January 15, 2015

Living with Water: Water Challenge 2015 RFP: $25,000 Arts Pitch Competition

Deadline: February 13th

The Arts Council New Orleans: Place + Civic Design Lab and Propeller: A Force for Social Innovation are requesting proposals from artists, artist teams, community groups working with water, engineers, designers, and/or architects in partnership with artists who are interested in creating an exterior public art installation expressing New Orleans’ relationship with water. The Water Challenge: Living with Water competition RFP is the first of two open calls to all New Orleans artists, artist teams, designers/architects, and engineers with a resume of experience.

The Arts Council New Orleans, through the City of New Orleans’ Percent for Art Program will commission a public art installation themed around the challenge of living with water in the city. In recent years, New Orleans has seen a move towards a strategic urban water plan with the aim of understanding the existing condition while eyeing a progressive water infrastructure future. Louisiana, and New Orleans, specifically face numerous challenges, ranging from sea level change and coastal erosion to antiquated water systems and potential water supply contamination. Public art is a valuable component to conversations in and the around civic spaces in our community. The Arts Council is situated at the cross section of conversations regarding art and public life, and this project will serve to bring that concerted environmental dialogue to the new Lafitte Greenway.

THE PROMPT

- Louisiana comprises 40% of our nation’s wetlands, but 90% of its losses, losing a football field of land every hour.
- Our coast faces the highest rate of sea-level rise worldwide. At this rate, New Orleans will be underwater by 2100.
- New Orleans receives 64 in. of rainfall a year, the third highest among U.S. locations. Because of the city’s topography, all rainwater not captured by green infrastructure must be pumped out.
- New Orleans source water is threatened by runoff, industrial or sewage contamination, and agricultural pollution.

The selected installation for this project will reflect a conscientious understanding of the community we serve and challenges we face as a city moving forward. For more resources on water, please click here: www.gopropeller.org/water.

The art installation should be conceptual, forward thinking, and reflect ideas expressly related to water, while also taking into account the context of the art. Additionally the installation can range from low tech solutions to contemporary uses of technology and can allow for possible interactivity and/or functionality to be built in. The organization will not limit the work to any specific material/medium and is open to a wide range of artistic styles.
While the art installation itself is not limited to any particular media, the installation should have a sense of prominence and permanence in the space as defined by a 10 year minimum lifespan.

The artwork will be located at the intersection of Jefferson Davis Parkway and the Lafitte Greenway providing an optimal location for visibility. We request that applicants consider potential obstacles (e.g. logistics, manufacturing, testing, etc) during the process and express these issues within the proposal. The expectation is that the selected applicant(s) be prepared to engage with the Arts Council New Orleans and the community during the entirety of the process. More information at www.artsneworleans.org.

**Project Timeline**

- January 16th - Submissions open, Arts Council of New Orleans Open to questions throughout the submissions process.
- February 13th - Submissions close 11:59 p.m. CST
- February 27th - Jury Selected Finalist - Artist Notified
- March 2-March 20th: Craft pitch with Arts Council and Propellor.
- March 23rd - Propeller/NOEW public presentations, winner selected.
- November 1, 2015 - Anticipated Project Completion Date

**Eligibility Requirements**

To qualify, artists/designers/architects/engineers must:

- Be 18 years of age or older and live in one of following parishes: Orleans, Jefferson, St Bernard, St Tammany, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Plaquemines, Lafourche, Terrebonne, Assumption
- Work as a professional artist or artist team/designer/architect/engineers
- **Architects, community groups working with water, and other non-professional artists** are required to submit with a professional artist who meets all eligibility requirements.
- Carry personal liability insurance for the duration of the project.
- Meet all contractual obligations and adhere to the timeline provided.
- Present the initial concept to a selection committee during the Water Challenge Day on Monday, March 23, 2015 from 9am-11am at The Chicory, 610 South Peters Street, New Orleans, LA 70130.
- Work with Propeller one-on-one to prepare pitch presentations in advance of the Water Challenge Day.
- Work with the Arts New Orleans Place + Civic Design Lab in the execution of the project.
Selection Process

