

NEW HANOVER COUNTY
CAPE FEAR MUSEUM
OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Call for public artist or team of artists for a sculpture project at Cape Fear Museum of History and Science.

Summary:

Cape Fear Museum of History and Science, located at 814 Market Street in Wilmington, NC, invites experienced artists or teams of artists to submit qualifications to develop a site-specific kinetic, durable, sculpture to act as the central element in the Museum's new Outdoor Learning Environment.

Qualifications must be submitted by March 20, 2015, by 5 p.m. Eastern Time. There is no fee to submit qualifications.

NOTE: Sculpture will need to be completed and be installed, in coordination with site and exhibit work, by August 31, 2015. Artist must be able to be flexible, and be willing to work with Museum and the Museum's contractors on the timing of the installation in order to meet the project's deadlines.

Outdoor Learning Environment Overview

Cape Fear Museum's Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) will transform the Museum's grounds into an enticing visitor-friendly space.

The Museum is working to create an interconnected park-like landscape and interactive exhibit that will introduce visitors to some of the ways that history, science, and cultures intersect in the Lower Cape Fear region. The OLE will use a range of layered, playful, inquiry-based teaching techniques to appeal to multi-generational visitors. The project will feature historic objects, native and adapted plantings, hands-on activities, and interpretive labels.

The concept of "intersections" has been a driving force behind the design and implementation of the new elements in the space. The OLE will include thoughtfully chosen plants that will represent both native species and introduced species, with an emphasis on native plantings. The site will house a rain garden and a "ghost forest." The built environment has been designed to encourage use and to foster discovery. Curving paths will allow visitors to explore the space in a less linear fashion. Seating will be built in. Exhibit elements will focus on the

ways people, land, and water have interacted in space and over time. The Museum's boat pavilion with historic watercraft will continue to be a part of the Museum experience but will be reinterpreted to discuss the intersections of people and water. Visitors will be able to try their hand at dredging, explore boat design, and use weather instruments. Signage with text and large graphics will add interest and interpretation into the space.

CFM wants to install a signature public art piece in the center of the space that is inspired by the exhibition's content and the urban park space. See attached site plan.

CFM envisions a sculpture that will interact with the elements, potentially have some moving parts, and will connect conceptually to the big idea of the intersections of people, land, and water.

Eligibility: Open to artists who live in South Eastern United States. North Carolina artists are particularly encouraged to apply.

Project Budget: \$15,000

Inclusive of all artist's fees and associated expenses for design, fabrication, insurance, transportation and installation.

Site Requirements

- To create a sculpture that has a footprint no larger than 42" in diameter.
- The proposed sculpture should be between 15-25 feet in height.
- The sculpture will need to accommodate a circular interpretive panel that will be attached to the art's base at a height that complies with the ADA; the design and fabrication of the interpretive panel is outside of the scope of the sculpture project, but the sculptor will need to collaborate with the exhibit designers.
- The Museum has a storm drain and cogs from an elevator that may be used in the sculpture if the artist wishes to incorporate them. (See attached photos)
- The sculpture must be constructed of durable materials that will withstand the elements. Wilmington experiences hurricanes, is near the ocean and a river. Winters are mild, although freezing temperatures do occur. Summers are hot and humid.
- The sculpture must be original and an edition of one.
- The art work must have surfaces that are safe to touch.
- The piece must be securely installed.
- Artist must guarantee the construction and installation of the art work for 8 years.

Entry Requirements

All submissions must be made via email. The committee also requests a hard copy.

Submissions should be emailed to browe@nhcgov.com and mailed to OLE Sculpture Project, 814 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28401.

Artists wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

- 1) Statement of interest
 - a. A one page statement outlining your interest in the project, and your experience working on similar projects, and how your existing work complements this project. Please directly address your experience working with other contractors and with project teams.
- 2) Professional resume
- 3) Three relevant professional references
 - a. Contact information for three references – name, title and affiliation, phone number and email address. Please provide references who can speak to your ability to create a conceptual sculpture.
- 4) Between 2 and 4 images of examples of your recent previous work. These images should showcase your design aesthetic, and demonstrate that your skills in designing, building, and installing a large outdoor public work. Do not include concepts that did not come to fruition.

Selection Criteria and Process

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements and evaluation criteria contained in this Project Outline.

The Selection Panel will review and consider the following evaluation criteria: artistic merit and technical expertise; demonstrated successful, innovative and effective approach to public art projects of a similar scope; ability to successfully execute a public art project; and expressed interest in creating artwork within this community setting.

The Selection Panel will review all proposals and select finalists based on the evaluation criteria. Interviews will be conducted with the finalists before a final decision is made.

