



404 Euclid Avenue, San Diego, CA 92114  
Tel: (619) 527-6161 Fax: (619) 527-6162  
Web: www.JacobsCenter.org

## **Request for Qualifications - Chollas Creek Gateways Public Art Project Phase 1**

### **Background**

Founded in 1995, Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation (JCNI) is an operating nonprofit foundation that works in partnership with the Jacobs Family Foundation and residents of the City of San Diego's Encanto Neighborhoods. As a partner in community change, the JCNI is part of a caring community where people are responsible to each other, where all cultures are embraced, and where residents create the future they envision. JCNI believes that for change to be sustainable, residents must own the vision and plans for their neighborhood transformation.

### **Project Description**

Over a two-year period, JCNI will undertake an open competitive process to commission an artist/design team to create *Chollas Creek Gateways*. The project will result in the design of prominent, artistically designed artworks announcing a 2.6 acre linear urban park that follows a newly restored section of Chollas Creek. The estimated budget is **approximately \$150,000 for artwork design, fabrication, and installation**. The budget is all-inclusive and must cover all costs associated with the artwork design and realization of the artwork(s), including all travel expenses.

During Phase 1 of the project, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be released to artists throughout the country. An Artist Selection Committee will review required submittal materials and recommend up to three artists to be contracted to develop conceptual design proposals.

The project supports city and community planning efforts to revitalize Chollas Creek, which runs from the headwaters in La Mesa through the Encanto Neighborhoods and on to the San Diego Bay. After a long period of urbanization, freeway construction, and extensive channelization which led to pollution, crime, and vagrancy in the watershed, Chollas Creek is now recognized as a valuable asset. Our project aligns with plans to establish an urban regional park linking trails, parks, open space, and bikeways along its 32-mile length.

The site is located across from a retail and residential plaza currently in development at the intersection of Euclid Avenue and Market Street, the district's main transit hub (see architectural drawings in link to shared Dropbox folder). The proposed entryways will be seen by thousands of visitors and residents that utilize the area for their daily needs, and will encourage a sense of civic pride, creating a vibrant, historic, geographic, and symbolic focal point. *Chollas Creek Gateways* builds upon JCNI's history of artistically focused community engagement.

Through a National Endowment for the Arts Our Town grant-funded planning process, community members identified values to be expressed artistically, resulting in the 2012 *Art + Design Plan* (see link to Plan in shared Dropbox folder). The *Cultural* theme calls for the reflection of various heritages through

common art forms. The *Natural* element emphasizes Chollas Creek as the unifying element for development. A wealth of *Traditional and Contemporary* knowledge exists to be shared, expressed, and passed on to future generations. Finally, the art should be *Inspirational* and introduce new creative ideas to attract visitors to the district. This project will also build on JCNI's *Activating the Creek through Art and Sustainable Design Plan* (see link to Plan in shared Dropbox folder), partially funded by National Endowment for the Arts - Art Works and State of California Urban Greening grants.

### **Eligibility**

The Artist Selection Committee, made up of art and design professionals as well as community leaders, will short list up to three professional artists or artist teams with a proven track record of success and a clear understanding of the Artist Selection Criteria. The RFQ is open to any professional artist/artist teams, authorized to work in the United States, regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex and all locally and federally protected categories. The artist or artist team will be selected based on their prior work, place making experience, project management experience, technical expertise, and statement of approach.

### **Project Schedule**

August 26, 2015: Disseminate RFQ

October 2, 2015 - Noon PST time: Deadline for submissions

Mid-October, 2015: Committee meeting for selection of up to three semifinalists

Late October, 2015: Artist notification

Nov–December, 2015: Finalize contract with up to three semifinalists

Jan–March, 2016: Community engagement, design development and presentation of design proposal

Mid-April, 2016: Panel selects finalist

### **Project Goals for Phase 1**

Create a conceptual artwork design proposal that:

- Is creative, visually stimulating and responsive to the site and community;
- Complies with established design themes and concepts in JCNI's public art planning documents;
- Features a sustainable and context sensitive design;
- Is economically feasible, easy to implement and easily phaseable;
- Is designed for universal pedestrian access, safety, vandal resistance and ease of maintenance;
- and is an artwork that is truly unique, iconic and could only occur in the Encanto Neighborhoods.

### **Artist Selection Process**

All submission materials will be evaluated by the Artist Selection Committee using the Artist Selection Criteria to assess the quality and appropriateness of the artist's work and the artist's ability to carry out a substantial public art commission. If selected as a semifinalist, artist and or artist teams will craft detailed proposals including an itemized budget, scale models and renderings, and an in-depth project description. For this they will each be paid an honorarium of \$3,000. This stipend includes one community engagement meeting and all travel expenses: hotel, transportation, mileage, for both the site visit and the subsequent final presentation meeting.

### **Artist Selection Criteria**

Professionalism, artistic excellence and experience working in the field of public art

Proven track record of success

Project management experience and technical expertise

Demonstrated ability to work with community members and other artists in design development  
Understanding of the historic value or cultural heritage of place  
Ability to meet timelines and budget requirements  
Ability to work with interdisciplinary teams

### **Submission Requirements**

Links to this RFQ, planning documents, and engineering drawings will be available in a shared Dropbox folder. Please submit your application via email to [vhamilton@jacobscenter.org](mailto:vhamilton@jacobscenter.org) as a **.zip file**. The Deadline for the online submittal is **Friday, October 2, 2015, noon, PST**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

At this preliminary review stage, submissions from artists and artist/ teams must include:

- 1) A letter of interest in PDF format.
- 2) A current resume. If you are applying as a team, include all team member resumes within one document in PDF format.
- 3) Three references including the names, titles and contact information in PDF format. Make sure to include references who are familiar with your community engagement experience.
- 4) Twelve (12) digital images of relevant artwork including examples of community engagement public art projects. Please submit one PDF using high resolution color images, one per page. Image annotation on each page must list media, size, title, date of completion and a brief description of the artwork if necessary.

For **Phase 2** of the Chollas Creek Gateways Public Art Project, JCNi reserves the right to determine which proposal(s) will be funded and the extent of funding. If the recommendations of the Artist Selection Committee are approved by JCNi, the selected artist(s) will enter into contract with JCNi for the commission. The accepted artwork(s) will be owned and maintained by JCNi. If you have questions about this RFQ, please email Victoria Hamilton [vhamilton@jacobscenter.org](mailto:vhamilton@jacobscenter.org).

The Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation's mission is to foster a thriving community envisioned and realized by its residents. This project is supported in part by a National Endowment for the Arts Art Works grant.