

HAA Artists Neighborhood Project Request for Qualifications

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The intent of Artists Neighborhood Project is to create opportunities for Houston artists to create work within the context of the city's tremendously diverse neighborhoods, and to create artwork for important communities which reflect the history, culture or contemporary experience of those unique places for residents as well as visitors. We are looking for projects that reflect, celebrate, challenge or re-examine the neighborhoods.

The Artists Neighborhood Project will be launched in collaboration with Houston HOPE in two of Houston's most historic and most challenged neighborhoods, Fifth Ward and Acres Homes. Houston HOPE is a pilot program of the City of Houston that aims to reduce poverty and create hope in Houston's poorest and most blighted neighborhoods.

ELIGIBILITY

The project is open to all artists (or teams) age 18 and over who live or work within the City of Houston as well as visiting artists and faculty of at least one year. Artists residing within the Acres Homes or Fifth Ward communities are encouraged to apply. Anyone currently under contract with HAA for a civic art contract is not eligible to apply.

HOW TO APPLY

Two finalists for each project will be paid to present a site-specific proposal. Artists may apply for one or both projects with one submission.

To be considered for this commission opportunity, artists must submit the following in DIGITAL FORMAT emailed to: hopenighborhood@haatx.com. Attachments should total less than 10mb. Please submit all text files in Microsoft Word.

Letter of interest: indicate all projects for which the applicant is submitting and a letter of interest not to exceed one page.

A current resume/curriculum vitae. The resume should be no more than three pages and in no less than 10-point font. Include name, address, phone, e-mail and website.

Images: A Microsoft Power Point presentation with no more than ten (10) images of completed work. Each image needs to be labeled with your last name and then a two digit number starting with 0. Example: first image would be labeled Smith01; next image would be labeled Smith02, etc. Images should be formatted to fit within each Power Point slide and compressed to 96dpi. Limit one image per Power Point slide.

Text: Annotated slide sheet in Microsoft Word. Label each image description corresponding to the label on the Power Point image; include the following information: artist's name, media, size (HxWxD), title, date, commission cost or purchase price, brief description of the artwork.

Please submit qualification packets to:

HAA Neighborhood Project
Houston Arts Alliance
3201 Allen Parkway, Suite 250
Houston, TX 77019

PRE-APPLICATION WORKSHOP

A pre-application workshop will be held to assist artists in preparing submissions. Attendance is encouraged but not required. Please confirm your attendance for the pre-application meetings by calling Crystal Benavides, 713-527-9330 x112 or by emailing hopenighborhood@haatx.com

Date/Time: May 13, 2008/ 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: 5th Ward Multi-Service Center

Auditorium

3814 Market St.

Houston, TX 77020

Parking: Free parking is available in front of the building. Additional parking is available across the street.

Artists may apply for one or more projects with one submission.

The application deadline is Tuesday, June 10, 2008

(This is not a postmark deadline; materials should be received in the HAA office by 5 p.m.)

Selection Process

A selection panel of art professionals and a representative of the project will evaluate artists' submissions based on preliminary submission materials. Selection criteria include: artistic merit as *evidenced by the submitted materials*; the applicant's professional qualifications; proven ability to undertake projects of a similar scope; and demonstrated ability to work within the context of a neighborhood; conduct research, create relationships, engage support of and implement a project.

Two semi-finalists will be selected to work within the Acres Homes Community Development Corporation and two within the Fifth Ward Redevelopment Corporation for a 60-90 day period to fully develop their concept within the community. Each semi-finalist will receive a \$5,000 honorarium for this phase of the project. A finalist for each neighborhood will be selected from the semi-finalists' art concept and proposal. The final project will be a permanent work with a minimum life span of 2-5 years with a minimum budget of \$40,000. The budget covers all costs associated with the project including the artist's design fee, travel, materials, fabrication costs, liability insurance, documentation, and transportation and installation of the work.

Houston HOPE

Houston HOPE is a pilot program that aims to substantially reduce poverty and create hope for the residents of Houston's poorest and most blighted neighborhoods. HOPE is building a collaborative coalition of community stakeholders and city leaders in order to develop and implement comprehensive plans to improve the quality of life in Houston's low income neighborhoods. Through Houston HOPE, the City of Houston is focused on infrastructure improvements in targeted subsections of Houston Hope neighborhoods and the creation of opportunities for the development of affordable housing by nonprofit and for profit developers. HOPE, representing the private sector, is focused on building a collaborative coalition that will build capacity to address issues like health care, community safety, economic development, workforce development, education and other necessary services. The plan for each neighborhood will be unique, based on its needs, heritage, culture, and

character. The initial phase of Houston HOPE is focused on several selected pilot project neighborhoods.

ACRES HOMES

Houston annexed Acreage Home territory in four phases during the 1967 to 1974 period. Houston's unprecedented job and population growth boom had started by the end of the 1960's and due to the abundance of land, acreage prices were reasonable. The current population of the two zip codes that comprise the Acreage Home region exceeds 73,000 persons in nearly 26,000 households. The Acres Homes Community Development Corporation was established in 1990 by a group of community citizens interested in the revitalization of the neighborhood through cooperatively working with community organizations and residents. The AHCD Corp. strives to improve economic, housing and social opportunities. The organization was chartered as a non-profit to identify and pursue projects, primarily physical in the areas of developing housing, beautification, and economic revitalization and to provide the client services necessary to increase opportunities for home ownership for the residents of the Acres Homes community.

FIFTH WARD

Fifth Ward is the lowest-income neighborhood in Houston. Settled and developed in the 1860's, the neighborhood experienced decline and disinvestments from 1965-1990 and came to be described by Texas Monthly as "Texas' toughest, proudest, baddest ghetto." In 1989, Fifth Ward residents, civic leaders, business owners, ministers, and educators organized Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation. Home to historic churches, the city's first settlement house, and first black arts center, Fifth Ward has a rich history. Community residents in a series of town hall meetings established Fifth Ward CRC's mission. That mission is to be a catalytic organization dedicated to the collaborative fostering of holistic community development. Through its mission it can achieve rebuilding a healthy community through housing development, economic revitalization, safety, and beautification. Through Fifth Ward CRC's efforts, the community is now experiencing a surge in redevelopment, investment, and community spirit.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<http://www.houstonhope.org/>

<http://fifthwardcrc.fifthwardhouston.org/>

<http://www.acreshomescdc.org/>