ArtPrize Featured Public Projects

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

ArtPrize Featured Public Projects is a grant program that was launched in 2016. ArtPrize is soliciting proposals for large, ambitious public art projects for multiple high-visibility public sites. Artists will receive grants ranging from $5,000-$15,000 per project, along with in-kind donations from construction, shipping and engineering firms. There is a two step application process. Artists must first answer this Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Several artists will then be awarded stipends to complete detailed proposals for review.

What is ArtPrize?

ArtPrize is an open, independently organized international art competition and a 501(c)(3) non-profit. For 19 days, three square miles of downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan, becomes an open playing field where anyone can find a voice in the conversation about what art is, and why it matters. Two $200,000 grand prizes and eight category awards, more than $500,000 is awarded. Half decided by public vote, and half decided by a jury of art experts. Art from around the world pops up in every inch of downtown, and it is all free and open to the public. It's unorthodox, highly disruptive, and undeniably intriguing to the art world and public alike.

ArtPrize 10 will take place from September 19 -October 7, 2018

The Grants

Project proposals for temporary public art projects are currently being accepted for Ah-Nab-Awen Park, Gillett Bridge and the Grand River. More than one project may be installed in each location, determined by ArtPrize.

All artistic mediums are encouraged, but installations must be fabricated from materials appropriate for public display in an unguarded, exterior environment. This includes the ability with withstand environmental factors, and interactions with pedestrians and the general public.

Grants will be provided to selected artists to offset some costs for
- Signed engineering drawings from a Michigan licensed engineer
- Transportation and installation of artwork
- Maintaining the installation throughout the event
- Removing installation after ArtPrize 10 ends
- Restoring installation site to its original condition (Leave No Trace)

ArtPrize will work to connect selected artists with firms providing in-kind services, designed to assist with project budgets. These firms can include shipping, construction, engineering and materials. These donations are not guaranteed.

Eligibility

Artists with experience producing large scale public art installations, permanent or temporary, are eligible. Selected artists must participate in ArtPrize 10 as an official entry, and the artist registration fee will be waived.

Application Process

Phase One: RFQ
Interested artists must answer this Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
RFQs are due on April 5th

RFQs must include:

- **Letter of Intent**: Artist should present a compelling idea or concept for the space, an overview of how the project will be completed, and demonstration of experience working on projects of comparable size and budget. Maximum length one page.
- **Concept Drawings:** Images, rendering, or other drawings of your proposed project
- **Digital Assets:** Images or video of 3-5 relevant completed projects (up to 10 digital assets).
- **Artist Résumé or CV:** If applying as a collaborative entry, please include each members' résumé.

Selection of the finalists will be based on the following criteria:
- Compelling and feasible idea described in a letter of intent
- Quality of past work samples submitted
- Proven ability to execute large scale public art projects

Phase Two: Full Proposal

After the RFQ's are evaluated, a select number of finalists will be asked to submit complete project proposals. Finalists will be compensated with grants of $500 to complete a detailed proposal. Artists or groups of artists may apply for one or more of the sites. An artist or artist group can only receive a grant for one project at one site. Not all projects that receive a proposal stipend will ultimately receive a grant.

