Call For Artists

Public
Art Project
WMATA HQ

L'Enfant Plaza
Washington DC

Call for Artists

WMATA and Jair Lynch Real Estate Development (JLREP) are soliciting qualifications from accomplished artists or artist teams to create a site-specific public artwork for the new WMATA Headquarters Facility at 300 7th street SW, Washington, DC. The following exterior, and interior locations have been identified as possible locations for the Artworks in order to create the best experience for WMATA employees, visitors and members of the public. See supplemental information with a site plan.

This Artwork selection will follow a two-phase process referred to as Phase 1 and Phase 2.

PHASE 1

Requires Artists/Artist teams to prepare and submit Qualifications as appropriate for the scope of work and Qualifications Submittal requirements as set forth in this solicitation. An artist selection panel led by WMATA and JLREP and comprising art and design professionals, will select at least three (3) artists/artist teams as determined by this RFQ's evaluation criteria.

The selected Artists/Artist teams will each receive a $1,500 design fee to prepare and submit a site-specific artwork proposal that will comply with the prescribed concepts. These Artists/Artist teams will then proceed to Phase 2 of the selection process.

PHASE 2

WMATA and JLREP will invite the selected Artists/Artist teams whose qualifications are deemed acceptable to receive detailed contract information for the purpose of submitting site-specific, Phase 2 artwork proposals. WMATA and JLREP expects the proposals to include all premiums required to complete the project on or ahead of the schedule listed in the present RFQ.

As part of the proposal, the Artists/Artist teams are expected to provide site-specific designs and the estimated costs for fabrication, installation, engineering/architectural coordination, technical, clerical and other services necessary as well as schedules required for the fabrication and installation of the artwork. The Artist's or Artist team's experience and professional record should provide convincing evidence of their ability to successfully complete the project as proposed.

The Artist Selection Panel will rank each site-specific artwork based on the evaluation criteria listed in this RFQ and make a recommendation to the WMATA General Manager for approval. JLREP will then enter into negotiations with the top-ranked Artist or Artist team to finalize the contract award process. If JLREP is unable to reach agreement with the top ranked Artist or Artist team, they will end negotiations and begin negotiations with the next ranked Artist or Artist team.

BUDGET

The maximum budgets for the site-specific art projects are as follow:

- **Exterior (Option 1a and b): up to $300,000**
- **Interior (Option 2 or 3): up to $150,000**

Budgets are all-inclusive of design (artist fee included), construction, and installation as well as other miscellaneous costs.

The budgets for artworks as outlined in this Call to Artists are subject to the availability of funds.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The WMATA 300 7th Street SW building is an 11-story headquarters facility that will consolidate several departments of the Authority. It will foster a culture that is safety-focused, customer-centric and technology-enabled, and create a rich, immersive employee experience. The building will feel welcoming, open and accessible, and the building's entry lobby is a light-filled, double-height space wrapping the southwest corner of the building.

PARAMETERS AND GOALS

The Authority has a history of, and an expectation for design excellence, and, through its Art in Transit Program, has been working to obtain unique, memorable, and engaging site-specific, public artworks. The Artist or Artist teams shall develop aesthetically attractive public artworks that capture the Authority's mission and reflect the artistic, cultural and/or historical interests of the surrounding communities. Consideration shall be given to creative uses of materials, massing, scale, form, texture, and detailing. Artworks shall be visually attractive, innovative, as well as durable. The selected site-specific artworks should impart a sense of pride within the local community and provide a stimulating and attractive environment for the people who will experience the artworks daily.

The Artist Selection Panel seeks a pool of applicants with a successful history of public art and collaboration with public agencies and/or design build projects.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES:

