

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

STOWE STREET ALLEY PROJECT-GATEWAY FEATURE, WATERBURY VT

Revitalizing Waterbury (RW) together with the Stowe Street Alley Steering Committee (Committee) announces their search for an artist or artist team for the design, fabrication, and installation of a permanent Gateway Feature at the Stowe Street Alley in Waterbury, Vermont. The artist(s) selected for the commission will conceptualize and identify appropriate aesthetic treatments for the Gateway Feature. The artist(s) must be able to work in collaboration with members of the Stowe Street Alley Steering Committee made up of representatives from RW and the community. Although the Committee does not endorse any restriction on any particular artist content, the Town of Waterbury's Design Review Board (DRB) will consider the high public visibility of this artwork and its conformity to town rules and regulations.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Jack Carter, original owner of Stowe Street Emporium, had dreamt of revitalizing the alley next to his store for more than 20 years. He was a beloved member of the community with a playful sense of whimsy and an appreciation for Waterbury's history. Since his passing, a committee of volunteers led by RW, a local non-profit, have committed to bringing Jack's dream to life. The Stowe Street Alley Project will reclaim and transform an alley that is central to Waterbury's historic downtown district.

The alley will be a lively pedestrian walkway that encourages residents and visitors to stop, linger and appreciate our community. It will be a destination to witness the dynamic nature of change, enjoy art in all its forms, and meditate among peaceful, well-tended gardens.

The three Components to this project are:

1. A new surface made from pavers and bricks, creating spaces for art and performances, in-ground garden beds, a structure over the cellar stairway, and utility screening.
2. Functional and artistic streetscape features such as trash receptacles, landscaping, and seating.
3. Integrated art components: medallion, Gateway Feature, Lee Jeans mural restoration, and potentially more.

PROJECT GOALS

The Gateway Feature is the keystone of the entire Stowe Street Alley Project. For this reason, the artwork should reflect the design direction that has been embraced by the Committee. The design direction is shaped by the following words:

Preserve, Playful/Whimsical, Clean, Embrace Change/Dynamic, Peaceful, Natural

The proposed artwork should create a welcoming environment that brings joy and tranquility to the site and reflects one or more of the goals of the project:

- Embody the Stowe Street Alley Project design direction.
- Encourage people to enter and explore the alley.
- Feature a design aesthetic that fits with the historic buildings on either side, and the Lee Jeans mural which will be preserved within the alley.
- Be freestanding (cannot attach to the historic buildings).

In addition, the Gateway Feature should be a permanent installation and must be seasonably weather-proof, durable, and built and installed to last at least 20 years.

PROJECT BUDGET AND EXPECTATIONS

The budget for the selected artist(s) and the Gateway Feature is \$20,000, which RW and the Committee will be fundraising to secure.

Two finalists will be chosen based on the merit of their proposal and ability to meet the project goals. An honorarium of \$500 will be provided to each of the two finalists to develop a presentation to be given to the Committee either via a Zoom meeting or in-person. The presentation will include a preliminary concept of the Gateway Feature, keeping in mind the realities of the project budget, the project goals, the concept of “site specific” work and spatial considerations.

After a short period of time to collect committee comments on the finalist concepts, the Committee will select one of the finalists to develop the concept into a final design. The Committee reserves the right not to select a concept or finalist if it does not meet the project criteria or goals.

The selected artist(s) will be awarded \$20,000 for the planning, design, and fabrication of the completed work of art. The artist(s) will work with the Committee to install the completed work of art with an additional budget of up to \$10,000. Funds will be used to pay the artist(s) for their time in developing the specific details of the design, including materials, dimensions, location, and Committee/community input, as applicable, in the development of the design.

The design will include a detailed budget that will outline all costs for how the \$20,000 will be spent including but not limited to artists fees, materials, travel expenses, general liability and auto insurance transportation, and fabrication of the art. This may include approval of the design by a licensed structural engineer, and/or other permits, etc. The final design, once approved by the Committee, will be forwarded to the Town of Waterbury for their final approval. While there will be a designated Committee Member working directly with the artist(s), the chosen artist(s) must be available to meet with the Committee as needed for project check ins and/or related inquiries.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualified candidate submissions will be presented to the Committee for review and selection. The submission chosen will be based upon the following selection criteria.

