

Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc.
Request for Qualifications
Comprehensive Plan for Public Art
Consulting Services

Issue Date: February 1, 2023

Proposal/Qualification Due Date: February 28, 2023, 12:00 pm EST

Qualifications Format & Instructions:

1 hard copy, mailed/delivered to:

Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc.

132 W. Walnut St.

Indianapolis, IN 46204

AND an electronic document emailed to Jobs@indyculturaltrail.org. Please include "Public Art Comprehensive Plan RFQ" in the subject line.

Questions delivered by: February 17, 2023, 12:00 pm EST via

jobs@indyculturaltrail.org. Please include "Public Art Comprehensive Plan RFQ" in the subject line.

Submissions should include:

- Firm description
- Qualifications for this project
- Key staff on project team
- Statement of Experience with at least three (3) similar scopes or projects
- Philosophy and approach to process
- Proposed timeline for the planning process
- Demonstrated capacity for project and timeline
- Three references

Tentative Timeline:

February 1, 2023 RFQ released

February 28, 2023 Qualifications due

March 15, 2023 Finalists notified*

March 30, 2023 Selection and notification

*ICT may elect to do in-person interviews with each of the finalists which may impact this tentative timeline

SUMMARY

Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. is seeking a qualified firm or professional to partner with to create a comprehensive plan for public art along the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick. The plan will set an ambitious course for the Cultural Trail's public art program over the next five to ten years.

The Comprehensive Plan will:

- Balance the Cultural Trail's tradition of supporting local artists while also working with artists from around the U.S. and beyond.
- Identify and outline staffing needs for a robust and dynamic public art program
- Review current operating policies and procedures regarding public art projects and make recommendations for revisions to insure consistency and best practices
- Recommend relevant policies and practices that support a robust public art program including, but not limited to, artist selection, collections care and management, documentation, gifts of art, and deaccessioning
- Identify and prioritize opportunities for art along and throughout the Trail including, but not limited to commissions, rotating art, exhibits and performance based art
- Involve the community in the process
- Provide benchmarking data for similar public art programs in North America, including concept, staff size, budgets, and operating guidelines
- Include metrics and milestones for implementation of recommendations and measuring success

I. BACKGROUND

The internationally recognized [Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick](#) is the destination pathway and linear park by which most people experience downtown Indianapolis. The Cultural Trail is both the spine and connective fiber that beautifully connects residents and visitors of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to our city's cultural districts, downtown arts and cultural institutions, art galleries, entertainment venues, and public greenspaces. The Cultural Trail accomplishes all of this while keeping Trail users separated from vehicles and on a well-lit pathway that is accessible and available free of charge, 24/7 and every day of the year. The Cultural Trail provides access to art, nature, and beauty along the way including significant investments in public gardens and a [public art collection](#) that was established with the Trail's construction (2007-2013). Built on City- owned public right of way, the Cultural Trail currently stretches eight miles throughout downtown

Indianapolis and serves as the hub for the city's greenway network. The first [expansion of the Cultural Trail](#) is currently underway and will add approximately two miles to the iconic pathway.

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail is both a linear park and an organization. Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose purpose is to inspire, create and sustain connections and cultural experiences for all. In addition to managing the upkeep and marketing of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail and its public art, the nonprofit operates the City's public bikeshare program, Pacers Bikeshare, in partnership with the City of Indianapolis, and partners with the City to manage and program three city-owned public spaces along the Trail.

During the decade since the Cultural Trail's completion, Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc. prioritized maintaining the Cultural Trail's original public art collection, notably raising over \$200,000 through a public campaign to "Keep Ann Dancing" in 2019 (*Ann, dancing, 2007*) by Julian Opie is one of the Trail's original pieces of public art and has become one of the iconic art pieces in the City). The Trail has also hosted temporary exhibitions and hosted live music performances, highlighting our city's rich and diverse arts and culture scene.

Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc. has learned a lot over the past several years stewarding and sustaining the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick. We listened to the community and its inquisitive dialogue about the value of public art stimulated by "Keep Ann Dancing". We've heard from the residents and communities along the Trail about their deep desire for new, more, and more engaging art along the Trail. Among all of this, we're also mindful of the Trail's previous experience and investment in its original public art collection. One of the goals for the Indianapolis Cultural Trail called for the Trail to itself be a destination for arts and culture experiences, and to Indianapolis-based artists while celebrating diverse experiences from artists around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance and value of access to the outdoors and to free and quality public art and cultural programming.

Indianapolis Cultural Trail's Principles and Goals for public art are included as an attachment and reference at the end of this document.

