



## **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) CREATIVE PLACEMAKING HANDPRINT PROJECT**

### **Important Dates:**

- Pre-Submission Information Zoom Hours from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30. Please send your intent to participate to Gail Lozoff at [gail@lozoff.com](mailto:gail@lozoff.com) and receive a Zoom link.
- Submissions due by 4:00 p.m. CDT on Friday, July 17, 2020.

### **Introduction and Project Description**

The Lykins Neighborhood Association is seeking a Kansas City-based artist to design and collaborate on a creative placemaking project for the Promenade at Lykins Square Park located in the Lykins Neighborhood of the Historic Northeast community in Kansas City, Missouri. The Promenade is a major component of the recently completed community-led Master Plan for Lykins Square Park (see Background of the Neighborhood and Project below).

The Neighborhood recently completed the Park redesign. The design was driven by extensive community input from the many diverse cultures of the neighborhood. It began with several focus groups and a day-long charette led by the Eco-Abet team, a group of volunteer architects. Brainstorming results were evaluated and integrated into one comprehensive plan by landscape architect Rick Howell of PLAID collaborative. The plan was then approved by the neighborhood and adopted by the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Board (see attached).

A major component of the plan is the Walking Promenade that connects Norton as it is interrupted by the park. The Promenade will have event spaces at either end and a small plaza where the two Norton extensions, which are parallel and slightly separated, connect. See map in neighborhood map at <https://goo.gl/maps/iDyf6oYVQgdkAdbf7> and the park Master Plan, which is attached.

The Handprint Project is intended to creatively integrate into the promenade and perhaps the perimeter of the event spaces and the plaza, if needed.

The project is stewarded by the Handprint Project Committee, a volunteer committee comprised of residents of the Lykins Neighborhood, architects and landscape designers, Whittier School representatives, and neighborhood artists.

Project Artists or an Artist-led Project Team will work with members of the Lykins Handprint Project Committee, staff from the City of Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department, and other stakeholders.

## **Project Vision**

The Committee values the experience, expertise, and creativity of artists, and desires to use creative placemaking as an important process and tool for community engagement, as well as social and cultural connection in this neighborhood of many cultures. In particular, creative placemaking in this neighborhood is about collaborating with people who live here to create a space that results in a vibrant, safe, and pride-filled community. The Promenade aims to create a recreational space that is inclusive of all community members—where residents, visitors, friends, families, and most importantly, children and youth, feel safe and welcomed. The Promenade will also be utilized as a Market Space for local commerce of urban agriculture, world cuisine and artisan goods.

The essential vision of the project is to incorporate hundreds of hand-prints into the promenade. The hand-prints will primarily come from neighborhood children who attend the Whittier Elementary School. We will also include handprints from adults in the neighborhood and from community stakeholders. We envision the handprints integrated into the promenade in an artistic fashion. Our vision is that the work will celebrate the vibrant diversity of the neighborhood. It should also give the participating hand-print providers a sense of ownership and belonging in the Park. Ultimately, we hope that it will encourage more people to come to the Park.

We anticipate that installation of the project will be in the spring of 2021. The hand-prints will ultimately be made in relatively small concrete tiles (approximately 16” by 16” squares (or different geometric shapes)).

## **Handprint Project Purpose and Goals**

The main goals of the Handprint Project are to:

- Enhance the esthetics of the park;
- Involve the community with the purpose of creating pride and inclusion;
- Use creative placemaking to foster inclusive communication, creative problem solving and relationship building between our various cultural groups and in the entire neighborhood

## **Background of the Neighborhood and Project**

The Lykins Neighborhood is one of six neighborhoods that comprise the Historic Northeast community. Lykins is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the City. Last year, there were 19 language spoken in the neighborhood elementary school.

The neighborhood has approximately 3,500 residents comprised of people from around the world, including immigrants of multiple generations and recent refugees from international conflict areas. The Neighborhood contains mostly modest single family homes and small apartment buildings. It is built around Lykins Square Park as one of its major green spaces. Currently, the Neighborhood Association is working as master developer to rehab abandoned homes and secure abandoned properties near the Lykins Square Park for development.

