

City of Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs

Michael Killoren, Director
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor



CALL FOR ARTISTS – SEATTLE CENTER SKATEPARK ARTIST

Online Application

Apply using CaFÉ™, a Web-based online application service. All applications must be submitted digitally through the CaFÉ™ online system. Link to the online application via <http://www.callforentry.org/>.

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, in partnership with Seattle Center, seeks a design team artist (or artist team) to work with design consultants and the skateboarding community to identify art opportunities and to develop art enhancements for the new Seattle Center Skatepark. The design and location of the park will create opportunities for the artist(s)'s designs to be fully integrated into the skateboarding experience. Art opportunities include, but are not limited to, integrated "skateable" objects, strategically placed non-skateable obstacles, surface treatments for park terrain, and/or two-dimensional applications, lighting or other technology effects for walls or vertical structures. The artist(s) may also work with the design team to contribute to the overall park design and to suggest ways to incorporate temporary or permanent artwork by others into the park. It is currently envisioned that designs developed by the artist(s) will be fabricated and installed under the construction project. The fabrication budget for art enhancements will be developed in conjunction with Seattle Center and the design team. Artist(s)'s experience with collaborative projects and community involvement will be considered.

BACKGROUND

The Seattle Center Skatepark will include a minimum of 8,900 square feet of skating terrain along with amenities such as seating and landscaping and will be located at the northwest corner of Second Avenue and Thomas Street, one of the primary entries to Seattle Center. The Skatepark will be designed primarily for street-style skating, with elements such as ledges, banks, rails and curbs. The park will also include landscaping, spaces for spectators, and perimeter areas. The design will need to incorporate existing features such as walls and mechanical vents.

Initial planning documents call for a Skatepark that:

- Welcomes skaters of all ages and abilities,
- Provides a safe and comfortable environment for skating while also being considerate of adjacent uses,
- Creates an attractive public space through the innovative integration of art, architecture, and greenery,
- Supports the mission of the Seattle Center as a gathering place that inspires and delights.

As the fourth largest destination site in the United States, Seattle Center attracts 12 million visitors each year and hosts more than 5,000 events, ranging from the performing arts to exhibitions and fairs to both men's and women's professional basketball. Seattle Center is a community gathering place of 74 acres that is home to more than 20 arts, sports entertainment, and educational organizations, including the Space Needle, Experience Music Project (EMP), Marion Oliver McCaw Hall and Pacific Science Center. Seattle Center's vision statement embodies this diversity, stating:

We are the nation's best gathering place. Supported by the people of Seattle, we are home to the finest cultural and educational organizations, sports teams, festivals, community programs and entertainment facilities. We exist to delight and inspire the human spirit in each person and bring us together as a rich and varied community.

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SCOPE OF WORK

The selected artist, or artist team, will participate on the design team and work collaboratively with design consultants, the Skate Park Advisory Committee, and the skateboarding community to develop park designs, identify art opportunities at the park and develop artwork designs. The design and location of the park will create opportunities for the artist(s)'s designs to be fully integrated into the skateboarding experience. Options for artwork in the park include, but are not limited to, integrated "skateable" objects, strategically placed non-skateable obstacles, development of unique surface textures and artistically enhanced skateable terrain, and/or two-dimensional applications, lighting or other technology effects for walls or vertical structures. The artist(s) may also contribute ideas for incorporating elements from the previous Seattle Center Skatepark into the new park's design and suggest future temporary art opportunities. Possible locations for artwork include the skateable area of the park as well as mechanical vents, spectator areas, and the park's perimeter.

The involvement of various segments of the skateboarding community will be important to the success of this project. The selected artist(s) will be involved in encouraging and facilitating the participation of diverse skateboarding groups in the design of the artwork and the overall Skatepark project.

The artist's designs will be integrated into the Skatepark's design and construction documents. The selected artist(s) may be responsible for providing drawings and specifications as needed for inclusion of artist-designed elements in construction documents. The art elements will be fabricated and installed as part of the skatepark construction project and budget. This is a fast-track project, and the design development stage will be completed by late July 2008. The artist(s)'s involvement will conclude upon completion of construction documents at the end of September 2008.

The artist(s) will be asked to design with the most stringent durability and maintenance standards in mind. Artwork should be constructed of non-corrosive materials and designs should be consistent with ongoing efforts to control tagging and vandalism on the Seattle Center campus. Seattle Center will maintain any objects in the park in a manner consistent with regular maintenance of the park in general. The city reserves the right to manage its buildings, facilities and public sites for public purposes, and in doing so, the work of the artist may be subject to removal, destruction, distortion, mutilation, or other modification.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to established professional artists living in Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia, Canada. Teams are welcome to apply, and may include artists, designers, community engagement specialists and others with relevant knowledge and/or experience. Teams must include at least one visual artist and, if selected, will be asked to identify a lead artist to act as the primary contact for the project. The Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs encourages diversity in its collection. Artists whose work is well represented in the city's collection are eligible to apply, but the artist selection panel will consider artistic diversity as one factor in the selection process. Students are not eligible to apply.

BUDGET

The contract for this project will total \$22,850.00, inclusive of all costs and applicable taxes, for participation on the design team. A fabrication budget for art enhancements will be developed in conjunction with Seattle Center and the design team; artwork will be fabricated and installed as part of park construction.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

11:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, Tuesday, March 18, 2008

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Sixteen (16) artwork images. CaFÉ™ image format instructions can be found at http://www.callforentry.org/imaging_tips.phtml.
- Letter of interest (not to exceed 2,000 characters)
- Resume
- References
- Other questions as specified

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SELECTION CRITERIA

Artists and/or artist teams will be selected on the basis of:

- Strength and artistic merit of past works,
- Ability and experience creating designs for durable, outdoor, site-specific artwork,
- Experience working collaboratively and/or facilitating community involvement ,
- Understanding of skateboarding and skatepark design or a strong interest in learning about skateboarding and skatepark design, and
- Contribution of the artist's work to the diversity of the city's art collection.

References provided as part of this application will be contacted prior to artist interviews.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process will occur in two phases: 1) a selection panel will review all applications and select up to four finalists or finalist teams, 2) the selection panel will meet for a second time to interview finalists/ finalist teams and select one artist/artist team to be awarded the project.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

The artist selected will be notified at the conclusion of interviews and panel deliberations. Please do not call the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs. Applicants will receive notification of the panel's decision by letter. The Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs reserves the right not to select any of the applicants.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Please contact Patricia Hopper, Public Art Project Manager, at 206-684-7311 or patricia.hopper@seattle.gov. For assistance with the CaFÉ™ online application process or image formatting, contact CaFÉ™ tech support.

View the full call for artists and apply at <http://www.callforentry.org/>.