

SEATTLE - REQUEST FOR ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS

Introduction

Located just up the hill from the Center of the Universe, Fremont, is a stretch of land along N 39th St. between Evanston Ave N and Dayton Ave N. Currently a vacant and weed-tangled hillside, the vacant lot will soon be a new residential apartment building connected to the World's Fair era apartment building above at 519 N Bowdoin Pl.

The developer, with deep roots in the Seattle area, envisions this development project as integral to his Fremont community, so this new work will be a permanent installation into the street level landscape facing the sidewalk as a way to pay respect to his community and contribute in a small way to the decades-long rich cultural tapestry of the neighborhood.

The project is 1-4 blocks from some of Seattle's iconic artworks such as Waiting for the Interurban by Richard Beyer (1978); the Statue of Lenin by Bulgarian artist Emil Venkoy (1988); the Fremont Troll by [Steve Badanes](#), Will Martin, Donna Walter, and Ross Whitehead (1990); Fremont Peak Park, with art by Laura Haddad (2007), among others. The goal will be to create a new public art "star" to add the Fremont's Walking Tour map. Most of these sculptures are distinct from public/high "art" such as those works in SAM's Sculpture Garden in that they invite guests to touch and interact with them. Examples include the use of the Beyer sculpture for protest signs, the red paint a passerby painted on Lenin's hand, as well as the organic nature of the topiary dinosaurs on the Fremont Canal, which change over time.



With a goal of locally focused, site-specific work, the artwork will be directly purchased or commissioned from the artist or artist team, without a curatorial commission percentage.

We are looking for a new work that makes sense within the context of both the Fremont neighborhood generally, and also the busy street at which it will be installed. Hopefully the work will create a point of curiosity for pedestrians passing by. The art location is adjacent to a bus stop so there is an opportunity for an overhanging element and a desire for interactivity of some kind - either with audio, lighting, kinetic play or a combination thereof. The work will need to be a point of interest both day and night, with the challenge of not being so bright as to disrupt the adjacent residences. A soothing audio component that passersby “discover” triggered by movement is a possibility as well. The hope is to create a sense of place out of the current chaos of traffic and weeds currently defining the street frontage.

This location once was a patch of land so forlorn and forgotten that it became a dumping ground for all manner of discarded things, including a bagged deceased racoon. Soon it will be transformed into not just 29 apartment homes, but a place to give pause to wonder and curiosity. And with luck, a place of interest to all the many visitors from around the globe who come to marvel at the strange and wondrous artworks at the Center of the Universe. Like Beyer’s Waiting for the Interurban and the Fremont Troll, we are hopeful it will become one of Seattle’s most photographed attractions.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This request for qualifications is open to all artists working in or connected to Seattle. Please note that this call is for an exterior installation and requires the durability to withstand the elements of the Pacific Northwest. There will be electricity available for any integrated lighting or audio components if part of the sculpture. Structural support such as plinths or footings will be provided by the contractor and coordinated between the artist and the team as required. Artists who are indigenous and people of color are especially encouraged to apply.

Applicable drawings and renderings illustrating the sculpture location are included below.

The total budgeted amount for the artwork, including delivery and installation, is expected to be between \$20,000 - \$40,000 and shall not exceed \$40,000.

Three finalists will be selected with a stipend of \$500 to develop a proposal. Please note that the final selected artist will be required to carry commercial liability insurance upon contract signing.

Please submit:

- 1) A letter of interest with a statement of preliminary concept
 - This can just be a rough idea, or as simple as what material & scale you envision the piece to be.
 - Feel free to reference existing or comparable artworks if applicable.

- 2) Portfolio images or website of comparable work.
 - This can be an existing artist website, or a curated collection of up to 10 images combined into a PDF document.
 - Please do not send printed or hard copies.

- 3) A preliminary proposed budget range for fabrication, delivery and installation, including WSST.

- 4) CV

TIMELINE

May 29, 2021, 11:59 PM – Artist Qualifications & Letter of Interest due

June 2021 – Finalists selected

September 2021 - Proposals, preliminary drawings & budget from Finalists due

October 2021 – Artist selection and notification

November 2021 - Artist Contract finalized & deposit payment

December 2021 - September 2022 - Fabrication

October 2022 – Delivery, Installation and final payment target (final date to be confirmed)

