



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development

Date: January 22, 2013

To: Council Member Betsy Hodges, Chair, Ways and Means Budget Committee
Referral to: None

Subject: Request for Proposals for a Public Artist(s) a plaza on the Third Avenue Bridge (over Interstate I94), Execution of Contract for Selected Artist

Recommendation: Authorize the proper City Officials to issue of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) a Public Artist(s) for a plaza on the 3rd Avenue Bridge over Interstate I94 and direct the proper City Officials to enter into an agreement with the selected artist, not to exceed \$180,000.

Previous Directives: Phase II Public Art Policies, which include policies for artist selection, approved by Minneapolis City Council 4/02/04

Department Information

Prepared by: Mary Altman, Public Arts Administrator
Approved by: Jack Byers, Interim Director, Long Range Planning

Presenters in Committee: Mary Altman
(if applicable) Funding Source and Appropriation 04100 8900420 CMART13

Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval Date January 17, 2013
- Civil Rights Approval Approval Date _____
- Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval Date _____

Financial Impact

- No financial impact
- Action is within the Business Plan

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification; Not mandatory, but will be invited to be involved in the future.
- City Goals: Livable Communities, Healthy Lives
- Comprehensive Plan: Chapter 9, Arts and Culture
- Zoning Code: NA
- Other: NA

Supporting Information

In response to of the Internal Request for Proposals for 2013 Public Art, the City's Public Art Advisory Panel reviewed a number of applications for possible 2013 public art projects. The panel selected the Third Avenue Bridge for its strong connection to these criteria:

- **Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Art:** The site is a highly visible small plaza on the bridge which was constructed when the bridge was originally built during "Avenue of the Arts" planning as part of the 3rd Avenue South restoration. The intention was include a sculptural element at this location.
- **Value Artists and Artists and Artistic Processes:** The site provides a highly visible opportunity to showcase an artist's work.
- **Enhance Community Identity and Place:** The Frank Lloyd Wright inspired bridge is very attractive, and the lighting elements in particular provide a strong visual context for a work of public art.
- **Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities:** This project provides an opportunity to work with key stakeholders that the City has not engaged in a public art project, including the Stevens Square and Loring Park neighborhoods. It is also adjacent to the new Minnesota African American Cultural Center, and the Minneapolis Convention Center.
- **Contribute to Community Vitality:** The location is a major Gateway into the City from south, and there is great potential for the artwork to be visible from the freeway below. It is near the neighborhood commercial node at Nicollet Avenue and 15th Street and adjacent to the loading dock and back door of the Minneapolis Convention Center. The public artwork will provide an opportunity establish a front door presence into Downtown.
- **Use Resources Wisely:** Because the Department of Public Works is rehabilitating the concrete sidewalks and the electrical lighting components on the plaza, there is an opportunity to leverage expenses related to excavating for footings and restoring the site after the artwork and infrastructure improvements are installed. Constructing both of these projects concurrently in a coordinated manner will also diminish the inconvenience to the traveling public.

The timeline calls for selecting an artist this spring and installing the fall of 2013.

Attachments:

3rd Avenue Bridge Public Art Location and Images