

Proposed text for Art Crossing #3 Call for Art (for website)

About the project

The City of Olympia is seeking an artist or artist team to develop site-specific artwork as part of the Olympia Art Crossings Project. [Olympia Crossings: An Art Plan for City Gateways](#) identifies eight locations for art, located along Civic Boulevards, based in neighborhoods but located at the primary thresholds approximately a mile from the center of downtown Olympia.

The City of Olympia is committed to being an inclusive, affirming and equitable place for our community members and staff to live, play and work. We adhere to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources. We strongly encourage people who are Black or Indigenous, people of color, transgender, non-binary, LGBTQ, immigrants, people with disabilities, and women to apply.

The artist or artist team will be expected to develop an artwork in response to the neighborhood and community in which the artwork is located. A set of paired Markers are recommended at each site, scaled to be read at the scale of the boulevards. Placemaking is also required that is specific to the opportunities for each site, to enhance the pedestrian experience day and night.

“Olympia Crossings” is the theme of the project and overarching concept. Artists are encouraged to contemplate and interpret this theme in the development of their artwork.

Apply Now Button

Budget

The total project budget for artwork is \$50,000. The allotted funds must cover all costs related to the supply of the works of art including but not limited to design, engineering, lighting fixtures, landscape, fabrication, transportation and delivery, as well as insurance, artist's fee, applicable taxes and travel expenses associated with the project. The City is responsible for site preparation and installation.

Eligibility

This opportunity is available to artists with a strong connection to the city of Olympia, WA. Olympia-based artists and/or artist teams are strongly encouraged to apply. City of Olympia staff, Commissioners, panel members, project personnel, and immediate family members of all of the above are not eligible to apply.

Deadline

Applications are due by Midnight, Tuesday, March 29

Project goals

The City collaborated with the arts management team of Framework Cultural Placemaking to identify sites, concepts, and opportunities for artwork integration at the Olympia gateways. The City has identified opportunities for an artist or artist team to develop site-specific artwork for each gateway and provide the following benefits:

- A welcoming artwork that marks a threshold within or at the edge of the City of Olympia.
 - Increased presence of arts and culture in Olympia's neighborhoods.
 - Connections to nature, water, community assets, history and the place of Olympia as the State Capital
- A stronger sense of place and stronger relationship between adjacent neighborhoods.

[Learn More about the Olympia Art Crossings Project](#)

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Project area description

The Martin Way and Pacific Avenue “bowtie” is part of the Old Highway 99 historic car route, and currently creates an imposing barrier dividing the NE and SE neighborhoods (while having a great view of Mt. Rainier). The location is part of an easily accessible mixed-use corridor of a grocery store and restaurants, bus transportation, medical offices and other essential services. Connectivity extends into the neighborhood where sidewalks, alleys and trails contribute to a community that values being able to walk and bike to schools, parks and downtown.

Neighbors to the south of the intersection talk about historic homes (from 1880) and the neighborhood’s historic name, Swantown. They value the old trees as well as the fruit trees, and wild birds, deer and coyote in addition to the backyard chickens. They value the scenic views of the Capitol and their friendly, supportive communities of neighbors.

Neighbors to the north of the intersection appreciate the locations in their area where spontaneous meetings occur: the dog park, the City parks, the bakery. They value the diversity of fruit trees and gardens, and the historic homes in their neighborhoods like the Bigelow House. And they celebrate their individuality and quirkiness in the creative ways they personalize their homes and yards.

Both neighborhoods deeply value their community relationships, walkable neighborhoods, an appreciation of their local history and their easy proximity to urban amenities as well as nature.

Learn more about the neighborhoods:

- South of the Bowtie: Eastside Neighborhood Association (ENA): [Read ENA’s Subarea Plan](#)
- North of the Bowtie: Northeast, Bigelow, Bigelow Highland and East Bay Drive Neighborhood Associations, who together are the Olympia Northeast Neighborhoods Alliance (ONNA): [Read ONNA’s Subarea Plan](#)

Scope of work

The selected artist or team will develop and create a new site-specific artwork in response to the Eastside Street Crossing location, the adjacent neighborhoods, and in response to the theme “Olympia Crossings.”

The artwork may include a variety of diverse media including light, wayfinding elements, artist made amenities, or sculptural forms. The artwork should have a strong ongoing physical presence within the designated site area. The artwork must be suitable for diverse audiences and be able to withstand wet seasonal weather conditions. Artists are required to follow best practices as defined in the [Materials and Fabrication Handbook](#) developed by ArtsWA.

The artist will consider “Olympia Crossings” as it relates to the local community, the rest of the gateway system, and surrounding area. The artist will design and fabricate the artwork on a mutually agreed timeline with the City.

Submission/Selection Process

Phase 1: Submission of application

The selection committee panel reserves the right to select up to three artists or artist teams as finalists for this opportunity. The panel also reserves the right to not select any artists, if it so chooses.

[zippy "Selection committee members..."]

Selection Committee:

- Bob Droll, Landscape Architect
- Tom Badger, Olympia Northeast Neighborhood Alliance Representative
- Kathy Murray, Arts Commissioner
- Zainab Nejati, Planning Commissioner
- Jim Rioux, Eastside Neighborhood Association Representative

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How to apply

Applicants may apply using the **Apply Now** button near the top of this page. Application deadline is Midnight on Thursday, March 31. Applicants are highly encouraged to [research the project](#) before applying.

Selection criteria

In addition to overall artistic excellence (artistic ability, originality, technical competency, material integrity, craftsmanship, uniqueness of vision) as represented in the applicant's digital work examples, the applicant's written materials will be used to judge the artist/team's ability to:

- Demonstrate interest in furthering artistic practice and creating permanent public artworks
- Think and work with durable materials, and in a scale that is appropriate to the site
- Create an artwork responsive to the site and community context, and that tells a story
- Ability to relate to multiple types of viewers, in different mode of transportation
- Demonstrated ability to complete projects of similar scale and context, or show ability to take on a large project by progression of completed work.
- Demonstrated ability to complete projects on time and on budget

Phase 2: Finalist interviews

Each finalist will be interviewed by the same selection committee as in Phase 1.

During finalist interviews, the work of the finalist will be to convince the selection committee that the artist/team possesses the knowledge skills and competencies necessary to realize the vision and objectives outlined in this prospectus, including but not limited to:

- Appropriateness of artist and their work to the opportunities of the site.
- Strong concept and design skills.
- Strong organizational and project management skills.

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Artist selection schedule (subject to change) - DRAFT

- Call for Art Released: Thursday, March 3
- Workshop for interested applicants: Wednesday, March 16, 6-8 p.m., Location
- Deadline for Entry: Tuesday, March 29, Midnight
- Jury process: Week of April 4, Location
- Arts Commission review: Thursday, April 14, 6 p.m., Location
- Finalist interviews: Week of April 25 or May 3, Location
- Arts Commission review: Thursday, May 12, 6 p.m., Location
- City Council approval: Tuesday, May 24, 7 p.m., Location

Legal Requirements

- Applicants must have, or be willing to acquire an Olympia Business license if selected. For more information, visit our [Business License page](#).
- The selected artist will be required to carry insurance. Specific coverages are included in the contract the selected artist will execute with the City.

The City reserves the right not to select any artist at all, and reserves the right to change the process or schedule upon public notice.

Questions?

Contact Stephanie Johnson, Arts Program Manager at 360.709.2678 or sjohnson@ci.olympia.wa.us