

LIFE ON STATE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CALL FOR UTAH ARTISTS

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
Friday, March 11, 2022, 5pm

Apply online:
[CLICK HERE](#)

**Public art project along State Street between 600 South and 800 South
Salt Lake City (Council District 4), Utah, 84111**

CALL FOR UTAH ARTISTS: Request for Proposals

COMMISSION BUDGET: \$1,500 per commission; 8 available commissions

APPLICATION: <https://slcartscouncil.submittable.com/submit/214336/life-on-state-public-art-opportunity>

PROJECT BACKGROUND

State Street is a major transportation and business corridor with a rich history as Utah's original state highway. Building on the goals identified in the [2018 Life on State Plan](#), Salt Lake City is taking a major step in restoring the vitality of State Street, taking action between 600 South and 800 South. Moving from planning to implementation, critical investments in the streetscape and pedestrian environment will begin to transform State Street's identity in 2022. These changes will improve safety & security, establish an identity of place, expand connectivity, optimize mobility, drive economic prosperity, and support equitable living opportunities. With these goals in mind, State Street will become a greener, pedestrian-friendly corridor that will strengthen both the community living along the street and its local businesses, all while signaling that State Street is again the iconic gateway to the Capital City.

State Street has a rich cultural history that once featured an incredible number of iconic neon and light-based signs that lent color, vibrancy, and personality to the urban environment. Recognizing this legacy, the Salt Lake City Public Art Program will commission Utah-based artists to create artworks that reference this history and result in art installations that utilize light as their primary medium.

The public art project for Life on State will feature eight artist designs that will be adapted into a 4-foot in diameter neon artwork, positioned 10 feet in the air atop a steel support pipe. In total, four posts will be constructed along the east and west portions of State Street that run from 600 South to 800 South. Each post will feature two unique artworks (front and back).

Similar to the [337 Pocket Park](#) and our recently completed [Three Creeks Confluence Park](#) public art projects, artists will be responsible for the initial design of the neon based components and the City will be responsible for fabrication and installation of the infrastructure for these artworks (see additional details below).

PROJECT BUDGET & ELIGIBILITY

The total commission for each of the designs is \$1,500 and inclusive of artist's fees and related expenses for design and supplies.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is open to all artists and/or artist-led teams residing in Utah regardless of race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, religion, marital status, political opinion or affiliation, or mental or physical disability.

Emerging artists and/or those without previous public art experience are strongly encouraged to apply. Artists that have a special connection to the area surrounding State Street or to the unique history of this iconic corridor are also strongly encouraged to apply.

ARTWORK GOALS

The Salt Lake Art Design Board seeks site-specific artwork that:

- Is unique and visually engaging; for passersby and those who live, work, or socialize on State Street;
- Can be appreciated from a distance and nearby, as the artwork will be placed 10-feet above the ground;
- Is of the highest creative quality and exemplifies strong, imaginative design;
- Considers the fascinating history and vibrant nature of State Street;
- Reflects Salt Lake City's lively and diverse artistic community;
- Meets all public safety, structural, and maintenance standards and complies with the Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA), and all other applicable laws, codes, and regulations.

DESIGN CRITERIA & MODIFICATIONS

The Salt Lake City Public Art Program will work with professional neon artists in order to successfully adapt the selected artwork into neon fabrication. Designs must conform to the following criteria:

- Designs must be able to exist within a circular space (The commissioned artworks will be fabricated within a 36" in diameter circular space);
- Considers the adaptability of the original design into neon artwork. [Click here to see parameters and other visual examples](#);
- Avoids excessively busy or extremely detailed artwork. Simple line drawings that integrate clever imagery will be most successful;
- Designs must utilize solid colors (no gradients);
- Keeps lines to approximately 3/8" thick and leaves a space of approximately 1/4" between lines;
- Designs avoid colors and shapes common to standard street signs or pavement markings (see the Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (2009)), in an effort to eliminate any confusion about what is controlling traffic;
- Designs are image-based and do not include text, logos, copyrighted or trademarked images, or function as signage or advertising in any way;
- Artists are asked to strongly consider the unique nature and history of State Street and its surrounding neighborhood. Design should be appropriate for the community setting, engage a broad audience of all ages, and avoid artwork that is excessively busy. Both abstract (non-objective) and representational works will be considered.