1. **Artistic Merit of Concept:** The artist’s work reflects artistic excellence, innovation and originality as evidenced by the professional quality of prior projects and experience; craftsmanship and mastery of skills and techniques; professional approaches to processes and presentation; and/or communicates a unique vision or perspective.
2. **Ability to Meet the Project Goals:** Artist’s intention and proposal follows the Committee’s design direction and meets one or more of the Project Goals.
3. **Contextual Appropriateness:** Proposal relates to and is compatible with or speaks to the site and/or the Waterbury community at large.

4. **A Collaborative Approach:** The artist exhibits an ability and willingness to work in collaboration with other professionals, including the Committee. The artist is available to participate in the design, approval and implementation of the project as required (including in-person visits with the Project Team). Ideally, the artist is available to participate in the marketing, PR and unveiling of the gateway.
5. **Proven Experience:** The artist's professional experience is adequate to meet the demands of the project. The artist's history and experience in completing public art projects within the timeline and budget, as well as the sustainability of the project. The artist exhibits an ability to meet project deadlines and to deliver and install the work in a timely and professional manner. The final contract is conditioned upon a positive reference check.
6. **Safety and Maintenance:** Artwork is safe to interact with, durable, meets the requirements of insurance policies and is resistant to theft and/or vandalism. Materials require minimal maintenance and are readily available if conservation or restoration is necessary. Artwork is expected to last for at least 20 years.