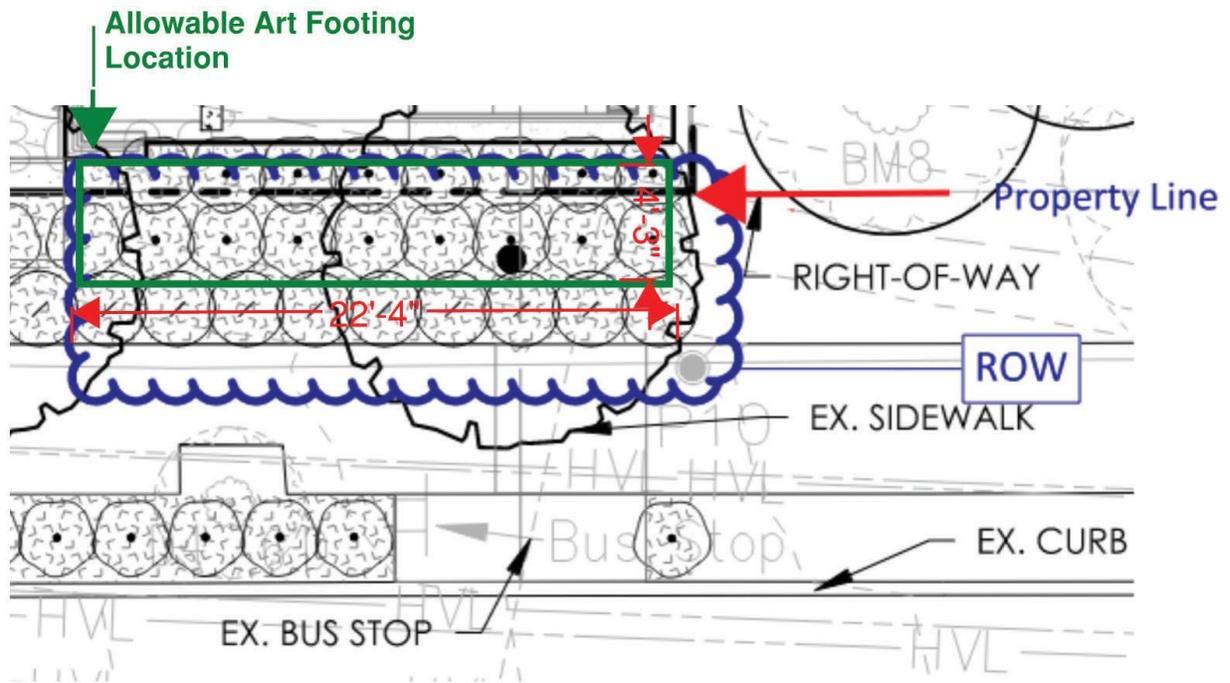
Contact information:

Sara Everett, Artist Liaison to the

Developer E Mail: info@saraeverett.com



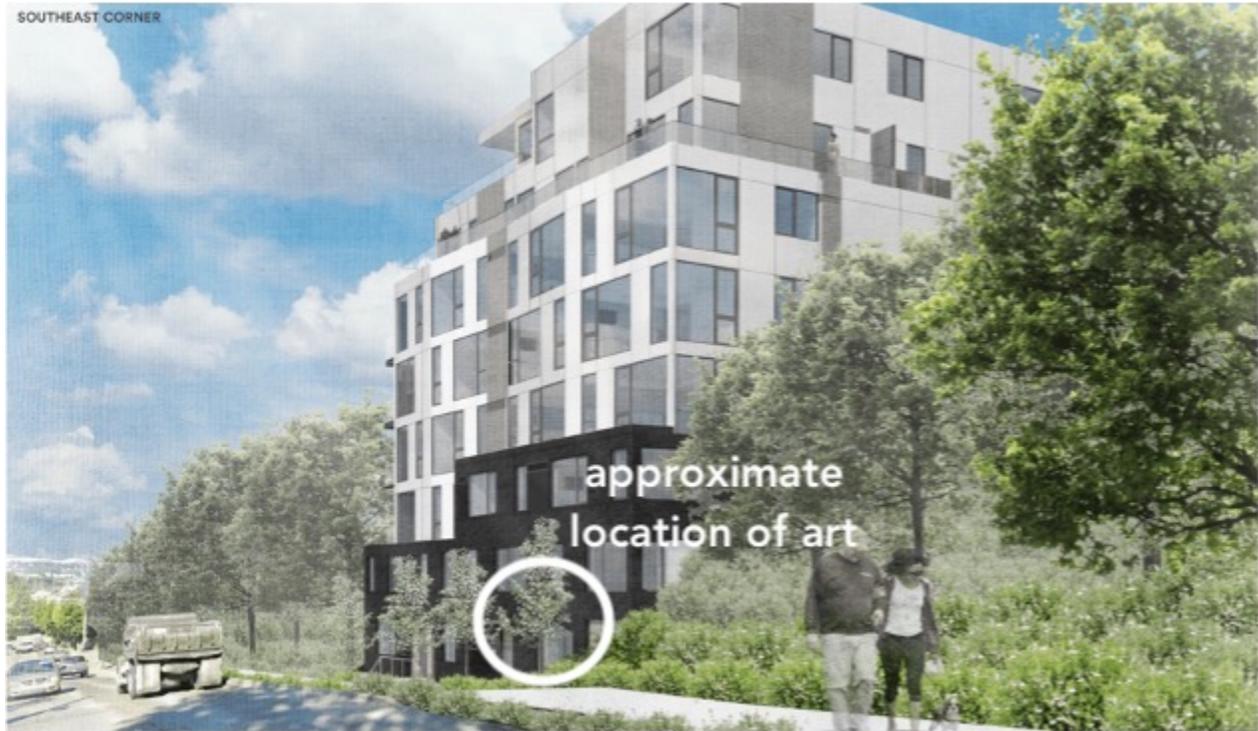
Location and Site Context



Art Installation Location

(Note that any vertical element that overhangs the sidewalk would have the minimum height requirement of 8' per code)

Perspective views of the building for context.



Mood Board of Visual Inspiration

■ Dreamboats of Eastlake – By Linda Beaumont (1997)



Mood Board of Visual Inspiration

■ Soviet-era Bus Stops



■ Baltimore Sculptural Bus Stop



