

## **Call for Sculpture Concept Proposals Issued by the Midtown Greenway Coalition**

Response deadline: Friday, December 3, 2021, 4 pm Central Time

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

### **Summary of This Sculpture Project**

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 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South bicycle boulevard (one block west) and the Midtown Greenway entrance ramp at 18<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 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 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. (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. They may retain some lighting here to supplement the light from the sculpture depending on design and implementation considerations.)

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 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and the main trail down in the below-grade Midtown Greenway, and offer clearance for greenway maintenance vehicles to pass underneath.

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 could be applied to its surface so it appears to glow, or it could be externally lit so it appears to glow. In addition to a glowing sculpture surface, there will be lights shining down out of the bottom of the sculpture to light up the pavement of the Midtown Greenway entrance ramp below and the sidewalk of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue South that intersects with the ramp, and perhaps also part of the roadway at this trail/roadway intersection.

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

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. It is our intent for the sculpture to be solar powered.

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Required Sculpture Characteristics**

- 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
  - Inspires joy, whimsy, laughter, awe
  - Makes you smile every time
  - Among themes suggested: peace, love, unity
- Suitable as permanent public art:
  - 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

- Functional lighting that points down to the ground must use parts and lamps commonly in stock at local retailers or local electrical supply vendors, to enable rapid repairs
- Shielded functional lighting—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. Call for Sculpture Concepts issued November 1, 2021, response deadline December 3, 2021
2. Selection of Finalists by Advisory Team, by December 10, 2021
3. Ranking of finalists by public voting, December 15, 2021, to January 21, 2022
4. Signing of contract for Sculpture Design between Midtown Greenway Coalition and winning artist, by January 28, 2022
5. Creation of detailed sculpture design, January 28, 2022 through February 28, 2022
6. Fundraising for sculpture construction and installation, February 2022 through May 2022.
7. Permitting process with City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, March 2022 through May 2022
8. Contract signing for sculpture construction and installation, June 1, 2022
9. Sculpture construction and installation, June 1, 2022, through August 31, 2022

## **Sculpture Concept Proposals Must Include:**

- Name, address, phone, and email address of artist
- 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”
- Narrative document
  1. Explanation of your proposed sculpture, including its approximate dimensions, materials, the structure that will hold it up in the air, and sculpture colors and light colors (250 words maximum)
  2. Description of how your proposed sculpture responds to the Summary of this Sculpture Project, Scoring Criteria, and anything else you want to say to the Advisory Team or voting public (500 words maximum)
  3. 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.
- 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.

- 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**

- 50 points for Consistency with Desired Impacts on Viewers as listed under Required Sculpture Characteristics
- 20 points for the proven ability of the artist team to create a final design and construct and install the sculpture
- 20 points for consistency with the Suitable as Permanent Public Art description listed under Required Sculpture Characteristics
- 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 as listed under Required Sculpture Characteristics

**Optional pre-proposal Conferences** (results of which will be posted at [www.midtowngreenway.org](http://www.midtowngreenway.org)):

- On site and in-person: Thursday, November 11, 2021, 8:00 am to 9:00 am Central Time (at the top of the 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue South entrance ramp to the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, MN) If rain or snow, bring an umbrella and dress appropriately.
- Via zoom: Monday, November 15, 2021, 6 pm to 7 pm Central Time, at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86734272099>

### **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.

## **Additional Q&A**

Feel free to contact Tim Springer, Project Manager, at 612-355-9600 or [thegreenwayguy@gmail.com](mailto: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](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/>