

Call for Artist Interest

Yolo Basin Foundation Capital Improvement Project Interpretive Art Element

Overview

This Call for Interest is intended to gather interest from artists who would like to contribute art to Yolo Basin Foundation's Capital Improvement Project. Yolo Basin Foundation will continue to provide updates to interested artists as the Interpretive Art Element plans are finalized.

About Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF)

Yolo Basin Foundation was founded in 1990 as a community-based organization to assist in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Our mission is to expand public appreciation and stewardship of wetlands and wildlife in the Yolo Basin through education and innovative partnerships.

Covering 25 square miles and home to nearly 200 species of birds, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is one of the largest public/private restoration projects in the United States, with 6,000-acres of land in the Yolo Bypass floodway restored to wetlands and other associated habitats, and more restoration in the works. We offer environmental education programs for all ages related to wetlands and wildlife, including guided tours of the wetlands, bat talks and tours, California Duck Days, a speaker series, and more.

About the Capital Improvement Project (CIP)

Capital Improvement Project objectives include improving the Wetlands and Wildlife Learning Center, improving signage in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, and creating a Mobile Visitor Center for Yolo Basin Foundation programs and community outreach events. The Capital Improvement Project is funded by a \$2.5 million grant that was awarded to Yolo Basin Foundation by California State Parks.

Scope of Interpretive Art Element

The Interpretive Art Element of the CIP will incorporate art into multiple potential sites, including shade structures, a pathway, storage sheds, the exteriors of community and meeting rooms, interactive educational areas, and the columns of an outdoor pavilion structure.

This is a special opportunity to bring art into the outdoor spaces in Yolo Basin Foundation's headquarters. The art should highlight the work that YBF does with the community, the flora and fauna of the Yolo Basin, and concepts related to environmental stewardship.

Artist Role

While an overall concept for the Interpretive Art Element will be provided, each artist will be responsible for the detailed design at their site(s). Guidance for each site (theme, specific elements to incorporate, color story to fit with the rest of the sites, etc) will be provided by the YBF Interpretive Art Coordinator, but the selected artists will have plenty of creative freedom.

Selected artists will work individually or in teams to design and create artwork for each site. Artists are expected to promptly and clearly communicate with the Interpretive Art Coordinator throughout the project and participate in artist meetings on an as-needed basis to ensure that the artwork across the entire CIP is cohesive. The Interpretive Art Coordinator will provide design feedback and approve final artwork prior to fabrication and installation.

Budget

The budget for the Interpretive Art Element of the CIP is \$40,000 and will be divided between the selected artists, commensurate with the scope of their work. Contracts will vary between approximately \$1,000 and \$15,000 per artist.

Timeline

We have a very tight timeline due to the grant requirements, so we'll be moving quickly. Here's an estimate of our deadlines:

- July 3 - Letters of Interest due from artists
- July 11 - artists selected
- July 27 - designs finalized
- November 11 - all work completed **

** note that depending on the site and type of artwork, some artists may have earlier completion deadlines - for example if an artist is creating ceramic tile inlays into a walkway, they will need to coordinate timing with the pouring of the concrete. A precise construction timeline will be provided no later than July 11th.

Artist Selection

Between 3 and 8 artists will be selected to complete the Interpretive Art Element of the CIP. The number of artists selected will depend on the final number of sites where art will be installed and the scope of work that fits with each of the selected artists' skills and capacity. Selected artists will be paired with a site (or multiple sites) and provided a definitive budget and timeline to complete their work.

We welcome artists from many disciplines to apply, including:

- Ceramic (tile mural, mosaic)
- Metal (cut sheet metal, cast sculptures, etc)
- Painted Mural
- Wood

Artists will be evaluated on

- Artistic merit and skill
- Past experience with public art projects (please apply even if you do not have a background in public art)
- How the artist's style fits with the overall vision and with the styles of the other selected artists
- Demonstrated ability to complete similar scale projects in a tight time frame

Artists 18 years of age and older residing in Yolo County and the surrounding area are welcome to apply.

How to Apply

Please send the following information to Ro Mottsmith, Interpretive Art Coordinator, at rmottsmith@yolobasin.org, using the subject line "YBF Interpretive Art Call for Interest":

- Artist resume
- Link to your website, social media, or other site that has examples of your work.
 - Only if you do not have a link: please send 3-5 pictures of your work in the email
- A letter of interest, no more than 500 words, that contains
 - A brief description of your art practice
 - The medium you'd like to use for this project

- Why you would like to work with YBF
 - Your background with similar sized projects or public art, if any
 - Any other information you'd like to share with us
- In the body of the email, indicate whether you are open to working collaboratively on a single project or prefer to work independently within your assigned site. Both preferences will be considered, we just need to know how to divide the sites among the selected artists

We will review letters of interest on a rolling basis and may contact you for more information or clarifications, but we will not make any final decisions before the application closing date of July 3rd at midnight PST.