



# CALL TO ARTISTS

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

### Port of Tacoma Centennial Artwork

**BUDGET:** \$90,000 all inclusive

**DEADLINE:** April 29, 2019, 11:59pm

#### SUMMARY

The City of Tacoma, in partnership with the Port of Tacoma, is seeking an artist or artist team to create an iconic Centennial artwork for the Port. The artwork should celebrate and tell the story of the Port, and be informed by the Port's rich history as a regional economic engine and international connector. The artwork will be located at Fireman's Park in downtown Tacoma, WA (801 A Street). This opportunity is funded by the Port of Tacoma, and will be managed by the City's Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant(s) must live in Washington State, Oregon, or California
- Applicant(s) can apply as a single artist or as an artist team
- Applicant(s) must be 18 years or older and not a full-time student
- Applicant(s) must be a professional artist
- Applicant(s) cannot be a member of the Tacoma Arts Commission, or an employee of the City or Port

People who are members of historically disenfranchised racial, ethnic, cultural, and other identity groups are encouraged to apply.

#### BACKGROUND

On November 5, 1918, Pierce County voters established the Port of Tacoma. Since that time, the Port has been an economic engine and major employer in the area, and has connected Tacoma to the rest of the world. As part of the Port's Centennial Celebration, the Board is commissioning a public artwork to commemorate the Port's rich history, contributions, and leadership in the region, and set the stage for the next 100 years.

For more information, visit: <https://www.portoftacoma.com/sites/default/files/CentennialMagazine.pdf>

#### ART OPPORTUNITY/CONSIDERATIONS

The artwork should embody the energy and opportunity that trade, transportation, and the Port create for our region – past, present, and future. The artist may choose to draw on themes of international commerce and global stability; human industry and prosperity; excitement and curiosity about trade; or other relevant topics.

The site, Fireman's Park, is in downtown Tacoma and has an uninterrupted view of the Port. The park is currently in the first phase of renovation; the artist may have the opportunity to leverage and/or inform future site work. Additionally, the selected artist may have the opportunity to use artifacts from the Port in the artwork. A successful project will:

- Relate to a diverse group of people, especially of different ages
- Be long-lasting, durable, and require little maintenance
- Be bold and iconic
- Be engaging and photo-friendly
- Be appropriately scaled for the public realm
- Be site-responsive and contribute to a more welcoming environment in the park
- Be informed by the Port's rich history and bright future as a major economic engine and international connector
- Include interpretive text about the Port, either integrated into the artwork, or as associated signage
- Tell the story of the Port of Tacoma's first 100 years and suggest the next 100 years

## SELECTION CRITERIA

The artist or artist team will be selected based on:

- Artistic quality as exemplified in past work
- Ability to think and work in a scale and with materials appropriate to the site
- Ability to think conceptually and create artwork responsive to the project
- Ability to create an engaging and iconic artwork
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Ability to tell stories through public art
- Ability to work with stakeholders as part of developing a public artwork

## ABOUT THE PORT OF TACOMA

Mission: Deliver prosperity by connecting customers, cargo and community with the world.

Core Values: Integrity, Customer focus, Teamwork, Courage, Competitive spirit, Sustainability

Created by Pierce County citizens in 1918, the Port of Tacoma is a powerful economic engine in Pierce County and throughout the State of Washington, creating significant private investment and family-wage jobs within the region. Port activities account for more than 29,000 jobs and contribute more than \$223 million each year in state and local taxes.

## TIMELINE – All dates subject to change

April 29, 2019, 11:59pm	Deadline for submissions
Week of May 6, 2019	Finalist Selection
Week of May 20, 2019	Finalist Interviews
December 31, 2020	Artwork Installation Deadline

## SUBMISSION PROCESS

Eligible artists and artist teams interested in this opportunity must submit the following three items via

Submittable: <https://tacomaarts.submittable.com/submit> *Please note that this is a request for qualifications, not proposals – do not submit proposals for this opportunity.*

### 1. Short Responses

Responses to the following questions in 250 words or less each:

- What is your approach to public art?
- Why are you interested in this project?
- What is your experience creating engaging and/or iconic artwork?
- How have you used storytelling in a past project?

### 2. Work Samples with Descriptions

10 digital images of past work with concise descriptions. If available, work samples should include documentation of similar past public projects. Artist teams are encouraged to submit work that was previously completed as a team.

### 3. Resume & References

Three pages or less, including three professional references. Artist teams should submit a resume for each artist. Only finalists' references will be contacted.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Rebecca Solverson [Rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:Rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org) 253-591-5564