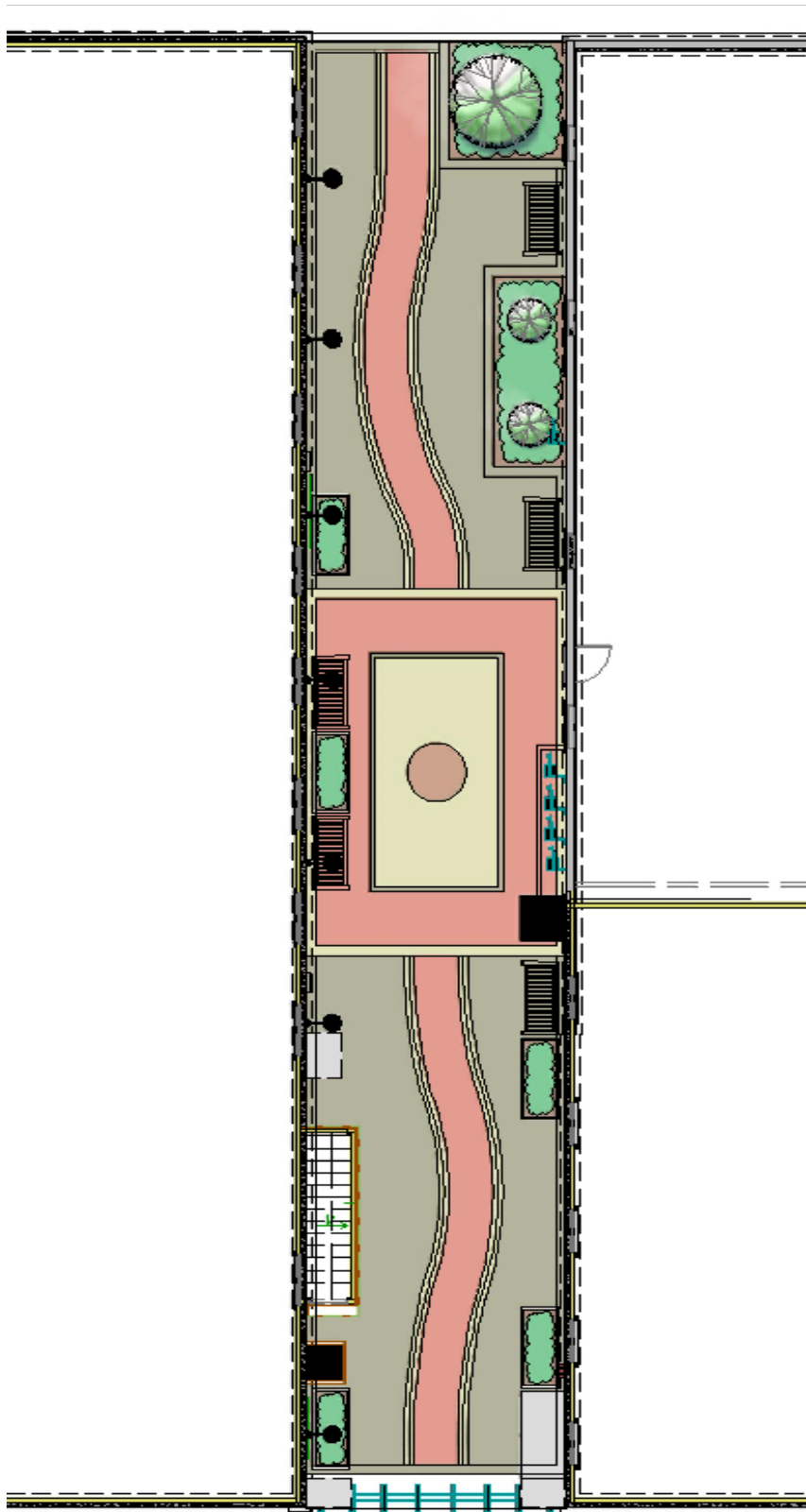
SPATIAL CONTEXT

An area at the Stowe Street end of the alley has been designated for the Gateway Feature. While a physical visit to the site is advisable, the following items have been included within this Request assist with ideation:

Stowe Street Alley Current Condition Photos.



Bird's Eye View of Planned Improvements.



Schematic of Planned Improvements.



Diagram of the designated area for the Gateway Feature.



List of Considerations

1. The dimensions of the area of the alley that is reserved for the Gateway Feature is 17' wide and 2' deep.
2. The Gateway should have an opening at least 10' wide and 9' high, centered in the alleyway.
3. The primary structure footings can occupy up to 2' of depth into the alley.
4. These dimensions are for the primary structure. It's possible for elements of the design to extend beyond these dimensions. However, no elements should protrude past the front faces of the two buildings below the 9' level.
5. For your information, Inside the alley along each side, there are items like utility meters and stairway access that will be screened by separate structures.

ARTIST SELECTION TIMELINE

Jan 10, 2023: Release Request for Qualifications to public

April 1, 2023: Deadline for applications

May 1, 2023: Winner is chosen

May 2023: RW applies to get on DRB meeting schedule/DRB hearing

June 2023: 30-day public comment period ends and fabrication commences

Fall 2023: installation

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLY

Proposal materials can be submitted via mail or digitally via email. Mailed thumb drives are acceptable. Proposals received after the April 1, 2023 deadline are not guaranteed to be reviewed.

Proposals must include:

1. Letter of Interest (LOI) that details your interest in working on this project. This should be a summary of your artistic focus and professional career, especially as your background relates to your qualifications for this project.
2. Two to five prior Work Samples with a reference(s) for each. Work samples can be in print or in digital form as JPG or JPEG images, videos, or PDFs. Digital images should be no larger than 5MB. Images should be at least 72 dpi and up to 300 dpi, and no larger than 1500 x 1500 pixels.
3. Resume/CV. Current professional resume/CV including artist address, email and phone number.
4. Artist Statement. Describe a general approach to the overall vision and intention of the Gateway Feature project, not to exceed 200 words (a detailed approach is not requested in this round of the selection process).
5. Conceptual proposal, descriptions of materials and maintenance, perspective drawings of work installed in location and draft budget.

Submit Proposals to:

WaterburyArts@gmail.com

Revitalizing Waterbury

Attn: Waterbury Arts/Gateway Feature

PO Box 473

Waterbury, VT 05676

ELIGIBILITY

The Committee does not discriminate against any qualified individual on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic bias, disability, citizenship, veteran status, or other category protected by applicable state or federal law.

QUESTIONS

Inquiries about this project are encouraged and guided site visits are available. The liaison between the artist and committee is Karen Nevin, Executive Director of Revitalizing Waterbury. Please contact Karen via email karen@revitalizingwaterbury.org or call (802) 793-6029 with any questions or requests.