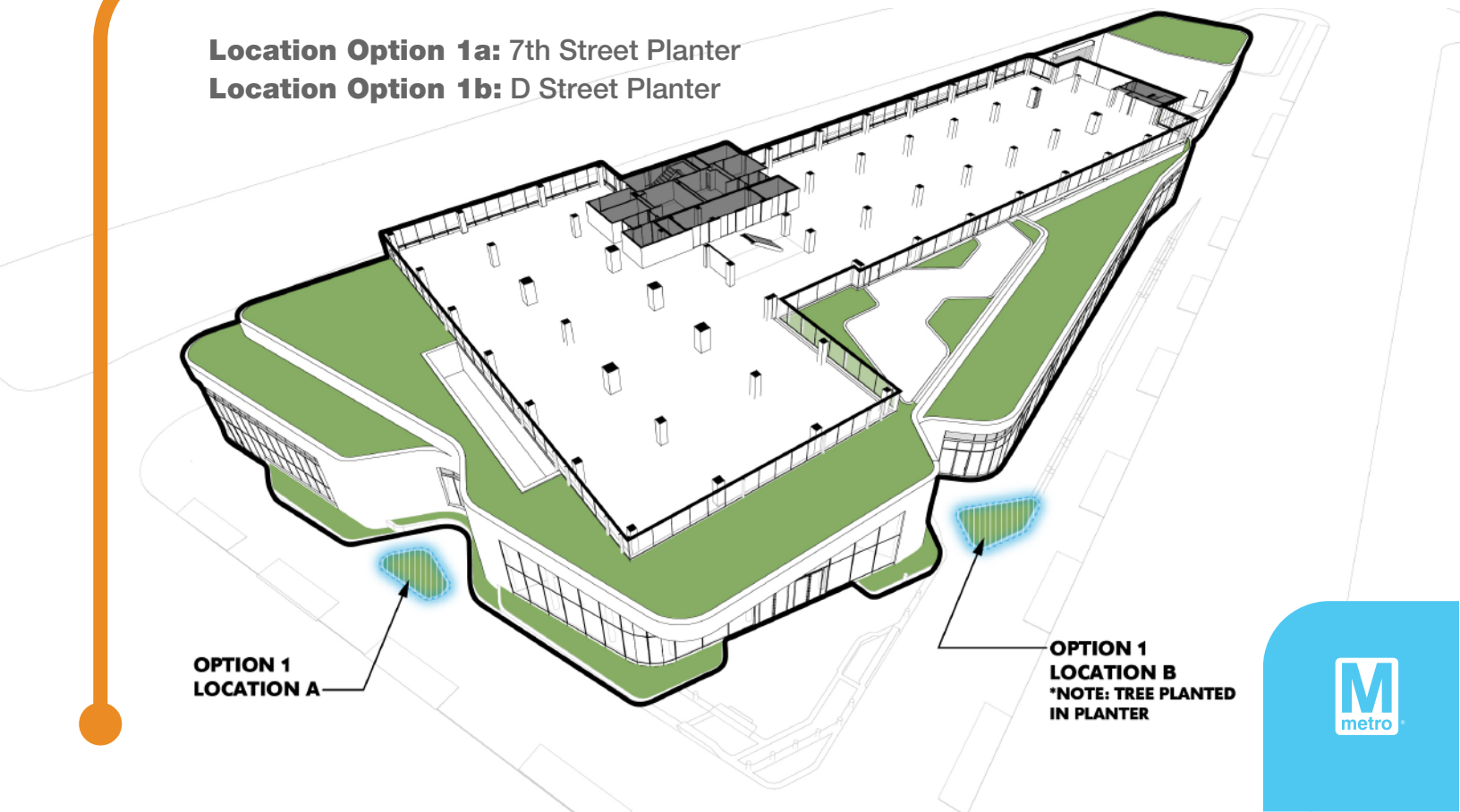
Select finalists will be asked to consider the following principles when developing their design:

- Quality of the work and durability of materials
- Enduring aesthetics
- Site-specificity/relationship to existing architectural, natural, and social features:
- Gateway or landmark to a traveler's journey
- Consideration of the Authority's role and history
- Relationship to other artworks in the city
- Future development plans for the area
- Appropriate scale; Artwork proportional to scale and volume of the space
- Visibility and Public accessibility
- Safety/Structural and surface soundness
- Resistance to theft, vandalism, weathering and excessive maintenance
- Low maintenance with minimal ongoing maintenance and operational costs
- Space activation
- Technical feasibility
- Suitability for a diverse public
- Abiding by the principles of Universal Design

CHALLENGES AND LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS...

The design team has identified the following key areas at the building entry facade and lobby (outlined below) as potential sites for the artwork.

Location Option 1a: 7th Street Planter
Location Option 1b: D Street Planter



CHALLENGES AND LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS

Location Option 2: Lobby Soffit

Location Option 3: Lobby Ceiling

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS SUBMITTALS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Artists/Artist Teams shall submit the following during each phase of the selection process

PHASE 1

Prepare and submit qualification material that include

A Statement of Interest that briefly outlines the Artist's or Artist Team's interest in the present RFQ and experience working on similar projects (2000 characters maximum).

B 1-2-page current résumé that highlights the Artist's or Artist Team's professional accomplishments. If applying as a team, please submit one résumé per team member.

C Résumés should be PDF files formatted as follow: file name to be artist last name. and first initial (i.e.: Smith.J.pdf). Résumés should be limited to 1-2 pages.

