ArtPrize Featured Public Projects
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
Gillett Bridge
Grand Rapids, MI

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Summary

ArtPrize Featured Public Projects is a new grant program for 2016. ArtPrize is soliciting proposals for large, ambitious public art projects for four high-visibility public sites. One project will be selected for each site. Artists will receive grants ranging from $10,000 to $15,000 per project, along with in-kind donations from construction, shipping, and engineering firms. There is a two step applications process. Artists must first answer a Request of Qualifications (RFQ). Several artists per site will then be awarded stipends to complete detailed proposals for review. Ultimately only one proposal per site will be selected and awarded a grant.

What is ArtPrize?

ArtPrize is a radically open, independently organized international art competition and a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For 19 days, three square miles of downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan, become an open playing field where anyone can find a voice in the conversation about what is art and why it matters. Art from around the world pops up in every inch of downtown, and it’s all free and open to the public. It's unorthodox, highly disruptive, and undeniably intriguing to the art world and public alike.

Artist Anila Quayyum Agha
Featured Public Projects Program Information

Activating public space throughout Grand Rapids has been a major component of ArtPrize since its inception. We are pleased to announce a returning partnership with the city of Grand Rapids and Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc. to place innovative and engaging public art in city-owned venues during ArtPrize. Project proposals for temporary public art projects are currently being accepted for Ah-Nab-Awen Park, Vandenberg Calder Plaza, Grand River, Blue Bridge and Gillett Bridge.

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

Grants will be provided to selected artists to help offset costs for the following 1) hiring a Michigan licensed engineer to prepare a signed and sealed technical report 2) overseeing transportation and installation of artwork 3) maintaining artwork from install to the end of the event 4) removing artwork after the completion of the event 5) restoring the site to its original condition upon completion of removal.

ArtPrize will work to connect selected artists with firms providing in-kind services designed to assist with project budgets. These firms will include shipping, construction, engineering, and insurance. It should not be expected that these donations will cover these types of expenses completely, but they will help.

Eligibility

Artists with experience producing large scale permanent or temporary public art installations or performances are eligible. Selected artists must participate in ArtPrize 2016 as an official entry, and their artist registration fee will be waived.

Two-Phase Application Process

Phase One: RFQ

- Interested artists must answer a Request for Qualifications (RFQ).
- RFQs are due March 10 at 5:00PM EST 2016
- RFQs must be submitted by email to featuredpublicprojects@artprize.org
- RFQs must include:
  - Letter of Intent: Artist should present a compelling idea for the space, an overview of how the project will be completed, and demonstration of experience working on comparable projects. Maximum length one page.
2. Digital Images or Videos: Images or video of 3-5 relevant past projects (up to 10 images). Each image should be titled “Lastname_Firstname_image#”

3. Image List: An annotated image identification sheet with clear explanations of each project submitted. This should include: image number, title, date of completion, media, location and a brief description of the project.

4. Professional Resume: If applying as a collaborative entry, please have each member submit their individual resumes.

5. Professional References: Please include name, title and contact information of three professional references.

Materials should be submitted to ArtPrize via featuredpublicprojects@artprize.org

Phase Two: Full Proposals

- After the RFQ’s are evaluated by the ArtPrize Arts Advisory Council and ArtPrize staff, a group of finalists will be asked to submit complete project proposals.
- Finalists will be compensated $500 to complete detailed proposals
- Final selection will be made based on the content and feasibility of the proposed projects (see Selection Process and Criteria below)
- Artists or groups of artists may apply for one or more of the opportunities. An artist or group of artists can only receive a grant for one project at one site.

Materials should be submitted to ArtPrize via featuredpublicprojects@artprize.org

Selection Process and Criteria

Artists’ submissions will be reviewed by the ArtPrize Arts Advisory Council and by ArtPrize staff. The selection of the finalists will be based on the following criteria:

1. Compelling idea described in a letter of intent
2. Quality of past work samples submitted
3. Proven ability of execute public art projects at a large scale

A group of finalists will be selected and notified by March 22, 2016. Finalists will be paid a stipend ($500) and be asked to prepare a complete proposal, which will include detailed designs, installation plans, removal plans, concise budget and other relevant information.

