

Revised Call for Sculpture Concepts
Issued by the Midtown Greenway Coalition
Issued on December 10, 2021

Response deadline: Friday, February 4, 2022, 4 pm Central Time

Please submit sculpture concepts via email to: Soren Jensen, Executive Director, Midtown Greenway Coalition, soren@midtowntogreenway.org and copy Tim Springer, Project Manager, thegreenwayguy@gmail.com

Note: an original Call for Sculpture Concepts was issued on November 1, 2021, with a deadline of December 3, 2021. After reviewing artists' responses, the Advisory Team decided to revise the Call for Sculpture Concepts and extend the deadline. Notes from a pre-proposal conference related to the original Call are linked from the home page at www.midtowntogreenway.org. POC, local, wider variety of genders

Project Summary

This sculpture will be an important improvement to the Midtown Greenway - Minnesota's busiest non-motorized transportation corridor that serves thousands daily - and the East Phillips Neighborhood where it will be located. The specific ways in which the sculpture will improve the Midtown Greenway and the neighborhood are:

- a. Serve as an iconic landmark to help people find their way between the 17th Avenue South bicycle boulevard (one block west) and the Midtown Greenway entrance ramp at 18th Avenue South, and to and from other destinations such as the busy commercial strip called Lake Street one block south of, and parallel to, the Midtown Greenway. The sculpture should be visually impactful and easy to understand when viewed from a block away on the 17th Avenue South bridge over the Greenway and from down under that bridge on the Greenway's main trail.
- b. Improve lives by providing joy with stunning and beautiful art for all who live nearby or pass by.
- c. Light up a dark area to make it safer and send the message that this area is cared for. Better lighting here will reduce the likelihood of criminal activity and crashes between bicycles entering and exiting the Midtown Greenway and motorists on 18th Avenue South. The body of the sculpture should emit light or appear to emit light. For example, it could be internally lit and have sheathing made of translucent acrylic material or perforated metal, or lighting devices could be applied to its surface, or it could be externally lit so it appears to glow. In addition to a glowing sculpture surface, there must be lights shining down out of the bottom of the sculpture to light up the pavement of the Midtown Greenway entrance ramp below the sculpture and the sidewalk of 18th Avenue South that intersects with the ramp, and perhaps also part of the roadway at this trail/roadway intersection. (NOTE: The Minneapolis Public Works Department installed a temporary light here in the fall of 2020 to address the darkness issue until we install our sculpture. The City's

temporary streetlight which now rests on a yellow concrete disk will likely be either eliminated or moved to the east side of 18th Avenue South to retain some public lighting of the roadway near its intersection with the Midtown Greenway entrance ramp, whether the existing lantern style or some other type of fixture.)

The sculpture should be approximately 12 feet wide and will be suspended up in the air about 12 feet above the trail surface. These dimensions are recommendations only and are based on the need for the sculpture to be seen from 17th Avenue South and the main trail down in the below-grade Midtown Greenway. Placement of the sculpture and its support structures should offer clearance for bicycles with trailers and cargo bikes to pass underneath it, as well as ambulances and pick-up trucks with snowplows.

The sculpture may or may not have elements of audience interaction or elements that respond to environmental conditions such as wind, sound, or light.

It is our intent for the sculpture to be solar powered. The solar panels may be incorporated into the sculpture or installed somewhere nearby. If solar panels are incorporated into the sculpture, please keep in mind that sufficient solar panel square footage and battery capacity must be planned to keep the sculpture glowing and lighting the trail below it even if there are several cloudy days in a row in the winter. If solar panels are not incorporated into the sculpture, proposing artists do not need to identify where the solar panels will be located but should anticipate that this detail will need to be worked out during the design phase.

Parties Involved

The sculpture will be suspended in the air above public property owned by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA), owner of the Midtown Greenway corridor. The sculpture will be owned, insured, and maintained by the Midtown Greenway Coalition, the 29-year-old nonprofit organizations that stewarded the creation of the Midtown Greenway and that currently serves as the community's voice in promoting Greenway improvements, maintenance, and use. The sculpture project will be overseen by the Coalition.

