



The City of Cordova
Requests for qualifications for artists for the
Cordova Community Center

RFQ release: November 28, 2011

Onsite Tour: December 8, 2011

Deadline for Proposals: February 29, 2012

Notification By: April 1, 2012

For More Information Contact:
Cathy Sherman, Project Leader
infoservices@cityofcordova.net

Paul Voelckers, Lead Architect
paul@mrvarchitects.com



Cordova Center Project Percent for Art Announcement Request for Proposals

Deadline for Entries: February 29, 2012

Must be received at City Hall by: 4:30 pm February 29, 2012

In accordance with Alaska Statute 35.27.010-030, the City of Cordova announces a request for artists' qualifications for art work to be installed in the Cordova Community Center. This multi-use facility is currently under construction, with completion anticipated by the summer of 2013.

General Description

The community of Cordova is located on Prince William Sound in south-central Alaska. Nestled between the Chugach Mountain Range and the waters of Orca Inlet, Cordova has a maritime climate with generally mild temperatures and frequent rainy weather. Built upon a rich and diverse foundation of bounties from both the sea and the land, the economy is based on fishing, regional research and resource management. Cordova has a strong Native culture and beautiful natural surroundings. Through an inclusive public planning process, the City of Cordova has designed the Cordova Community Center to create a physical infrastructure that will offer economic, educational, cultural and civic opportunities and improve quality of life.

Project Description

The Cordova Community Center is a 34,000 square foot, fully ADA accessible multi-use facility. The Center will combine several functions for the community of Cordova, including municipal administrative offices, museum, library, performing arts theatre/auditorium, meeting rooms, education areas and associated work space. The 4-story building will have an elevator and public stairway linking the business district and the harbor area of the community, providing a new pedestrian link in the heart of town.

The facility will create a lively community center combining a number of uses, strengthening the role of each. The building will offer a state of the art museum that can display, provide interpretation of and protect existing and new collection items in an environmentally controlled space. The new library will have better capacity to serve the community and outlying hatcheries and villages.

This multi-use building also includes a full performing arts theatre for presentation of performances by school children and artists from within and outside the community, and for video presentations or films. The facility will also foster Cordova's ability to attract small conventions and meetings, with the combination of the quality auditorium seating 206 people, large meeting spaces, a foyer with kitchen and other amenities.

Construction Description

The Cordova Community Center is being constructed in phases, with Phase I to complete the site work and exterior shell approximately 50% complete. A second phase to complete the interior build-out is anticipated to begin in early 2012, with 2013 completion. The building is dramatically perched on a steeply sloped site, with the upper level of the building along historic Main Street, and lower portions of the building stepping down toward the working waterfront. It includes a dramatic open atrium space, providing open space linking the two main floors, and capturing sweeping views of the waterfront.

Artwork Budget: \$150,000.00

The total amount of the commissions will be \$150,000. This expenditure will be used for multiple individual works of art. The specific number and cost of final art work will be determined by the selection committee. Each artist submittal shall include the artist's fee for design, labor and installation, shipping if necessary, materials, travel, and supervision. Semi finalists will be selected to produce paid proposals.

Selection Committee

The selection committee includes six individuals representing the community of Cordova. They will be advised by the Architect and Cordova Center Project Leader.

Art Selection Criteria

The selection committee is flexible concerning the type of work which may be accepted. The Cordova Community Center will play a very significant role in the social and educational life of the community. It is the intention of the committee that the work selected is inviting, stimulating, and reflects the people of Cordova, the area environment and the unique history. The type of work may include interactive or collaborative art projects in addition to individual art works and may be smaller, intimate pieces of work or of a larger scale. The committee will consider the durability of proposed projects in light of the setting and the Cordova climate. Criteria for selection will also include:

- Quality, appropriateness and originality of the artist's work as evidenced by the digital or slide images, the letter of interest and their resume.
- Durability, maintenance requirements and safety considerations related to past commissions.
- References and sub-contractor references

Site Visits and Virtual Access of Project

A walk-through of the construction site will be conducted, and will include committee representatives and architect to answer questions. Those proposers wishing to participate shall notify Cathy Sherman in advance. The date is scheduled for December 8, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. Proposers who are unable to visit the community of Cordova in person, can access a virtual tour of the Cordova Community Center via the web and the FTP site. Please contact James Voelckers at james@mrvarchitects.com for detailed information.

SPECIFIC PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Cordova Community Center project includes many areas which may be designated for art proposals. Both exterior and interior spaces are to be considered. Proposals may range from smaller more intimate art to larger pieces; hanging or wall mounted or floor pieces; and interactive art. It is important that proposals work to be reflective of the community of Cordova itself – the people and cultures that make up the community as well as the natural surroundings that envelope and provide a sense of place.

To gain more perspective on Cordova, proposers are encouraged to review the following websites:

- <http://www.cordovachamber.com>
- <http://www.cordovamuseum.org>
- <http://www.cordovalibrary.org>
- <http://www.cityofcordova.net>
- <http://www.ilankacenter.org>
- <http://www.nveyak.com>

Works of art must be durable and meet the Fire Code and the Risk Manager's safety guidelines. Finalists will receive a copy of these guidelines. The installation must be permanent and designed to last the life of the building. Viewers may touch the artwork if it is installed in an accessible location, therefore artwork must also endure substantial public use. Routine maintenance requirements must be minimal. Replacement features such as special lighting, must be commercially available in Alaska.

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Submittal

Artists interested in being considered for selection shall submit a letter of interest with the following information:

- Letter of interest and rough sketch. This may be in any medium of the artist's determination which best illustrates the project intention. Maximum size for submitted material shall be 8.5" x 14" to facilitate committee review.
- Professional resume, three references and digital images of previous work (up to 10 under 2 MB each). Image sheet must state: Title of work, media, and year created.
- An estimated cost for this type of project and/or a budget range.

Additional Information

Questions concerning procedures and submittal requirements can be addressed to Cathy Sherman, Cordova Project Manager, (907)-424-6665. Questions on the building and proposed art locations can also be addressed to Paul Voelckers, MRV Architects, (907) 586-1371.

Deadline for Proposals and Notification

All proposals must be received no later than **4:30 p.m. February 29, 2012**. No late material will be considered. Material should be addressed as follows:

Cordova Center Art Committee
ATTN: Cathy R. Sherman
PO Box 1210
602 Railroad Avenue
Cordova, AK 99574-1210

Materials may also be submitted electronically by no later than 4:30 pm February 29, 2012 to: infoservices@cityofcordova.net

It is anticipated that the committee will review and select artists by March 30, 2012, with notification to all responders shortly thereafter.

Return of Applications

Applications which include clear return provisions will be returned after committee evaluation. Such provisions must include stamped self-addressed envelopes, or postage and labeling for packages.