Up to three applicants per site will be awarded stipends to create detailed proposals, but only one project will be awarded a grant and be allowed to install.

Final proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Innovative and engaging public art project
   a. Projects are encouraged to be interactive, photogenic day and night, participatory
2. Evidence of technical feasibility of the project idea and implementation
   a. Can be installed during limited timeline provided
   b. Proven ability to create proposed project
3. Safe, does not pose a threat to visitor safety
4. Submittal of all required application materials
5. Attention to context, including:
   a. ArtPrize: a technology-driven, urban, democratic, participatory public art event
   b. Grand Rapids: a midwest city with roots in design and manufacturing
   c. Installation site: its specific physical, historical, and political qualities
6. The ability to withstand high winds and rain, interaction with pedestrians and the general public for the duration of the event.

The selected artists will be announced by May 1, 2016.

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>Request for Qualifications opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Request for Qualifications closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Artists are notified if they are moving on to the second round. Selected artists are asked to submit complete proposals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Completed final proposals are due to ArtPrize</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Second round artist are notified if they have been selected.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Selected artists confirm their timelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21</td>
<td>ArtPrize 2016 opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>ArtPrize 2016 closes</td>
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ArtPrize reserves the right to alter the project schedule as needed.
**Gillett Bridge Specifics**

- Gillett Bridge is a heavily traveled pedestrian walkway in the heart of Grand Rapids. The bridge connects two landmarks, the Devos Place Convention Center and the Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum.
- In 1945, Gillett Bridge was designed by Jack Ropeski and is the fourth longest surviving earth filled concrete arch bridge in Michigan with a Length of 472 ft. The bridge was designed to carry street railway lines across the Grand River for the Michigan Railway Engineering Company and was the first access for vehicles to cross the river. The bridge was constructed on a stone foundation with timber and plank. It burnt down later and has been rebuilt several times.

**Budget**

- The maximum grant for a project on Gillette Bridge is $10,000.

**Restrictions & Guidelines**

- A site map must be provided to display the layout of the installation
- Installations must allow for a minimum of 10 ft in constant width through the entirety of the walkway to accommodate pedestrians and emergency vehicles.
- Installations cannot attach, wrap or hang from the light poles.
- All installations must be on the bridge deck and cannot anchored to the bridge.
- All sound must be conducted below 85 decibels
● The bridge is 500 ft. long and 25 ft. wide

**Education Requirements**
Gillett Bridge is unique in the Featured Public Projects program in that the installation awarded a grant for this site must include interactive educational components.

- Must be a large-scale interactive piece and or a community engagement project.
- Must engage people of all ages, specifically designed to engage school groups and families.
- Must present educational value and connect to a singular theme.
- The integrity of the interactive experience has to hold up without a person present, unless the artist agrees to being available during all official hours.
- Anyone working directly with families and school group may be requested to submit a background check.
- Must be willing to work with ArtPrize education staff to facilitate a few scheduled presentations, workshops, and or design educational resources during or for the ArtPrize event. These programs and or resources can be part of the interactive theme of the piece or in additional to. All proposals should include a short synopsis of what will be provided, designed with the below parameters in mind:
  1. All programs must occur during the 19 days of the ArtPrize event.
  2. Programs and or resources must have the capacity to serve or reach a **minimum** of 350 total individuals.
  3. Programs designed for school groups must take place Monday-Friday between the hours of 9AM-2PM. Program location can be at the project site or an enclosed venue within the ArtPrize boundaries. Capacity for each session offered should have a **minimum** of 35 individuals.
  4. Programs designed for school groups should be between 30 minutes- 60 minutes in length.
  5. Programs designed for school groups should be grade specific and ArtPrize education staff will ask for program details including classroom activity suggestions and integrated content standards.
  6. Programs for families must take place between Monday-Friday between the hours of 5PM-8PM or Saturday/Sunday between the hours of 9AM-8PM.
Electrical

- There are 20AMP 110V outlets on every light pole along the bridge.
- Cords are not to be strung across walkways/bridge for safety reasons.