II. GOALS for Comprehensive Plan for Public Art

Our goal for the Public Art Comprehensive Plan is to set an action-oriented road map for prioritizing the public art and culture program along the Indianapolis Cultural Trail. We want to transform the Trail into a leader and destination for celebrating a diversity of artists and experiencing arts and culture in a free and public setting. The comprehensive plan will:

- build upon previous investments in public art along the Trail;
- include community engagement to ensure that residents and communities along the Cultural Trail can have input on how their neighborhoods and their cultural districts can be uplifted as a part of the Trail’s public art and cultural experiences;
- complement the unique design, urban setting and landscape of the Trail;
- identify sites and spaces for incorporating new art placement and cultural programming; and
- be inspirational and bold

The plan will also include recommendations for appropriately staffing a robust public art and culture program for the Cultural Trail; identify opportunities for temporary and ephemeral art installations and exhibitions, including artists’ residency programs; and acknowledge the scope and role of the original public art collection on the Cultural Trail. The plan will also re-envision the role of an arts and culture advisory committee for the Cultural Trail and include community engagement recommendations.

Additionally, the plan will prioritize opportunities for commissions—rotating, temporary, and site-specific work—and include recommendations for ways to include performance-based and/or programmatic opportunities for the public and Trail users to engage with the Trail’s public art collection and exhibitions.

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail put Indianapolis on the map over a decade ago as a place that values bold thinking, innovation and progress. Our vision with the comprehensive plan for public art will do the same as we near the 10-year anniversary of the Cultural Trail: transform Indianapolis through investment in art, culture and connectivity.

Accordingly, the plan should recommend performance metrics and milestones that can be used to measure success in the future as the plan is implemented. Additional performance measures for the planning process itself may include engagement opportunities for stakeholders and community members.

One of the original visions for the Cultural Trail was that it would be an outdoor, publicly accessible and free outdoor venue for public art and cultural experiences. This comprehensive planning process will set the vision and lay the groundwork for what is needed and how to make that vision a reality as we move into the Cultural Trail’s second decade of success.

[End of Request for Qualifications]

Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. Public Art Principles and Goals

adopted September 2, 2020 by ICTI board of directors

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail's public art program and collection is defined as art commissioned by and located on or adjacent to the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick. Our curatorial process prioritizes public engagement and includes temporary, ephemeral and long term works from visual, literary, performance art and beyond. The Indianapolis Cultural Trail believes in and takes responsibility for the power that art has to change lives, inspire and transform people along their journey on the Cultural Trail.

Principles

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick is envisioned to be a place where artists can stretch their imaginations and careers; a place that embraces artistic interventions created using a variety of materials, concepts, and creative professionals.

The following principles inform decisions about the Indianapolis Cultural Trail's public art program:

1. **Focus on quality over quantity** — The Cultural Trail runs through the heart of downtown where there are already monuments, memorials, artworks, and other architectural assets. Therefore we aim to avoid creating visual clutter by littering the Trail with large-scale sculptural projects. We support thoughtful, creative, and innovative work by a range of creative professionals underscoring that the Cultural Trail is a unique and progressive urban transportation system that promotes creativity.
2. **Context and site sensitivity** — The Cultural Trail connects through the city's urban core. Art on the Trail must consider relevant historical, cultural and contemporary contexts as well as the physical attributes of the proposed location.
3. **Engage both experienced and emergent artists** — The Trail is a place for work by artists and creative professionals with various degrees of experience. Local, regional, national, and international artists are welcome. However, artists should have track records that demonstrate professionalism and they should be proposing projects that are appropriate for their experience level.
4. **Support diversity and innovation** — The Cultural Trail is a one-of-a-kind public space serving both as a connector and beautiful linear park. Public art on the Trail supports diversity, innovation and progress.
5. **Connectivity** — The Cultural Trail is about connectivity and public art should support this theme in some manner.

Goals

1. Act as a venue for and steward of public art that support the previously stated principles and are consistent with the vision and mission of Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc.

2. Support a range of artistic expressions by a diverse group of artists to underscore the diversity in the Indianapolis community.
3. Enhance downtown Indianapolis and the Cultural Trail experience through public art. The Trail is not just about the destination; it is about the journey.
4. Support temporary projects making the Trail a dynamic public space where a user's experience will be ever changing.
5. Present intellectually stimulating and aesthetically challenging projects that may expand the community's perception of public art, embracing art's ability to provide learning experiences and to spur dialogue.
6. Ensure adequate funding for maintenance of the Cultural Trail's public art program.