



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

**Date:** June 15, 2015

**To:** Honorable John Quincy, Chair Ways & Means Committee

**Referral to:** (None)

**Subject:** Pool of Qualified Art Conservators

### Recommendation:

Authorize the proper City officials to execute of a master service agreement with each of the 2 successful firms for the City of Minneapolis Pool of Qualified Art Conservators. The length of these agreements will be three years from August 1, 2015 to August 1, 2018, with the option of a two year renewal.

### Previous Directives:

August 8, 2007 - Adoption of Public Art Policies including policies for conservation and maintenance.

### Department Information

Prepared by: Mary Altman, Public Arts Administrator, 612-673-3006

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Taylor, Director of Community Planning and Economic Development

Presenters in Committee: Mary Altman, Public Arts Administrator

### Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval X	Date: April 30, 2015
Civil Rights Approval	Approval X	Date: May 6, 2015

### Financial Impact

Action is within the approved budget.

### Community Impact

City Goals - Great Places: Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected.

## Supporting Information

The City of Minneapolis owns and maintains over 70 works of Public Art, including a number of works on Nicollet Mall. This collection has been maintained on a regular basis for over 15 years. The objectives of the City's Public Art Conservation and Maintenance Program are to:

- Inspect the condition of City-owned public artwork on a regular basis;
- Clean and provide other appropriate routine maintenance to public artwork;
- Ensure timely conservation of public artwork;
- Integrate longevity and maintenance considerations into artist's planning and City approval processes for artwork;
- Maintain artworks so that they continue to be safe and contribute to the vitality of communities.
- Operate a treatment and maintenance program for public art with regular procedures, agreements and documentation;
- Educate public employees about public art and its important role in public infrastructure and planning;
- Use public funds wisely by avoiding costly conservation expenses resulting from neglect.

During this time, much of this work has been contracted to a professional outdoor public art conservator, using the standard agreement. Recently, three factors have contributed to the need for a pool of qualified art:

- The growth of the Art in Public Places Collection.
- The conservation of several works of art as part of the Nicollet Mall Reconstruction project.
- The selection of a special conservation project by the Public Art Advisory Panel that focuses on the assessment and prioritization of the conservation needs of the City's historic sculpture, many of which are owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and that include such notable artworks as the Thomas Lowry Monument and the statue of Hiawatha and Minnehaha.

For this reason, this spring CPED has conducted a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for a Pool of Qualified Art Conservators. The Scope of Services in the RFP included:

### ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND TREATMENT OF THE ARTWORKS IN THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COLLECTION

1. Conducting an Annual Survey of the entire collection and a Treatment Proposal.
2. Participating in the Review and Approval Process.
3. Submitting a Scope of Services.
4. Conducting Annual Treatments.
5. Consulting on Treatments Provided by Others.
6. Providing Detailed Documentation of Condition and Treatments.

### OTHER CONSERVATION PROJECTS UPON REQUEST

1. Design Phase Assessments of artists proposed public art designs.
2. Additional Condition Assessment and Treatment Reports.
3. Minor and Major Conservation Treatments to return artworks to their original condition and integrity.

4. Maintenance Plans in consultation with artists.
5. Graffiti removal and short-term urgent treatment due to vandalism.
7. Additional Consulting.
8. Detailed Documentation of the above.

Four responses were received to the RFP. Review of the eligible responses was conducted by the City's Public Art Advisory Panel, who evaluated the responses based on the following criteria:

- A. Stimulate Excellence in Community Design and Public Arts:
  - Does the lead conservator have the appropriate educational background, training and certifications?
  - Does the lead conservator have current experience in conserving and maintaining artwork comparable to other artworks owned and commissioned by the City, and in conserving outdoor works in bronze, steel, other metals, stone, mosaic, concrete, masonry, ceramics, paper, as well as, kinetic works and works with mechanical parts?
  - Are the conservator's images of a quality appropriate to document artwork condition and issues?
- B. Enhance Community Identity and Place:
  - Do the conservator's assessment and treatment proposals demonstrate a good understanding of community needs?
  - Do the conservator's assessment and treatment proposals demonstrate a good understanding the challenges posed by artwork sites?
  - Do they demonstrate an understanding of the linkages between the site and the artwork?
- C. Involve a Broad Range of People And Communities:
  - Do the conservator's assessment and treatment proposals demonstrate a good understanding of the public's interaction with artworks and enjoyment, as well as the use and abuse that can occur?
- D. Contribute to Community Vitality:
  - Do the conservator's assessment and treatment proposals appropriately address public safety?
- E. Value Artists and Artistic Processes:
  - Does the conservator have the appropriate experience consulting with artists?
  - Does the conservator indicate knowledge of the appropriate legal and ethical issues as they apply to art conservation?
- F. Use Resources Wisely:
  - Do the conservator's assessment and treatment samples demonstrate that he/she understands the challenges posed by the environmental conditions facing the City's artworks, including climate and issues proposed by maintenance of the area?
  - Does the conservator have the capacity to meet the scope of the City's conservation and treatment needs, including the ability to remove graffiti or address urgent conditions quickly?
  - Does the conservator have experience treating works with range of conditions, from poor-excellent?
  - Does the conservator have experience overseeing and consulting with the appropriate subcontractors?
  - Do the conservator's assessment and treatment samples demonstrate that he/she has the necessary problem-solving skills, and the practicality to serve the City's needs?
  - Are the conservator's proposed fees and expenses appropriate?

- Do the assessment and treatment samples reflect consultation with the appropriate experts (product manufactures, fabricators, subcontractors, maintenance staff, the artist, etc.)
- Are the conservator's written materials appropriately detailed, clear and easy to understand?

During this review process, the Panel concluded that one firm, Kristin Cheronis, Inc, has the skills and experience to conduct all of the services outlined in the scope of the RFP. They also recognized the need to build the capacity of the local conservation field in order to address the City's growing collection needs. For these reasons, they recommended selecting Kristin Cheronis, Inc. to be the lead conservator for the City's public artworks, and also recommended selection the Midwest Arts Conservation Center to conduct periodic discrete conservation projects. Based on this evaluation process, CPED recommends the following 2 firms form the 2015 to 2018 Pool of Qualified Art Conservators with the following amounts:

- Kristin Cheronis, Inc., maximum agreement of \$375,000
- Midwest Arts Conservation Center, maximum agreement of \$50,000

cc: Craig Taylor, CPED Director  
Kjersti Monson, Long Range Planning Director  
Jack Byers, Long Range Planning Manager