

City of Gaithersburg
ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM
CALL TO ARTISTS: REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Project Title: Diamond Farms Skate Spot

Budget: \$6,000 *(All-Inclusive: Design stipends and fees, fabrication and installation of artwork)*

Deadline for Preliminary Submission: February 18, 2011

Optional Pre-submission Meeting: Call 301-258-6394

The Art in Public Places Committee (AIPP) of the City of Gaithersburg invites artists to submit qualifications for a public art project at the Diamond Farms Skate Spot. The selected artist will work closely with the City of Gaithersburg AIPP Committee and the City's Cultural Arts Director to design, fabricate and install the artwork.

ABOUT THE SITE: In 2010, the City of Gaithersburg opened two new Skate Spots for street skating. These are "skate-at-your-own-risk" facilities that are open to the public during park hours from dawn to dusk. The Skate Spot at Diamond Farms Park (857 Quince Orchard Blvd.) is earmarked to include on-site public art.

SKATE SPOT HISTORY: In response to the need for spontaneous, recreational activities for the City's youth, an ad-hoc Committee for Skate Components within City Parks was formed in the fall of 2007. The Committee presented the results of their research and made recommendations to the Mayor and City Council in December of 2009, including a proposal to construct skate spots in neighborhood parks.

<http://www.hardcoreskateparks.com>



In addition to the Skate Spot, Diamond Farms Park contains:
Three tennis courts (two of which are lighted)
One full, lighted basketball court and one half basketball court
A handball/tennis practice wall
Fenced-in tot lot
Picnic tables
Play equipment

The 23.4-acre park was deeded to the City in 1974 as part of a development agreement.

THE ARTWORK: The artwork will be located in the grassy area to the right of the sidewalk in front of the Skate Spot. The artwork must present well when viewed from all angles. In theme or content, it should refer in some manner to the purpose and function of the Skate Spot. Such a reference may be literal, abstract, metaphorical, whimsical, stylized, or lyrical.

The artwork may be horizontal or vertical and highly durable. A variety of media will be considered but the one selected must meet the stated criteria, including ease of maintenance and durability. The artist must consider that the site is a public space, used by skaters, and will be exposed to weather and considerable activity.

More information will be provided to the artists selected to develop proposals. For information on the City of Gaithersburg please visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION: The AIPP Committee will review the applications submitted based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the aesthetic expression and expertise demonstrated by previous work as indicated by the images submitted.
- Suitability of artwork for the site.

CRITERIA FOR ARTWORK:

- Finalists will be evaluated on the successful interpretation of the Committee's description of the desired artwork.
- The artwork must be able to withstand intense sunlight, hail, snow, ice, wind, wide temperature fluctuations, and the inherent activity of a Skate Spot.
- The artwork must be designed and fabricated to be durable, requiring minimal or infrequent low- cost maintenance.
- Artwork shall not present any safety and/or security concerns.

BUDGET: The all-inclusive budget for this project is \$6,000 (including design, engineering, fabrication, transportation, delivery, installation of the artwork at the site and all other associated expenses including the artist's liability insurance, administrative costs, worker's compensation insurance, all necessary travel, stipends paid to finalists, and fee/commission).

APPLICATION PROCESS AND MATERIALS:

Please send the following to: **AIPP Skate Spot, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878**

- A current resume highlighting professional accomplishments.
- At least five (5) and no more than ten (10) images of relevant artwork. All materials must be submitted in digital format. Images must be in .jpg or .gif file format. It is recommended that images be scanned at 100 ppi, but no less than 72 ppi and no greater than 300 ppi. Images should be approximately 1024 x 768 pixels. The files should be named on the disc with name and corresponding number as listed on a separate image identification sheet. Discs not meeting these requirements may not be eligible for review.
- An accompanying image annotation listing media, size, title, date and a brief description of the artwork if necessary.
- An artist's statement not to exceed 250 words that addresses the artist's aesthetics and how they might be successfully integrated into this site.

Do not send detailed proposals at this time; only preliminary ideas.

Do not send original artwork.

Although every effort will be made to ensure the safe handling of submitted material, the City of Gaithersburg will not be responsible for any loss or damage. Application material will be returned only if a self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed with the application.

DEADLINE: The application, images and other required materials must be submitted electronically by midnight, February 18, 2011.

SELECTION PROCESS:

- The Selection Committee will review all material and will choose up to three finalists for final review.

- Finalists will be invited to submit a site-specific design and project budget. Honorariums of up to \$250 per artist will be made available to finalists who prepare proposals. (The honorarium paid to the finalist selected for the project will be applied to the commission.)
- The City will facilitate a public meeting for the finalists to gather input from the community and incorporate that input into their site-specific design proposals.
- The artist/artwork selected for the project will be recommended to the Mayor and City Council for approval. If approved, a commission contract will be negotiated.
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submissions. Please do not call or e-mail for an update on the status of the submission after the submission due date.

The City of Gaithersburg reserves the right to reject any or all applications, proposals or finalists, and terminate or re-advertise any project without prior notice. To learn more about this project or the City of Gaithersburg Art in Public Places Program, visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov or call the Cultural Arts Division at 301-258-6394.