Please note: Selected artists will be required work with our program for their designs to be successfully 'translated' into neon art. [Click here to see a digital rendering of the completed artwork.](#) The City will be responsible for fabrication and installation of the artwork. During fabrication, the City may require minor changes be made to the design to comply with safety standards. The City will permit the selected fabricator to make minor adjustments to the design and will notify the artist of any changes made to the design for artist approval.

PROJECT TIMELINE

RFP opens – January 19, 2022

Pre-Proposal Webinar – February 4, 2022 at 12 pm MST

Application Deadline – March 11, 2022 at 5:00 pm MST

Notification of Artist Selection – April 2022

Contract Preparation – May 2022

Design modifications, if needed – completed by June 2022

Installation of Artwork – Summer/Fall 2022

Dates are subject to change. Please note that the application closes *before* midnight; the application portal will automatically stop accepting applications at 5:00 pm.

VIRTUAL QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

On Wednesday, February 2, at 12:00 pm, interested applicants are invited to attend a pre-proposal informational session to review this project proposal and ask questions about the RFP. Attendance at the meeting is optional, and proposers are welcome to apply regardless.

The session will be held over Zoom (meeting ID: 844 3177 2233) and can be accessed at this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84431772233>

SELECTION CRITERIA & PROCESS

The Salt Lake Art Design Board, in consultation with project stakeholders, will review all properly submitted applications and will recommend artists/teams for the eight neon design commissions to the Mayor, who will have final approval.

Artists may submit up to two designs for consideration but only one will be selected for commission. Salt Lake City Corporation and project stakeholders will determine the placement of each of the four posts that will be constructed along the east and west portions of State Street that run from 600 South to 800 South.

In selecting designs for this project, some or all the following criteria will be considered:

- Final artwork that is one-of-a-kind, site specific, and meets the project goals;
- Compliance with the artwork goals and design criteria;
- Willingness of the artist to consult and work with the Salt Lake Art Design Board and a fabricator to accomplish design modifications, meet deadlines, and to perform work in timely, professional manner;
- Reflection of an artist's authentic relationship to the project site or surrounding area; and
- Design feels relevant and deeply considered.

The artists selected for the commission will sign a contract with Salt Lake City Corporation. A sample contract can be viewed [here](#).

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Artists may submit proposals individually and/or as a team. All artists and members of an artist-led team must be Utah residents. **Submissions that arrive on or before 5:00 PM MST on Friday, March 11th, 2022 and meet all the application requirements will be reviewed.** To be considered for this project, applicants must submit all of the required materials via the Submittable website (www.submittable.com). There is no application fee. No other method of submission will be accepted. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. We will NOT make notifications of disqualifications where guidelines are not followed. The applicant's name must appear on all submitted materials.

- **LETTER OF INTEREST (*last name_first name.letterofinterest.pdf*)**: One page (300 - 500 words) describing the applicant's interest in and qualifications for this project. Letter must include address, email, and phone number of artist.
- **PROPOSAL (*last name_first name.proposal.pdf*)** Artists must submit visual rendering of their proposed design(s) that abides by the artwork goals and design criteria described above; please read these sections carefully. *Artists may submit up to two designs for consideration* but only one will be selected for commission. Designs must be .pdf files.

Please Note: Proposals will only be accepted as .pdf files. If selected, you will be required to work with professional neon artists contracted by Salt Lake City Corporation in order to successfully translate the artwork into neon fabrication.

Although the final artwork may change slightly to fit the design criteria and fabrication needs, the initial submission should reflect the artist's final concept.

Optional Supplemental Application Materials:

If desired, applicants may submit optional additional application materials listed below. These materials will be reviewed by the Art Design Board but are not required; submissions that do not include these will also be considered.

- **IMAGES OF PREVIOUS WORK (*last name_first name.image 1.jpeg*)**: A maximum of five jpeg images of the artist's prior artwork - five images per application, not per team member. Please do not submit collages containing multiple images or text. Artists that choose to submit images must fill out the metadata fields on Submittable detailing the title, year, medium, dimensions, and a brief description of the artwork.
- **RÉSUMÉ/CV/PERTINENT EXPERIENCE (*last name_first name.resume.pdf*)**: Maximum of two pages per person. Include artist training, professional experience, and design experience. Your résumé/cv/list of pertinent experience must also include address, email, and phone number.

