REQUEST FOR ARTIST PROPOSALS

MADISON COUNTY, NC

MADISON PUBLIC ART PARK SCULPTURE

Issue Date: March 6, 2020

Budget: $6,000

Deadline for proposals: April 17, 2020 (11:59 PM Eastern Time Zone)

Location of sculpture: Dr. W. Otis Duck Greenway, Mars Hill, NC

Staff contact: Terry M. Bellamy, tbellamy@madisoncountync.gov, (828) 649-1377

Project Website: www.investinmadison.com

Project Summary:

The Madison County Economic Development Board is excited to announce that it is seeking an artist to design and develop a permanent piece of outdoor artwork for the Madison Manufacturing Public Art Park, which is located on the Dr. W. Otis Duck Greenway in Mars Hill, NC. Artists and/or collaborations are encouraged to submit proposals.

2020 Call for Artists:

The Madison County Economic Development Board recognizes that manufacturers are important members of the community and should be celebrated as such. This innovative program seeks to build community, celebrate heritage, and recognize the arts by honoring local manufacturing entities through sculpture pieces.

The winning artists will be challenged to create a piece that does one of the following two things:

- Create a sculpture that is inspired by the product the identified company produces.
- Create a sculpture that is inspired by the people who work within the company.
Selected Manufacturing Company for 2020:

The 2020 featured company is Peerless Blowers. "Peerless Blowers is located in Hot Springs, North Carolina, at the confluence of the Appalachian Trail and the French Broad River. It is no coincidence that Hot Springs, the home to pristine water, mountain air, and natural beauty, would be the perfect home for an industry leader in innovation and energy efficiency.

Peerless Blowers is a vertically integrated manufacturer of fans and blowers used in commercial and industrial applications. With all products designed and produced in-house from idea to completed product, Peerless Blowers is proudly one of the town’s largest employers and a local benchmark of quality craftsmanship.

Peerless Blowers has an onsite Air Movement and Control Association certified testing lab, which they use to test their blowers, fans, and ventilation products.

This means from inception to the testing phase to the production of the finished marketable product, everything happens in-house at the Hot Springs factory. It also means that as leaders in the industry of air movement, Peerless Blowers has the capabilities of testing products for other companies, too" (Source: https://peerlessblowers.com/).

Please contact Terry Bellamy at tbellamy@madisoncountync.gov for more information or visit https://peerlessblowers.com/ for more information on the company.

Please do not contact Peerless Blowers directly about the Madison Manufacturing Art Park program.

For pictures of Peerless Blowers visit: www.investinmadison.com

Technical Information:

Artwork proposal submissions should have the following features:

- Should be designed to withstand exposure to Western North Carolina's exterior elements.
- The sculpture can attach to a concrete base if necessary.
- The piece should be no smaller than 4x4 and no larger than 6x6 and the height no taller than 10ft. Additional photos and maps of the area can be requested.
- The installation should be three-dimensional and engaging.
- Have a lifetime of at least ten (10) years.
- Be safe for interaction with the general public.
- Artist is responsible for the transport of sculpture to the Dr. W. Otis Duck Greenway site.
- Art will be displayed outdoors in the County's permanent collection.
Evaluation Criteria:

The 2020 Madison Manufacturing Ark Park application process is open to all sculpture artists and/or collaborative teams. Artists should have demonstrable project experience, and be able to submit examples of work as part of their proposal submission. The winner will be selected by a juried committee. The committee will review entries on the basis of the following qualities:

- Artistic excellence.
- Past success in the large-scale public art field.
- Demonstrated ability to execute a project of this scale under the criteria developed and within the budget set forth.
- The artist's ability to connect the proposed creation to the company that is being honored.

Budget:

The total amount to be paid to the artist is $6,000, which is inclusive of the research, proposal, fabrication, materials, travel, accommodations, any other costs incurred by the artist and the final product. Madison County will provide a concrete base for the sculpture based upon the specifications provided by the artist.

