space with power available, thus opening up the possibility for electrical equipment like projectors, DVD players, audio equipment, general lighting and other applications. For proposals that choose to incorporate exterior elements consideration must be given to security, environmental conditions and other installation logistics.

### **Budget**

Total budget for the Southern Alberta Public Art Project is \$180,000.00. This fee will be inclusive of all project costs including but not limited to:

- Artist fees
- General Administrative expenses
- All materials
- Fabrication costs including third contracted or third party fees
- Maintenance expenses\* (for 5 years, when applicable; SAAG will assume responsibility for general maintenance/operation costs)
- Shipping, delivery and installation costs including any required equipment rentals, labor, utility locates structural/foundation work and required permits.
- All travel and accommodation expenses including travel for site visits, fabrication and installation.
- Insurance, including general public liability insurance of not less than \$2,000,000.00 from commencement of the Artist's services until written acceptance by the City of the artwork.

### **Selection Criteria**

- Relevance of the proposed work with regard to the mandate of the Southern Alberta Art Gallery (25%)
- Appropriateness of the proposed work with regards to the context of the site. (25%)
- Safety, durability, maintenance, and environmental considerations. (25%)
- Quality of work, as demonstrated in documentation of past work. (25%)

### **Selection Process**

#### **Stage I**

Interested artists are asked to submit a complete Proposal Package including:

- A current artist CV
- A letter of interest
- Written project proposal that addresses the selection criteria listed above
- Visual support material for proposal, if applicable
- Project Budget including artist fees, engineering, material, fabrication, labor, and shipping/delivery and installation costs.
- Detailed project completion timeline.
- Up to ten high-resolution images of relevant work on a CD or DVD
- An image list including the date, medium, dimensions, and a brief description if appropriate.
- Names and contact information of three referees familiar with your work
- Other materials (ie. single copy of publications, articles or other supplemental materials)
- A completed Submission Checklist (included in this document).
- Self-addressed envelope for return of support material if requested.

## **Stage II**

The Project Selection Team, using the indicated selection criteria, will develop a shortlist of three artists' proposals from the submitted proposals. Artists, whose proposals have been short-listed will be invited to attend a site visit. During this visit, artists will be asked to make a brief presentation of their project to the selection committee during which they will have the opportunity to ask questions or answer any questions that may be raised by the committee. A \$1,250.00 honorarium and expenses\* will be provided to short listed artists invited to participate in the second stage of the selection process.

\*Airfare, per diem (receipts up to \$50/day) and up to three nights accommodation will be provided.

## **Stage III**

Following the site visit and discussion with the selection committee, short-listed artists will have the opportunity to amend and resubmit their proposed work for final consideration. At this stage additional support material will be welcomed (photographs, audio/video samples, material samples, diagrams, drawings, storyboards, maquettes, etc. as appropriate).

Final selection will include consideration of support material (where applicable). Maquette/renderings shipping expenses to and from the selection committee are the responsibility of the artist.

## **Project Timelines**

Proposal Advertising: November 15, 2009  
Proposal Submission Deadline: March 1, 2010  
Site Visit: March 30 – April 10, 2010 (specific date to be determined)  
Final Proposal Submission Deadline (with revisions): May 15, 2010  
Public Exhibition of Shortlisted artist's work: May 19– May 25, 2010  
Commission Award: June 30, 2010  
Commission Announcement: September 2010  
Installation Deadline: September 1, 2011

**NOTE: The City of Lethbridge reserves the right to reject all proposals without further compensation.**

## **How to Apply**

Sealed proposals, clearly marked with the words "Public Art – Southern Alberta Art Gallery" must be submitted to the City of Lethbridge before 4:00 pm local time, March 1, 2010 (as above). Faxed, emailed, incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted. Late submissions will be returned to the artist unopened.

Please submit complete Proposal Package to:  
Chair, City of Lethbridge Public Art Committee  
City of Lethbridge  
910 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0P6

Artists requiring further information are asked to forward inquiries to [suzanne@artslethbridge.org](mailto:suzanne@artslethbridge.org)

## **GENERAL NOTES:**

- As a condition of working with The City of Lethbridge, the successful artist will be required to have a Certificate of Incorporation (i.e. business license), and provide two million dollars general liability insurance.
- The artist chosen will be required to provide engineer stamped drawings of their proposed work and installation procedures.
- The City of Lethbridge reserves the right to reject all proposals without further compensation.