

SEED/ARTS

The power of art in building community

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Public Art at *Ethiopian Village*

Overview

Ethiopian Community in Seattle (ECS) and SEEDArts seek proposals for site-specific permanent artwork for ***Ethiopian Village***, an upcoming development in Southeast Seattle. It will feature an expanded and improved Ethiopian Community Center as well as 90 units of affordable housing. There are five areas designated for Ethiopian-centric artwork on the facade. We are seeking an artist or artist team to design the artwork for five locations. The design fee is \$40,000. The deadline to apply is September 30, 2022.

Project Site

Ethiopian Village will be at 8323 Rainier Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118, which is the current site of the Ethiopian Community Center. The facade runs parallel to Rainier Ave S; the building is about 60' high (5 stories) at its highest point.



This project will add culturally vibrant works to the new building, enhance the neighborhood's cultural landscape, and create excitement and beauty for the community. The high-traffic location provides an expansive venue for public art, visible to car traffic, pedestrians, bicyclists, and Metro passengers.

SEEDArts | 5117 Rainier Ave S | Seattle, WA 98118
www.seedseattle.org/arts-culture | 206-760-4286

Project Scope

The project scope is for the artwork concept and design. The selected artist(s) will submit 3 rough design concepts for consideration. The committee will select a concept to be fully developed by the artist.

There are two fabrication options:

1. ECS may have the artwork digitally printed and installed on the building. In this case, the artist(s) will be responsible for submitting high resolution digital files for production as part of this project scope.
2. The artist(s) have the option to paint their designs directly on the building. In this case, the artist(s) will submit drawings to scale, and then be issued a contract for fabrication not to exceed \$30,000, including materials.

There are 5 artwork locations on the building (shown below in pale orange).



1 RENDERED EAST ELEVATION - ART AREA
3/20/19

- A: Primary, building facade over main entrance, ~620 sf (16' 2" w x 38' 7" h)
- B: Column on left of facade, ~135 sf (4' w x 33' 9" h)
- C: Right column, front of building, ~135 sf (4' w x 33' 9" h)
- D: Column on north elevation, ~118 sf (3' 6" w x 33' 9" h)
- E: Column on south elevation, ~135 sf (4' w x 33' 9" h)



2 RENDERED NORTH ELEVATION - ART AREA
3/20/19



3 RENDERED SOUTH ELEVATION - ART AREA
3/20/19

Budget

The project budget is \$40,000. This includes artist's design fees, supplies, and any applicable taxes. Funding, in part, will be provided by the Neighborhood Matching Fund from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

Selection Criteria & Process

Ethiopian Village will be a gathering space and home to members of the East African community, thus it is critical that the designs reflect Ethiopian culture. This opportunity is open to both emerging and professional public artists and/or artist teams; preference will be given to local artists.

A panel comprised of representatives from ECS and SEEDArts, a public artist, and community members will select the artist(s) based on the following criteria: quality and strength of past work; demonstrated experience creating culturally appropriate public artwork; demonstrated ability to create a unique artwork appropriate in concept, materials and scale for this project; availability to complete work on schedule.

If necessary, the selection panel may ask 1-3 finalists to submit design concepts for consideration. In that case, artists will be paid for design concepts.

Timeline

Deadline for submissions	September 30, 2022 at 5pm
Notification of selected artist(s)	October 25, 2022
Design Phase	November 2022 - January 2023
Fabrication/Installation	February 2023 (<i>tentative</i>)

How to apply

Your submission must be contained in a **single PDF document** and include the following items in the order listed below:

- **A letter of interest** (up to 2 pages) which should describe your approach to and vision for this particular site in as much detail as possible, including your preference for the artwork to be digitally printed or painted directly on the building. Tell us why your work is appropriate for this site, and include a statement that describes how your design will illustrate Ethiopian culture. You may include design concepts or rough sketches but it is not required.
- An arts **resumé or CV** (2 pages maximum). If submitting as a team, please include a resumé for each individual.
- **Up to 10 images** of relevant work samples. The images should be numbered and labeled as follows: title, medium, date, dimensions. Artists are encouraged to include a brief description (2-3 sentences) of each image.

Email your proposal to artsinfo@seedseattle.org with “Ethiopian Village” in the subject line. All applications must be received by September 30, 2022 at 5pm. incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed.

Questions? Email artsinfo@seedseattle.org