In 2018, the Hoxie Collective prepared a study of the entire neighborhood that would form the basis for decisions regarding its redevelopment. The goal of the study was to identify the focus area that would present the best opportunity for redevelopment success. The goal is to provide a range of home and rental prices and to protect homeowners from increases in taxes due to gentrification.

Using the study results, the Neighborhood chose the 9 blocks around Lykins Square Park to be its first focus area. Through the project, in the coming 12 months participating rehabbers and builders will: build 6 new houses, rehab 13 properties and build a new Neighborhood Association office in the focus area. We have actually had to expand the focus area because all the blighted properties in the focus area now are set to be rehabbed and our participating rehabbers want to do more.

### **Three Phases of the Handprint Project**

**Phase I: Community Engagement.** Gather initial community ideas and consensus on character and aesthetics of the handprint concept and how it complements the new park promenade design. This phase was largely completed during 2019.

**Phase II: Design.** Design the Handprints creative interpretation. This will include creation of an artistic concept as well as detailed design specifications, fabrication plan and cost estimations for the implementation of the design, The goals of Phase II are to:

- engage residents in the park improvements so that they develop a sense of ownership of their neighborhood green space.
- bring a culturally diverse neighborhood together to increase awareness, engagement, social cohesion and vigilance.
- continue to strengthen the neighborhood association’s partnership with Whittier Elementary and provide a venue for learning and creativity for students
- create a dynamic long-term relationship among those living in the area today

**Phase III: Implementation.** Collaborate with Neighborhood Committee, Landscape Designer and Fabricators to oversee the project and ensure its success.

**This Request for Qualifications (RFP) is for Phase II.** *A separate RFP will be issued for Phase III once Phase II is completed.*

For this RFP an artist may submit an individual application as a “Project Artist,” or an artist may coordinate an “Artist-led Project Team” and submit an application for that Project Team. The Artist led Project Team may consist of the artist and one additional professional whose expertise and experience would be beneficial to the project (e.g. an architect, designer, community organizer, nonprofit administrator, entrepreneur, contractor, etc.). Project Artists and Artist-led Project Teams may be from a broad range of visual artistic disciplines.

The design process may include community meetings and/or neighborhood events. The engagement may need to be via phone, video conference, and other methods that maintain safe physical distance.

Once input has been gathered, the Project Artists or Artist-led Project Team will work with the community, and project partners, to recommend and present the design concept for the project. Once the design plan has been accepted by the Neighborhood Association, the Project Artists or the Artist led Project Team will be invited to submit a proposal for Phase III: Design Implementation.

### **Artist Time Commitment and Budget Proposal**

The total award for Phase II is a maximum lump-sum fee of \$10,000. The submission can either be for an individual artist or a team. This is inclusive of all time at meetings and any expenses such as transportation to the meetings or other reimbursables. The anticipated length for involvement is three months, approximately August to November 2020.

Meetings will be scheduled with advance notice, and at this time it is assumed that physical distancing requirements to maintain safety may be in place.

- Anticipated Neighborhood Meetings
  - Kickoff meeting with Handprint Committee
  - 4-5 meetings with the various committee members during creative development
  - Meeting to present to Neighborhood Association
  - Follow up meeting to explore commentary
  - Final presentation meeting with Committee or Neighborhood
- Coordination with Landscape Architect to insure integration into overall park plan
- Initial design intent sketches to include proposed fabrication
  - Research, in conjunction with Landscape Architect, into fabricators, budget and proposed fabrication process
  - Description of community involvement process in fabrication
- Final drawing that includes specifications for fabrication and budget guidelines

### **Eligibility**

The following are eligible to apply: Kansas City-metro based artists who are at least 18 years of age, and who have worked on collaborative projects (in a paid or volunteer capacity) in Kansas City.

### **Pre-Submission Information Meeting**

Committee members will hold “office hours” for those wishing to gather further information and clarification. The hours will be from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. on June 30, 2020 on Zoom (see link above). If you would like to schedule a time slot, or just have questions, please email Gail Lozoff at [gail@lozoff.com](mailto:gail@lozoff.com).

