

**CALL TO ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS – Request for Qualifications
\$325,000 Public Art Commission, City of Cambridge, Massachusetts
RFQ Submission Deadline: June 22, 2015**

Cambridge Arts in Cambridge, MA is seeking qualifications from artists and designers interested in creating temporary site-responsive public artwork(s) of variable duration. The site will be a newly constructed King Open Elementary and Cambridge Street Upper Schools in East Cambridge, to be completed by 2019. The City seeks artists and designers with public art experience and encourages artist-led interdisciplinary teams. The \$325,000 commission will cover all services from design through final installation/implementation, including artist fee, travel, community meetings, fabrication, insurance, transportation, installation, and coordination with City staff.

From this RFQ, four finalists will be invited and paid to submit concept proposals. All finalists will attend a site visit and meet with City staff and project architects before proposal development. Final selection of one artist or team will be made by a Site Committee based on in-person proposal presentations and interviews.

The Site:

The King Open Elementary (JK- grade 5) and Cambridge Street Upper Schools (grades 6-8) are currently housed in one building at 850 Cambridge Street, situated within the city block bound by Cambridge, Berkshire, Willow, and York Streets. Also within this block are the Valente Branch Library (including the Manuel Rogers, Sr. Center for Portuguese Culture), Goldstar Mothers Pool, Frisoli Youth Center, a large playing field, and playgrounds. While all together these public facilities comprise a hub of extensive informal and formal learning and recreational amenities, the overall new construction project will include only the schools, library, and pool programs. The physical configuration or degree of integration of these three programs has not yet been determined, but it is anticipated that the new public art project will focus on the schools, each of which are anticipated to have separate entrances and identities. The original King Open School was named after Martin Luther King, Jr. and both current school programs are guided by a mission of social justice, inclusivity of all learning styles, and connection to community. The neighborhood in which these programs are situated is a combination of dense residential streets and a vibrant, eclectic commercial avenue of many independent businesses.

The Artist Selection Process:

- Artists/teams submit qualifications in the form of images of previous work and biographical information online (see below)
- An Art Jury will select 4 finalists who will be paid \$2,000 each to create a proposal
- Finalists visit Cambridge for a site visit with architects, community members, and City staff
- Finalists develop proposals
- Finalists present proposals to the Site Committee, which will select one artist/team to be awarded the \$325,000 commission

Timeline:

June 22, 2015	All Electronic Submissions due
Mid July 2015	Notifications of finalists sent
Late July 2015	Finalists site visit with architects and City staff
August 2015-January 2016	Proposal development by finalists

Late January 2016
Early February 2016
2016 – 2019
Summer 2019

Finalists present proposals to Site Committee
Announcement of final selection
Artwork Development and Implementation
Artwork Installation

How to Submit:

Submit images of past work and biographical information at <http://cac.slideroom.com>. Registration is free and easy – upload digital files of work samples and complete a form of information. Upon registration you will be considered for the King Open Elementary and Cambridge Street Upper School Project as well as all future public art commissions administered by the City of Cambridge.

For more information about Cambridge Arts programs please visit www.cambridgeartscouncil.org. For technical support using Slideroom, please e-mail support@slideroom.com. For other questions please contact Cambridge Public Art Administrator, Jeremy Gaucher at jgaucher@cambridgema.gov; 617-349-4388.

Cambridge Arts is a city agency that funds, promotes, and presents high-quality, community-based arts programs for the benefit of artists, residents, and visitors in Cambridge. Active since 1974, Cambridge Arts is one of the most dynamic local arts agencies in the country. As a public nonprofit, Cambridge Arts receives funding from local government, private foundations, corporate sponsors and individual donors. The Cambridge Arts Council exists to ensure that the arts remain vital for people living, working and visiting Cambridge.

Connect with **Cambridge Arts** - cambridgeartscouncil.org, 617-349-4380 or TTY/617-349-4621
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