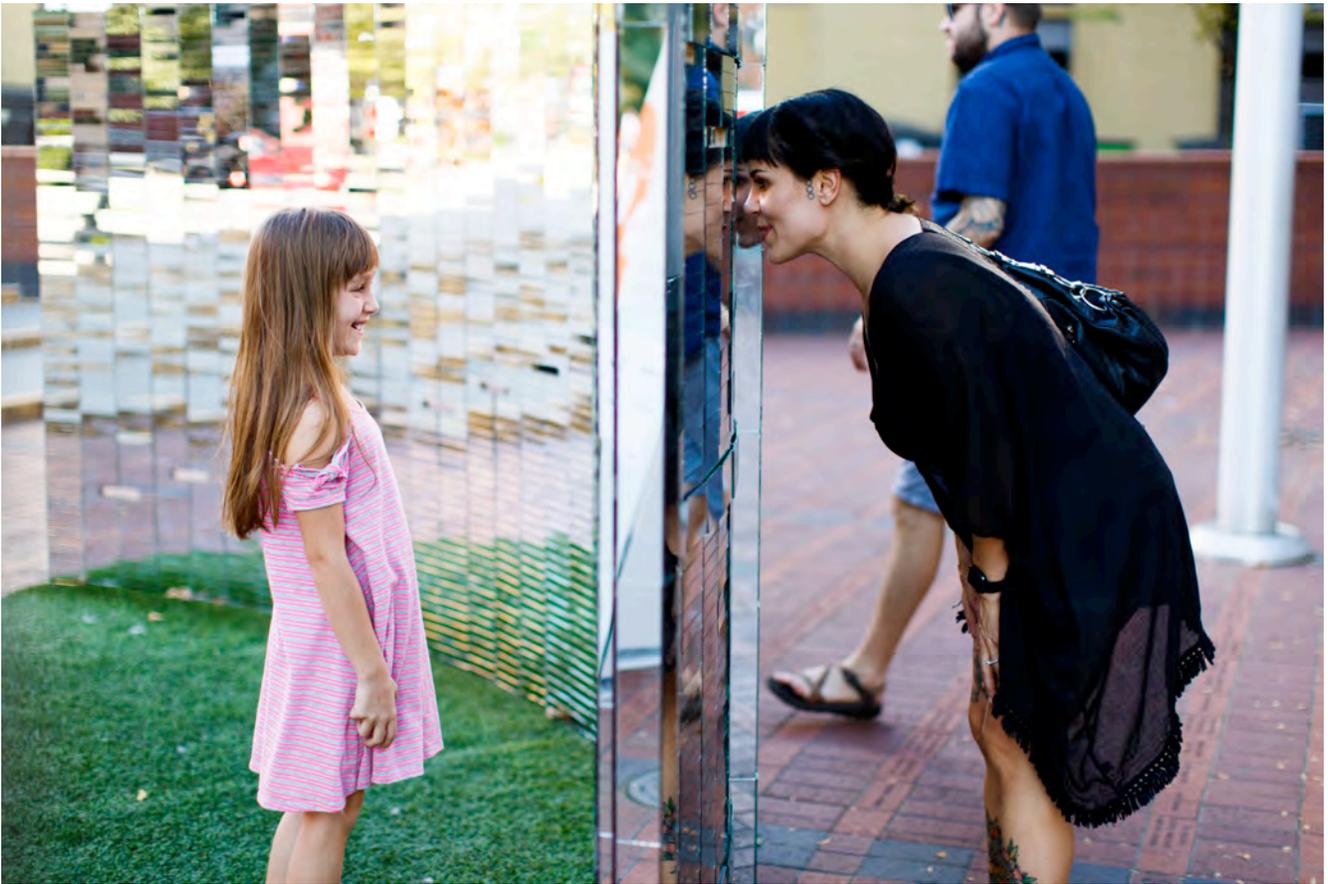Full Proposals must include the following:
- Detailed designs
- Installation site map, plan and timeline
- Removal plan and timeline
- Budget
- Any other relevant information

Final proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:
- Innovative and engaging (interactive and participatory installations are encouraged but not required)
- Technical feasibility and implementation plan
- Safety of the visitors
- Submittal of all required application materials
- Attention to the broader context of the installation
- The ability to withstand the elements, interaction with pedestrians and the general public during the duration of the event.

The selected artists will be announced by May 22.

Materials must be submitted to ArtPrize via mailto:featuredpublicprojects@artprize.org

Timeline

February 12	Request For Qualifications opens
April 5	Request For Qualifications closes
April 13	Second round artists notified. Selected artists are asked to submit complete proposals.
May 7	Completed final proposals due.
May 22	Grant recipients selected.
May 31	Grant recipients confirm projects and timeline.
September 12-18	Installation
September 19	ArtPrize 10 opens
October 7	ArtPrize 10 ends
October 8-10	Deinstall

How to Submit Materials

Please submit application materials to **featuredpublicprojects@artprize.org** by **April 5, 2018 at 5:00 PM EST.**

Ah-Nab-Awen Park

Ah-Nab-Awen Park is a narrow green space the runs along the west side of the Grand River. Officially named in 1979 by the Elders of the Three Fires Council, "Ah-Nab-Awen" means "Resting Place", honoring the Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi nations. The park is adjacent to the Gerald R. Ford Museum and visible from the DeVos Convention Center.

Installation Information:

- A site map must be provided to display the layout of the installation
- Irrigation lines prohibit the use of stakes on the grass, water barrels must be used
- Power is available via a 400amp camlock located on the south side of the stage
- The stage is approximately 80ftx40ft.
- No security is provided, park is accessible 24 hours a day

Gillett Bridge

Gillett Bridge is a heavily traveled pedestrian walkway in the heart of Grand Rapids. The Bridge connects the Gerald R. Ford Museum and DeVos Place Convention Center.

Installation Information:

- Gillett Bridge is approximately 500ft long and 25ft. wide.
- There are six 20amp, 110volt outlets one the south side of the bridge, each one is located at the base of the lamp post.
- Installations must leave a 12ft minimum path to allow for emergency vehicle access
- Nothing can be suspended from the bridge or attached to the railing
- Installations cannot be staked or anchored into the bridge itself, water barrels or

The Grand River

The Grand River is the river running through the heart of the downtown Grand Rapid, among the most visible public venue locations in all of ArtPrize. Since ArtPrize's inception, the Grand River venue has been host of some of the event's most memorable installations.

The Grand River has a large number of potential installation sites. In the past, installations have been placed near bridges (Gillett, Blue Bridge) so they can be seen by visitors easily. These installations have been situated close to the shore. The Grand River poses some unique challenges:

- Water levels can vary by up to 1.5ft. during the event.
- The current is strong enough at times to knock an adult over, the force of the current changes dramatically depending on the weather.
- All installations must be approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).
- MDEQ requires signed engineering documents from a Michigan Certified Engineer.

Questions?

We are happy to answer any questions you have!
Email Katie - **featuredpublicprojects@artprize.org**