A specific proposal for the sculpture is not expected at the time of the interview. Upon approval, a scope of service and budget will be developed.

Project timeline

RFQ application deadline:	March 20, 2015
Finalists Notified:	March 27, 2015
Finalists interviewed:	March - April 2015
Project Awarded:	Week of April 20, 2015
OLE completed:	August 31, 2015

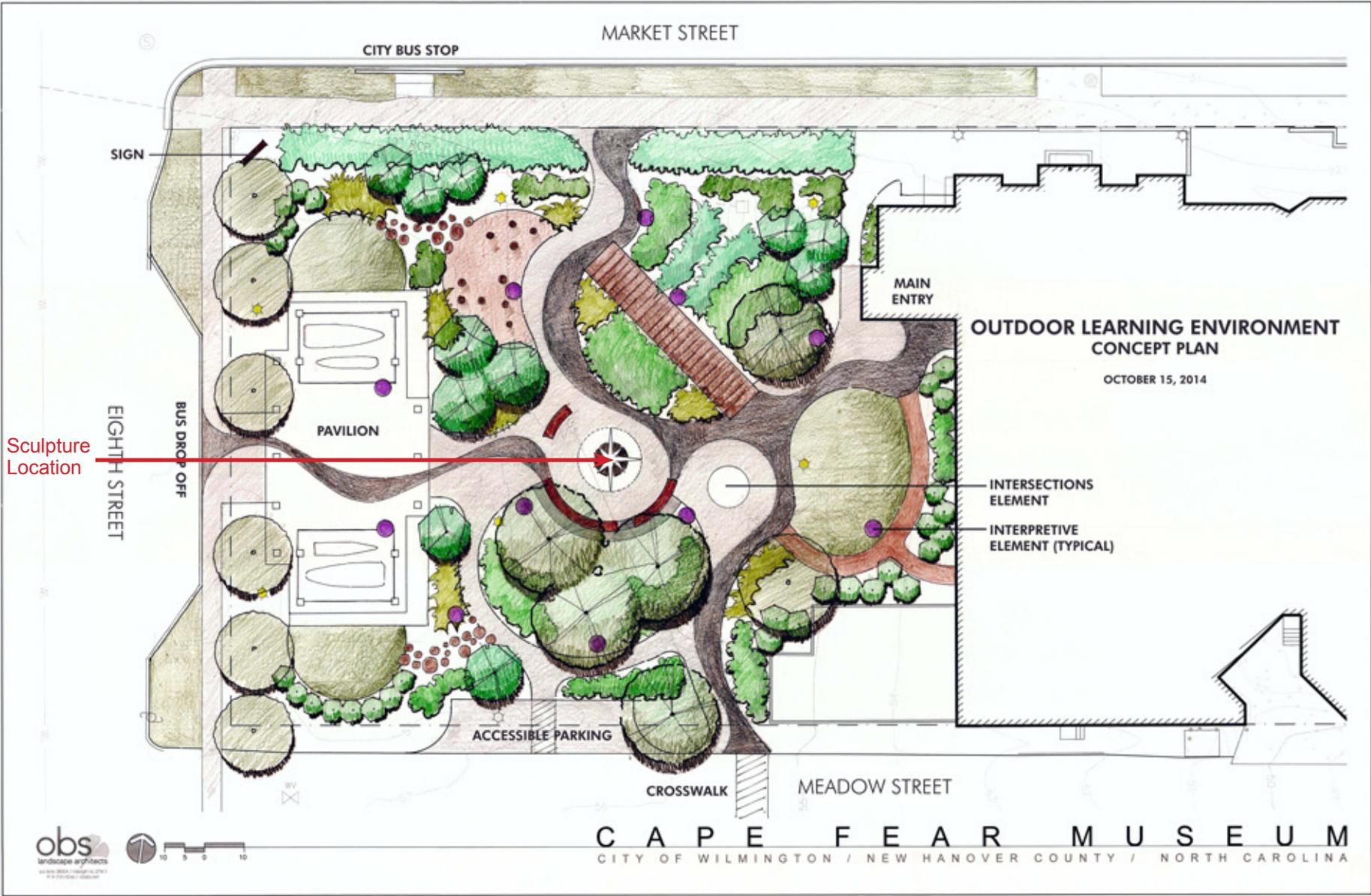
Submission and Deadline:

All RFQ materials must be received no later than March 20, 2015, 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Applicants are encouraged to submit in advance so any unforeseen problems with the materials can be addressed. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

Additional Information

For more information on the OLE, please contact Barbara Rowe, browe@nhcgov.com ,Cape Fear Museum of History and Science, 814 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28401







JAS BATES
NOT PRESIDENT