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QUESTIONS & APPLICATION SUPPORT

All questions regarding this RFP may only be directed to Salt Lake City Public Art Program staff at the email address listed below. All questions and responses will be posted online for potential applicants to review. Applicants may be disqualified if any unsolicited contact related to this RFP is made with a member of the Art Design Board or project stakeholders other than the Public Art Program staff during the selection process. Please review the website below prior to emailing any questions as the website will be updated on a regular basis with questions and answers. Questions will be answered in the order in which they are received. We do our best to respond to inquiries quickly, however we may not be able to respond in a timely manner during the final days prior to the RFP due date. Please give yourself ample time to complete the application.

Contact: publicartprogram@slcgov.com

Website: <https://saltlakepublicart.org/for-artists/calls-for-artists/>

For technical assistance submitting proposals on Submittable.com, please refer to Submittable's 'Help' resource, which can be viewed here: [submittable.help/en/collections/185534-submitters](https://submittable.com/help/en/collections/185534-submitters)

If you do not have access to a computer or WiFi to apply, the [Salt Lake City Public Library branches](#) offer free computer and WiFi access. If you require further resources or accommodations to complete the application materials, please email publicartprogram@slcgov.com.

SALT LAKE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The Public Art Program, which commissions artists' work for City-owned buildings and public spaces, was established by ordinance in 1984. The Program resides in the Arts Division of Salt Lake City. The Salt Lake Art Design Board is an advisory group of citizens representing different City Council districts, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, to oversee Salt Lake City's public art program. They are selected for their related arts expertise and willingness to serve the community. The Design Board is directed, by ordinance, to select artists for public art commissions in Salt Lake City and recommend those artists to the Mayor for final approval. The current Design Board members include Meggie Troili, Alejandro Moya, Angela Dean, Michael Mejia, Colour Maisch, and Tiffini Porter. The Design Board will consult with representatives from the City's Department of Transportation, Engineering, Midtown Community Council, and others to help inform their artist/team selections for this project.

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION ADDITIONAL POLICIES

The artists/artist-led teams selected for the project will sign a commissioned work agreement with Salt Lake City Corporation.

The City may, at its discretion: accept Request for Proposal (RFP) submittals as deemed to be in the public interest; proceed with further selection processes; reject any and all submissions; or waive any irregularity, informality, or technicality in submittals received. The Artist Selection Committee, in its sole discretion, will determine from the submitted information the most qualified Applicant to meet the stated duties as evaluated under the criteria set forth herein. The determination of the most advantageous proposal shall be final and conclusive.

The issuance of the RFP and the receipt and evaluation of the submittals does not obligate the City to select an applicant submission or enter into any agreement. The City will not pay costs incurred in responding to the RFP unless specified in the RFP. The City may cancel this process at any time prior to the execution of any agreement without liability.

The City reserves the right to revise the evaluation process. Such revision will be announced in writing to all RFP respondents or short-listed teams, depending on the timing of the change. The City also reserves the right to reject any and all RFP responses at any time, or to terminate any negotiations implied in this RFP or initiated subsequent to it. If the Artist Selection Committee receives a submittal it deems incomplete or ambiguous, it reserves the right to request additional information or to reject the submittal.

The Salt Lake Art Design Board and Salt Lake City Corporation reserve the right to reject any or all applications, to reissue the Request for Proposals (RFP), or to terminate the selection process or project at any time without prior notice. No applicant shall have the right to make a claim against the Salt Lake City Corporation in the event the RFP is canceled, or the City decides not to proceed with the selection or commissioning process with the selected artist or the alternate artist, awards a contract, or determines not to award any or all contracts specified in this document. No protests will be accepted or reviewed. All submissions are subject to [City Code 2.44](#), governing conflicts of interest.

The City reserves the right to, at any time and for any reason, discontinue negotiations with any initially selected Applicant, and to pursue negotiations with an alternative team. Applicants or their agents are instructed not to contact Arts Design Board members, City officials or employees or attempt to externally manipulate or influence the procurement process in any way, other than through the instructions contained herein, from the date of release of this RFP to the date of execution of an agreement resulting from this solicitation. City, in its sole discretion, may disqualify applicants who violate this paragraph.