### **Submission Materials**

Please submit the following to Lykins Neighborhood Deputy Executive Director Gail Lozoff via email at [gail@lozoff.com](mailto:gail@lozoff.com) by 4:00 p.m. CDT on Friday, July 17, 2020 . Submissions received after this deadline will not be considered. The selected Project Artists or Artist-led Project Team will be notified by no later than July 31, 2020. If a team is submitting, the items must be submitted for each team member.

The Letter of Intent, Two Examples, and Resume must be submitted as attachments to the email in PDF formats; the Images and Video must be submitted via Dropbox or other similar cloud-based platform.

### **1. One-Page Letter of Intent**

- Please describe any history, connection or familiarity with the Historic Northeast and its residents and/or another neighborhood in the Kansas City Metropolitan area.
- Clearly describe your interest in the project and how you will be able to contribute to its success.
- Summarize your experience in developing and/or executing creative and collaborative projects (in a paid or volunteer capacity) in the Kansas City Metropolitan area and beyond (art installations, interactive and participatory artworks multimedia projects, creative placemaking events, etc.). Please note if you have had experience working on projects for the public sector and with contractors that may be relevant for this project.
- Describe how you have used arts and culture to address a community issue/challenge or used a creative solution, creative problem-solving, or an artist practice to build upon a community asset.
- Indicate your experience and willingness to engage community in a creative placemaking process.

*\*Please contact us if you have any special provisions by which you'd like to submit answers, via another medium or otherwise*

### **2. Two Examples of Engaging the Community (No more than 500 words)**

The Lykins Neighborhood is one of the most ethnically and economically diverse neighborhoods in the Kansas City Metropolitan area. Therefore, the Committee is interested in how applicants have created opportunities for residents to participate in an inclusive creative process. The Committee asks applicants to convey at least two (2) concrete ways in which the community could be engaged in the project. This reflection could be submitted in whatever medium the applicant deems appropriate.

### **3. Resume/Portfolio**

If you are submitting an application for an Artist-led Project Team, please submit the following information listed below for each person on the team.

- Experience: list all relevant professional experience including any commissions, residencies, touring, exhibitions, collaborations, and projects involving the community and work in the public sector.
- Education: list educational background(s) and training(s).
- Experience working with the City of Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department, or any other Parks system of similar size and scale, as well as organizations and institutions locally and beyond.
- A relevant body of work that demonstrates conceptual, aesthetic, and technical mastery in at least one artistic medium.
- Three professional references include names, phone numbers, and email addresses.

For submissions or questions:

Gail Lozoff

Deputy Executive Director

Lykins Neighborhood Association

Phone (816)550-0808

E-mail [gail@lozoff.com](mailto:gail@lozoff.com)



1"=50'

**Key**

- Existing Features:**
- A. Playground
  - B. Basketball
  - C. Splash Pad
  - D. Light Poles
  - E. On-street parking

- PAC Requested Projects:**
1. Perimeter walking path; 7' wide concrete
  2. Pedestrian/event promenade (12' wide concrete walk, 12 shade trees, seating, community art)
  3. Flexible soccer area for various field sizes (grading, drainage, turfgrass sod, goals)
  4. Security cameras on poles – partial cost (\$25K additional funding)

- Funded Projects:**
5. Shade structure (paved surface and lighting) (Sunderland Foundation)
  6. Park monument ID signs w/park rules (KC Parks)
  7. Site furnishings: throughout (picnic tables, benches, grills, trash/ recycling) (KC Parks)
  8. New shade (16) and ornamental (32) trees (various locations) (KC Parks)
  9. Security cameras on poles – full \$35K (Sunderland Foundation)

- Phase 2 Improvements:**
10. Play structure for older kids (soft surface, shade trees)
  11. Terraced seating on slope
  12. Additional shade structures/pergolas
  13. Secondary paved circulation paths
  14. Storm water collection feature
  15. Steel arches w/ID signage at N/S park entry gateways

**Master Plan Concept**