A project Advisory Team, including a Project Manager, will carry out the day-to-day activities of this sculpture project. This Team includes seven individuals of varying ethnicities, gender identities, and ages who live on the 2800 and 2900 blocks of 18th Avenue South, the blocks immediately north and south of the proposed sculpture location.

The artist that is selected by the Advisory Team to be a finalist and subsequently wins the design competition as voted on by the public will be invited to:

- Sign a contract for up to \$8,000 to create a detailed sculpture design, participate in discussions with public agency staff persons and the project team regarding approvals to install the sculpture in public space, and likely modify the design to secure public agency permissions.

- Eventually sign a contract for sculpture construction and installation. Submitting a cost estimate for sculpture construction and installation is a required part of responses to this Call for Sculpture Concept Proposals.

The detailed design that will be created by the winning artist after contract signing will include sculpture dimensions, materials, design of infrastructure to hold it up in the air, recommended repair procedures if damaged, an engineer’s stamp of approval for structural integrity, and a licensed electrician’s approval for the electrical workings and solar panel configuration. The level of detail that will be required will be based on public agency requirements. These details are NOT required in response to this Call for Sculpture Concept Proposals.

Desired Impacts on Viewers

- Makes you say things like “Wow!” “So beautiful, it’s cool!” “That looks cool, let’s go check that out”
- Welcoming and friendly
- Inspires joy, whimsy, laughter, awe
- Makes you smile every time
- Among themes suggested: peace, love, unity
- Feels inclusive and inviting (for example, balances feminine and masculine attitudes)

Suitable as Permanent Public Art with Functional Lighting

- Durable enough to withstand Minnesota weather, including rain, snow, freezing temperatures, and high wind
- Difficult to climb onto the sculpture or its support structures
- Repairable when damaged by bullets, high winds, vandalism, or other causes
- Located above the entrance ramp to the Midtown Greenway where it meets the sidewalk of 18th Avenue South and includes downward-pointing functional lighting on the under-side of the sculpture that lights up the trail pavement below the sculpture (see sculpture location shown with yellow markings in photos linked from the home page of the Midtown Greenway Coalition)
- Functional lighting that is easily repairable—the lighting that points down to the to light up the entrance ramp surface and sidewalk must use parts and lamps commonly in stock at local retailers or local electrical supply vendors to enable rapid repairs
- Functional light to be shielded—the lights that aim downward to light up the pavement below the sculpture should be shielded so that these light sources cannot be seen from a distance, which would distract from the visibility and enjoyment of the glowing sculpture above

Timeline

1. Revised Call for Sculpture Concepts issued December 10, 2022, response deadline Friday, February 4, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.
2. Selection of Finalists by Advisory Team, Friday, February 11, 2022
3. Ranking of finalists by public voting, February 15, 2022, to Friday, March 25, 2022
4. Signing of contract for Sculpture Design between Midtown Greenway Coalition and winning artist, by Friday, April 1, 2022
5. Creation of detailed sculpture design, April 1, 2022, through May 31, 2022
6. Fundraising for sculpture construction and installation, April 2022 through June 2022 or as long as it takes.
7. Permitting process with City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, April 2022 through June 2022
8. Contract signing for sculpture construction and installation, July 1, 2022
9. Sculpture construction and installation, July 1, 2022, through fall 2022 or whatever date is agreed to between Artist and the Midtown Greenway Coalition.

