

# **Watershed Art**

**CALL TO ARTISTS**  
**Watershed Art Group; Ashland Oregon**  
**December 11, 2015**

**Request for Proposals**  
**Watershed Sculpture**  
**Ashland Oregon**

The Watershed Art Group, in cooperation with the City of Ashland Public Arts Commission, with assistance of a grant from the Haines and Friends Fund, are seeking proposals for a three dimensional sculpture to be permanently installed along Bandersnatch Trail in the Ashland Watershed as part of the Watershed Art Project's "art trail". This sculpture will be initially displayed in Ashland, and will eventually become the second piece to be situated on the trail. It will follow the well-received "Pacific Fisher" created by Jeremy Criswell of Jacksonville, Oregon.

## **About the Watershed Art Group:**

Watershed Art: A community collaboration

Our mission: to use art as a means to educate, inspire and engage our community in the stewardship of Ashland's watershed.

Background: Consisting of more than 15,699 acres of Siskiyou forest, Ashland's watershed is a fragile ecosystem, a habitat for unique and endangered wildlife, a home to old growth, and the source of Ashland's abundant, clean drinking water. Rising on our southern slopes, the watershed frames the city and sustains life here.

Art is increasingly recognized as an effective medium for exploring and explaining the natural environment. Ashland is blessed with a prolific and diverse arts community that significantly influences the town's visual, social and economic life. Watershed Art proposes to engage local artists, educators and scientists to help the larger community understand and connect with the beauty and science of our watershed. At the same time, the project will reinforce the role of arts and artists as a catalyst in our community's social and physical development.

The project strives to raise awareness and engage residents in understanding and valuing the Watershed. The goal is to create a high profile, long term commitment to the visual arts community by combining elements of art and the natural world.

### **Inspiration for the sculpture:**

The Watershed Art Group requests proposals for a sculpture that would raise awareness, educate and create interest in the important issue of the watershed. The sculpture would become the second piece in the Watershed Art Trail sculpture project along trails in the watershed.

Design criteria include:

- Design that is authentic to the Ashland community and its surroundings
- Include a component of community involvement and participation
- Include an educational component, to inform and educate viewers to the importance of the watershed.
- Respect the biology, landscape and ecology of the Watershed; to enhance the natural environment.
- Representational as well as abstract sculptures will be considered.

### **Media/Style/Size:**

The sculpture may be fabricated from a variety of materials, including natural materials found in the surrounding landscape. It might be fabricated from stone, metal, wood, reclaimed materials, other materials or combinations of materials. Durable, permanent, low maintenance materials are requested, the sculpture should be able to withstand the elements in the forest environment as well as interaction with people. Sculptures built on site will be considered; if fabricated in a studio and transported to the site, the piece will need to be somewhat portable, allowing for movement for display before being sited at the permanent location on the trail. We suggest a piece with a maximum length of 5 feet, and a total weight of not more than 200 pounds.

The selection committee has identified locations for the sculpture which have been approved by the City Public Works Department. The artists are requested to draw inspiration from the site, creating a piece reflecting the location, as well as making reference to the flora, fauna and topography of the site.

The Watershed Art Group has identified locations along Bandersnatch trail for this rfp. The location is a short distance along the trail and is marked by bright flagging tape. In addition, a map will be included with this rfp to indicate the selected location.

After installation, the sculpture will become the property of the City of Ashland. Providing documentation relating to maintenance and cleaning is considered part of the installation and the selected artist's responsibility.

**Budget:**

The maximum budget is \$3500.00. Costs are not to exceed the budget maximum and must include all related expenses (design through installation; artist's design fee, labor, fabrication, materials, transportation/travel and insurance). Submitted budget must be itemized showing all expenses.

**Timetable:** note: depending on the timing of the rfp, these dates may need to be adjusted

Proposal deadline: proposal must be received by March 1, 2016

Selection will be made by March 15 2016

Sculpture will be completed by September 2016

**Proposal Submission elements:**

The request for proposals is open to individual artists as well as artist teams. All Submissions should include the following elements;

- Narrative: (maximum 2 pages) describe the overall concept and style of the sculpture and how it represents the theme. Explain the process, medium and method.
- Visual illustration: illustrations, photos, electronic submissions (CD/DVD) and/or additional support materials i.e. to scale model) to show the proposal.
- Statement of Qualifications:  
Bio: Information on the artist or team, including a brief resume. Include relevant websites of the artists' work, if available.  
References: Names and contact information of three professional references
- Project Budget: include proposed fee schedule which includes costs associated with performance of the services specified.
- Project timetable: submit a proposed timetable for the entire project from design through fabrication and delivery.

Please include artist name on all elements.

Selection Process: a selection jury, sponsored by the City of Ashland Public Arts Commission, and including members of the Watershed Art Group will review all submissions. The jury will review and recommend works based on the following criteria:

- Quality of work
- Harmony of elements
- Creativity and uniqueness
- Feasibility and ease of installation within the budget and the design criteria
- Appropriateness to the mission of the Watershed Art Group and the City Public Arts Commission

(Our mission: to use art as a means to educate, inspire and engage our community in the stewardship of Ashland's watershed.)

Deliver or email proposals to:

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[PAC contact info here](#)

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