

**Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Institute
Bronson Park Lincoln Statue**

**Call for Artists
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**

Historical Background:

On the morning of August 27, 1856, a clean-shaven 47-year-old Abraham Lincoln left Chicago on the Michigan Central Railroad bound for Kalamazoo. He had been invited to speak at a political rally that afternoon in what is now Bronson Park where upwards of 10,000 people had gathered. To commemorate Lincoln's visit, a community-wide effort has been underway to raise funds to place a bronze statue of Lincoln in the city park where he spoke in 1856.

Geographic Location:

Kalamazoo is located in southwest Michigan with a metro area population of 265,066.

City Approval:

In December of 2013, the Kalamazoo City Commission approved a request by the Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Institute to place a privately-funded bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln in Bronson Park. Specific site location within the park was granted in July of 2016. A joint statement by the city and the Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Institute reads: "The City of Kalamazoo supports the placement of a privately-funded bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln in Bronson Park, and has authorized the Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Project (now Institute) to coordinate fundraising efforts and oversee the artistic direction for the statue design and selection of a sculptor. The statue will be placed on ground located in the north central part of the park."

RFQ:

The Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Institute, a Michigan 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, is seeking experienced sculptors to submit qualifications for the design and installation of a larger-than-life-size statue of Abraham Lincoln.

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is open to experienced artists who have completed at least one commissioned outdoor art piece. The artist must be able to provide samples of previous works and budgets. Also, finalists must have the ability to attend an interview and presentation of the design.

RFQ Submissions:

All RFQ submissions are to be sent by email to: garyswain@aol.com and must be received by March 4, 2022, 5:00 p.m. EST. For questions, email Gary Swain at the above email address.

Non-discrimination Policy:

We are committed to a policy of providing opportunities to people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical ability.

Artist Award

The total artist's award for the statue is a maximum of \$125,000. This not-to-exceed total must cover all design costs, fabrication, foundry fees including casting, finished patina and transportation of completed work. The Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Institute will be responsible for all costs related to installation including site preparation, plinth, footings and pedestal.

Lincoln Statue Depiction:

The artist's portrayal should be representative of Mr. Lincoln as he appeared in Kalamazoo in 1856 without a beard.

Estimated Schedule:

01/24/2022 RFQ is announced.

03/04/2022 All RFQ submissions must be received by email by March 04, 2022, 5:00 p.m. EST.

04/01/2022 Committee reviews and selection of finalists.

06/01/2022 Finalists present design models.

08/01/2022 Board selects winning design and presents final design for approval by Kalamazoo City Commission.

08/01/2022 Artist begins fabrication upon approval.

02/01/2022 Artist completes and delivers sculpture.

Required RFQ Submission Documents (in digital format only):

Please provide the following via email in one or more PDF documents using a 12-point font:

- Artist contact information and a resume.
- Three references (contact information only) for recently completed project(s).
- A brief letter describing interest in project and approach to design. Also, add a statement addressing eligibility criteria.
- Up to 10 JPEG images of your relevant project(s).
Label each image in sequence with your full name and number each image.
- A brief description of each image of prior work sample and budget.

Initial Candidate Selection Process

The Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Institute will review candidate submissions and select the artists to participate in the final design proposal phase. Each artist will be paid a stipend to prepare original design concepts in the form of a 3D model or physical maquette.

Note: Do not submit a proposal for artwork at this time.