The Arts Council and Propeller will form a selection committee of community stakeholders, artists, water experts, and civic leaders to determine the selection of 3-5 artists or teams. The selection will be a two stage process. Once all artists submit, the selection committee will narrow the field to the 3-5 most viable artistic installations. Once the semi-finalists are selected, artists will be given $500 dollars to prepare for a public presentation that reflects the best version of the proposed project. Artist should provide a pitch deck no more than 10 pages and additional visual support material (e.g. mock up, 3d model, Printed boards). All content will be displayed during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week’s Water Challenge on March 23rd, 2015. This event will culminate with a public “Audience Favorite” vote to select the winner.

Note: The Arts Council retains the right to reject any and all submissions. All Proposal Materials shall become the property of Arts Council New Orleans, while all copyrights created during the process belong to the artist.

**Artists are not reimbursed for the initial cost of proposal production. As mentioned, $500 will be dispensed to final artists selected to prepare a public presentation **

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be selected based upon the following criteria:

- Proposed installation should raise awareness and communicate the challenges New Orleans faces in living with water, from issues with coastal erosion, urban water management, and water quality
- Proposed installation should be conceptual, forward thinking, and reflect ideas expressly related to water, while also taking into account the context of the art.
- Work of the highest caliber and effective execution
- Experience of working within program guidelines
- Ability to complete work within a specified timeframe and budget
- Visual impact on pedestrian and vehicular traffic
- Presentation of an artistic vision that acknowledges and embodies the current climate in contemporary public art that embraces a broader social consciousness.
- Presentation of an artistic vision that displays an awareness of/sensitivity to community residents, businesses.
- Appropriateness of content (should be appropriate for all audiences).
- Prepared to meet Design Advisory Committee post final selection (Requirements to be discussed with Arts Council upon selection)
Submission Process & Requirements

Artist to submit all the work through a digital submission application at the to the Arts Council New Orleans website. All submissions must be logged by **11:59 p.m. (CST) on February 13th, 2015.** Digital proposals should be on 8.5 x 11 paper portrait layout.

Application Information

- Proposal statement - Describe your concept of the artwork to be created. Make certain to use the published criteria. Maximum 1000 words.
- Preliminary budget - Describe the preliminary hard cost (Construction/material cost) and artist fee
- Resume/CV
- Work samples

Budget

The budget for this installation is $25,000. Artists/designers/architects or teams will be required to submit a detailed budget including the cost of labor, materials and logistics.

Contact Information

Art Installation Questions

Bryan C. Lee Jr - Civic Design Director
Arts Council New Orleans
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Water Questions

Ginny Hanusik – Program Coordinator
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About The Water Challenge

The Water Challenge, a collaboration between Propeller: A Force for Social Innovation, The Idea Village and Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF), is focused on solving critical water challenges through entrepreneurship and active civic engagement.
This initiative culminates each year during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW). Find out more at www.gopropeller.org/sectors/water/

About Percent for Art

The Percent For Art Program, administered by the Arts Council of New Orleans, is supported through funds generated by 1% of City of New Orleans’ eligible municipal capital bonds. The Percent for Art Program has evolved over the past 20+ years into one that includes commissioned work, purchase of existing artwork, community outreach and education initiatives.
About Living with water®

Through the Dutch Dialogues® workshops and the development of the Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan, Waggonner & Ball Architects has played a leading role in bringing living with water® to the forefront of contemporary planning practices, urban design and public policy. Waggonner & Ball is proud to support the Arts Council of New Orleans and Propeller in their effort to expand the public discourse around critical water issues through this competition.

In the context of New Orleans, living with water® is an expression of the movement towards a safer and more beautiful city, one that brings together individuals, organizations, businesses, and communities to address critical water issues and to celebrate southeast Louisiana’s most abundant resource. It is also an ordering principle that guides planning, design, and policy for a post-Katrina New Orleans, situated on a fragile delta in an era of rapid climate change. The expression is founded on the belief that the city can survive and prosper and grow only when fundamental relationships between humans, land and water are in order.