Required Materials for Submission:

- Letter of Intent - Clearly describe your interest in this project and how you can contribute to its success.
- Visual Materials - Past work samples - Artists may submit up to ten (10) images and a brief description of each image, including title and medium.
- Resume or CV - A resume or CV including all relevant education and professional experience, including past commissions and budgets.
- Mailing address, email address, and phone number.
- A rendering of the proposed work with approximate dimensions. Please note: Renderings must be true representations of what will be developed. This is a juried competition, and the judges rely on the information that is being provided to base their decisions.
- Description of materials that will be used.
- References - Names and contact information of two professional references. Letters of recommendation are not required.

Please note: Applicants must be age 18 years of age or older, and are eligible regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identification, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical ability.
Information on Madison County:

Located in the mountains of Western North Carolina, Madison County is proudly home to over 55,000 acres of National Forest, 60 miles of Appalachian Trail, and the world’s third oldest river, the French Broad. The natural beauty can be experienced in a myriad of recreational opportunities including hiking, mountain biking, rafting, hunting, fishing, kayaking, and natural hot springs. We have a rich culture and a vibrant arts, crafts, and music scene that display the heritage of the Appalachian Mountains.

We feel that it’s our quality of life that sets us apart. Not only do we have those natural amenities and recreational choices, but we also offer a wide range of educational opportunities, a terrific health care system, and a library system that is second to none.

Madison County Manufacturing Art Park:
The inaugural manufacturer that was selected to be honored as part of the Madison County Manufacturing Art Park project was Advanced Superabrasives, Inc. They are known as the industry standard for diamond cutting wheels and dressing sticks. They have designed products that have been to Mars! The 2017 winning sculpture was created by Asheville, North Carolina-based artist, David Sheldon. His entry entitled, “The Mars Cutter,” was selected through the competitive juried process. His sculpture was installed on the Dr. W. Otis Duck Greenway in July of 2018.

The second manufacturer that was selected to be honored was Printpack. Printpack is a national leader in developing innovative and flexible packaging. Their products help to save lives by aiding institutions in their efforts to maintain clean products for medical providers’ usage. The 2019 winning sculpture was created by Ms. Mary Ruden from Seymour, Tennessee for her Armillary Sundial sculpture entitled, “Timekeeper” in honor of Printpack. It was installed in November of 2019.
**Tentative Schedule:**

The artist will be required to meet a series of milestones in which the staff will approve progress of the artwork before proceeding to the next stage. Payments will be made at the conclusion of each milestone.

- April 17, 2020: Deadline for submissions, due by 11:59 pm EST
- April 20 - April 24, 2020: Selected artist notified and announced
- April 27 - May 1, 2020: Contract finalization period (Initial payment)
- May 2 - August 26, 2020: Artist fabrication period (Payment)
- August 27 - August 31, 2020: Artwork installation period (Payment)
- September 8 - September 11, 2020: A public art unveiling will be scheduled between when the best “weather” date is determined. **Please note:** The winning artist is expected to attend and speak about their creation. (Final payment)

**To Apply:**

Provide all of the requested materials. Submissions may be submitted online at www.investinmadison.com/art-park Submissions can also be mailed to: Madison County Economic Development Department, Post Office Box 579, Marshall, NC 28753.

**IMPORTANT:**

All decisions of the organizers are final. If you are accepted, by submitting your entry you give Madison County and program partners the right to publish your images for publicity purposes and/or as part of the program of selected artists (All credits to artist will be included). If necessary, the selected artist maybe asked to provide higher resolution jpegs suitable for publishing. The selected artist will be highlighted in the event program and in media outlets. All artwork must remain on display and cannot be removed from the exhibition. The artwork is the property of Madison County or its designee.

**Staff’s contact information:**

We look forward to receiving your proposals for the Madison County Manufacturing Art Park project. Please don’t hesitate to contact Terry Bellamy at tbellamy@madisoncountync.gov for more information.