Sculpture Concept Proposals Must Include:

1. Name, address, phone, and email address of artist
2. Drawings or other images of your proposed light-emitting sculpture up to 8 MB each, including one in the daytime and one at night. Use file names “lastname sculpture daytime” and “lastname sculpture nighttime”
3. Narrative document
 - a. Explanation of your proposed sculpture and the structure that will hold it up in the air, including approximate dimensions, materials, and sculpture colors and light colors (250 words maximum)
 - b. Description of how your proposed sculpture responds to the project summary, required sculpture characteristics, suitability as permanent public art with functional lighting, and anything else you want to say to the Advisory Team or voting public (500 words maximum)
 - c. Total cost estimate for sculpture construction and installation, excluding the up-to \$8,000 for the sculpture design phase. No itemization is required, but your number should include artist’s time, materials, and any subcontractors you plan to hire. The Midtown Greenway Coalition will use this cost estimate, plus or minus 25% depending on budget constraints and cost justification, to eventually prepare a contract with the winning artist for sculpture construction and installation.
4. Information about the artist, and the artist’s partners if any. Please share information that will help the advisory team evaluate your ability to design, construct, and install your proposed sculpture. This can be provided as text in the narrative document (250 word maximum) or a link in the narrative document to a website or other online location where information can be found. Note: you may work with contractors on sculpture construction and installation. For example, if you do not have experience constructing large-scale public art, you may want to consider teaming up with an entity that does.

5. Two or more examples of sculptures you have created, prioritizing weather-proof outdoor public art if possible. Can be attached documents of maximum size 3 MB each, or a link where they can be viewed. Use filename “lastname work sample 1” and “lastname work sample 2”

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A REPLY EMAIL ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR SUBMISSION WITHIN 24 HOURS OF SUBMISSION, PLEASE CALL TIM SPRINGER AT 612 355 9600 TO ALERT THE PROJECT TEAM.

Scoring Criteria by the Advisory Team that will select three finalists

- 45 points for consistency with Desired Impacts on Viewers
- 15 points for consistency with Project Summary
- 15 points for consistency with Suitable as Permanent Public Art with Functional Lighting
- 15 points for the proven ability of the artist team to create a final design and construct and install the sculpture
- 10 points for the Proposed Budget for sculpture construction and installation (Should be reasonable given the scope of the project and within the ability of a small nonprofit organization to raise. An extremely stunning sculpture design will make it easier to raise money, so there is no hard and fast limit on the construction and installation budget.)

Ranking Criteria that members of the public will be instructed to use when voting for their favorite design from among the finalists’ designs

- Consistency with Desired Impacts on Viewers

Rules

- The Midtown Greenway Coalition and Advisory Team may reject any and all proposals
- Schedules are subject to change
- Dollar amounts are subject to contract negotiations and are not guaranteed
- The Midtown Greenway Coalition abides by Affirmative Action principles

Eligibility

This call for sculpture concepts is open to all artists or artist teams who are at least 18 years old with no restriction on geographic location. Artists’ qualifications should demonstrate a level of experience and professionalism that is commensurate with the project scope and budget.

Optional pre-proposal Conferences (results of which will be posted at www.midtowngreenway.org):

- Via zoom: Monday, January 10, 2022, 6 pm to 7 pm Central Time, at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86734272099>
- On site and in-person: Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 8:00 am to 9:00 am Central Time (at the top of the 18th Avenue South entrance ramp to the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, MN)
No rain date, if snow or very cold temps please dress appropriately.

Additional Q&A

Feel free to contact Tim Springer, Project Manager, at 612-355-9600 or thegreenwayguy@gmail.com. Your questions and answers to them may be summarized and posted to the project web page without your name associated.

Helpful links or notes

Project ideas submitted by community members include an archway, a giant lilies of the valley plant with lights in the bell-shaped flowers, solar-powered supertrees in Singapore as inspiration, nature-themed, UFO, purple light, giant spiral with 5-point star at the top.

Solar contractors: <https://www.mnseia.org/find-installer>

Structural engineers:

https://www.bbb.org/search?find_country=USA&find_entity=60339-000&find_id=1896_5100-500-600&find_latlng=44.986693%2C-93.291378&find_loc=Minneapolis%2C%20MN&find_text=Structural%20Engineer&find_type=Category&page=1

Props Fabricator as possible team member (this is just the result of quick google search, please do your own vetting): <https://www.atomicprops.com/portfolio/>