

CALL TO ARTISTS

Request for Proposal

By South Haven Center for the Arts and South Haven's Art on the Town Committee

WHO: Artists, Makers, and Sculptors in Michigan

WHAT: Design Proposal Competition for the Grow Our Own Sculpture Program

WHEN: Design Proposal will be reviewed, as they are submitted. Deadline is rolling until all sculptures funding is complete

WHERE: Sculptures are to be designed and created for permanent display outdoors in South Haven, MI

OVERVIEW

Art on the Town Committee of South Haven, MI (AOTT) invites sculptural artists from Van Buren, Berrien, Allegan, Kalamazoo, Cass, Kent, and Ottawa counties to submit an application and Design Proposal for creation of a three-dimensional public art sculpture. A maximum of five artists will be selected to design and create locally themed sculptures for consideration. The sculptures are planned for display along downtown Phoenix Street in South Haven, MI.

A project stipend of \$1000 will be awarded to cover materials and time used in creation of the sculpture. Sculptures will be on display downtown for one year upon completion and may be purchased by sponsors for permanent display. Stipend will be awarded in two installments, \$500 upon acceptance and \$500 upon completion and installation of your sculpture.

Prior public art experience is not a requirement. Selected artists may be assigned mentor artists to ensure the successful execution of all aspects of the projects.

BACKGROUND

South Haven, MI recently restored its historic downtown, which serves as the gateway to the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. The community would like to celebrate the unique assets and beauty of South Haven for the enjoyment of its citizens as well as the thousands of visitors we welcome each summer.

ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to emerging and established visual artists, college-aged or older, with preference given to those who reside in Van Buren, Berrien, Allegan, Kalamazoo, Cass, Kent, and Ottawa Counties and are legally authorized to work in the United States. Accomplished high school-aged artists may also apply with parent approval.

THEME

South Haven – people, places, and things

SELECTION CRITERIA and PROCESS

Evaluation and selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Originality of concept
- Theme of South Haven (people, places, and unique aspects)
- Message of the sculpture
- How well the proposed sculpture conveys its message
- Form as displayed by submitted design images
- Skill with which the artist composes stylistic elements
- Mastery of techniques and materials
- Suitability for location
- Safe for the public
- Suitability for permanent attachment outdoors

A Selection Committee comprised of the AOTT Committee and local mentor artists using the evaluation criteria above will select a maximum of five artists to create their sculptures. Candidates are encouraged to design sculptures with locations in mind and may be asked to present to the Selection Committee in person.

SUBMISSIONS

- All application materials must be submitted via email to info@southhavenarts.org.
- Applicant must provide a permanent mailing address, email, and phone contact information.
- Applicant's name must be included on each file submitted. AOTT prefers one PDF file.
- AOTT may request supporting documentation of any submission materials.

What to submit:

- Artist statement (1 page recommended length – PDF format)
- Brief summary of your relevant artistic experience and/or professional resume
- Description of proposed sculpture (shape, color, material, etc.) and how it will convey its message. (No more than 2 pages.)
- Describe additional help needed to complete the project (welding, casting, etc.)
- Include a budgetary breakdown, if possible
- Required – Illustration of proposed sculpture. The illustration need not be perfect or finalized, but give the Selection Committee a visual estimation of the completed sculpture, including scale at an approximate site.
- Digital images of previous work (No more than 10 – labeled with title of work, medium, dimensions, date, and location exhibited, if applicable)
- Submit only images of applicant's own original work

Rolling APPLICATION DEADLINE: applications review bi-monthly

Applicant questions relative to this RFP may be emailed to info@southhavenarts.org or call 269.637.1041.

ARTIST NOTIFICATION

Artist Notification, Responsibility, Delivery, and Ownership of Sculpture

- The selected artist is fully responsible for the timely completion and delivery of the sculpture. In the event the sculpture is not completed and delivered according to the specifics listed below, the artist may forfeit claim to the grant.
- The sculpture will be installed upon completion no later than 6 months after approval from City Council and the first half of funding is received.
- Selected candidates will work together with AOTT and the City of South Haven to facilitate delivery and installation.
- Upon delivery, the selected candidate relinquishes, and the City of South Haven assumes responsibility of the sculpture for one year. If purchased for permanent public display, the sculpture becomes property of the City of South Haven.
- Sculptures may also be purchased by a private party via AOTT.
- At the end of one year, artist is responsible for picking up any unpurchased sculpture, unless they choose to donate it to the City of South Haven.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Application materials will not be returned to the applicant unless requested. All information contained herein does not constitute either an expressed or implied contract and these provisions are subject to change. AOTT reserves the right to not award public art commissions for any reason.

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