D Up to 10 digital images of previously completed artworks in PDF format, along with a list of the images specifying the title, media, location and year created for each work.

PHASE 2

To prepare and submit a site-specific artwork proposal (the "Proposal"), which shall be sufficiently clear and detailed to enable the Art Review Panel to understand and evaluate it without assistance from the Artist. The Proposal shall include:

A Drawings/renderings to illustrate the proposed, site-specific Artwork and its integration into the building. The location of the Artwork and the size, materials, colors and finishes of the Artwork, including installation considerations, shall also be indicated.

B A written explanation of the proposed Artwork and the design approach for integrating the Artwork into the building. Include, as applicable, a general description of architectural, engineering, and other professional work which will be needed to implement the Proposal.

C A detailed preliminary estimate of the total cost of the Artwork based on the location selected. The estimate should be within the budget previously provided including the Artist's fee under this agreement. The artist fee must not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the proposed artwork budget. The cost estimate shall include, as applicable, Artist's fee and the following: Artist, subcontractor and vendor costs: engineering, materials, fabrication, crating, storage, shipping to the site, all insurance, installation, artist's supervision of the installation, and documentation. The cost estimate shall be supported by written estimates from vendors for all cost- significant products/services. The Project includes survey, design, and construction of the Project.

D The Artist/Artist team must detail their experience, and the experience of possible sub-contractors, on projects of similar size and complexity, and constraints. Provide a list describing similar projects completed by the artist and contractor within the last 10 years or currently in progress. Each list of projects shall include:

- Name and location of project
- Name of the owner
- Name and phone number of contact person
- Value of contract
- Percentage of Contract that was self-performed
- General description of the project

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Each RFQ submission will be reviewed and evaluated individually by the Artist Selection Panel in accordance with the procedures and criteria highlighted in this RFQ. Qualifications will be evaluated by their strengths, weaknesses, and deficiencies against the evaluation factors and these attributes will be communicated to the Applicants for follow-up action as appropriate. The Applicants shall describe in detail the means and methods of prosecuting the work described in this Statement of Qualifications.

In addition to the above criteria, the Artist Selection Panel will consider the following when ranking the finalists during stage 2 of the selection process:

- Review each project for its feasibility
- Review evidence of the artist's ability to successfully complete the work as proposed.

Each project will be reviewed for the following factors including, but not limited to: project budget, time line, community engagement, knowledge of applicable regulations, construction and design guidelines, artistic excellence, originality and creativity of proposal.

The Artist Selection Panel will be using the following criteria to evaluate each artist/artist's team submission during stage 1 and stage 2 of the selection process:

- Quality of the Work: High quality artwork as determined by recognized art professionals, arts administrators, developers and designers qualified to evaluate contemporary artist portfolios, credentials and/or proposals.
- Site-specificity: An artist's concept and the physical artwork are integrated into the project and should relate to the project site, immediate landscape, urban fabric, and/or surrounding communities.
- Durability of Materials: Artworks in public spaces may be subject to a variety of harsh conditions including but not limited to impact from pedestrian traffic, build-up of soot and grime, a range of climate conditions, and potential vandalism. Durable materials should be used that attain the optimum degree of maintainability and proven ability to withstand the specific environmental conditions of the area. Artwork should need minimal maintenance.
- Originality of approach and methodologies used to convey meaning through art
- Artist's ability to complete the project in view of past commissions and resume
- Cohesiveness of art pieces with each other and the surrounding environment.
- Safety: Submittals will be reviewed for safety and structural integrity.

PROJECT SOLICITATION SCHEDULE

The solicitation schedule for this project is as follows:

Stage 1:	Request for Qualifications posted	June 3rd, 2020
	Q&A period	June 5th to June 19th, 2020
	RFQ closed, Qualifications Due	July 3rd, 2020
	Qualifications evaluation/Select Finalists	July 20th, 2020
Stage 2:	Release additional info to Finalists	July 27th, 2020
	Site-specific Design Proposal due date	August 10th, 2020
	Semi-finalists interviews/presentations	W/O August 24th, 2020
	Project award decision	September 4th, 2020

We reserve the right to adjust the timetable as necessary during the call for artists process.

STAGE 1 PROPOSALS MAY BE SUBMITTED DIGITALLY OR HARD COPY TO:

WMATAPlazaHQ@jairlynch.com

Public Art Project, WMATA L'Enfant Plaza, Washington, DC
c/o Lynch Development Partners
1400 16th street NW
Suite 430
Washington, DC 20036

Questions may also be submitted to: WMATAPlazaHQ@jairlynch.com