

City of Grants Pass
101 NW A Street • Grants Pass, OR 97526
(541) 450-6000 • fax: (541) 479-0812
www.grantspassoregon.gov



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 2022

Karen Frerk

City Recorder

541-450-6010

kfrerkl@grantspassoregon.gov

City Seeking Artists for Alley Beautification

GRANTS PASS – The City of Grants Pass is continuing to invest in the beautification of select alleyways downtown, transforming them into usable and enjoyed public spaces. The Alley Beautification project furthers the City’s goal of creating a vibrant commercial district by enhancing downtown activities and safe spaces. In this project, the selected artist will have the support of the City’s Committee on Public Arts (CoPA) to survey key stakeholders and design site-specific art installation(s) for the selected alleyway. The artist will be asked to create work(s) that create a sense of play and invoke interaction from the public, while also respecting placement within the City’s Historic District. The Alley Beautification project is commissioned by the City of Grants Pass with a budget of \$15K. Deadline for this Call for Artist is **September 1, 2022**. While local creators may be given preference, there is no geographic eligibility requirement to apply.

Site Description

The Beaver Alley is located between 6th and 7th streets and parallel to G and H streets. As this site is within the City’s Historic District. The proposed artwork may be reviewed by the Historical Buildings and Sites Commission (HBSC) to ensure any proposal will meet historical guidelines. The color palette may be limited (i.e. no neon colors). Vehicles bringing supplies to adjacent businesses intermittently need access to a portion of the alley. Additional engineering and architectural information available as needed. There have been no decisions other than details listed above on the use of the space.

The Beaver Alley is open to the public and can be used as a pedestrian corridor between several business including the Wing Building, G Street Bar and Grill, an Antique store, St. Vincent de Paul Store, Rogue Valley Protection and the Beaver parking lot, a public parking lot which itself will feature a public artwork. Once selected, the City encourages collaboration with that specific artist. This alley, most central of alleys under consideration for the Alley Beautification project, is adjacent to many trendy restaurants, bars and venues that draw heavy foot traffic. While the alley is lightly landscaped, the city has found the landscaping insufficient to draw the attention and use of the space by the public. The Beaver Alley is in the Grants Pass’ Historic District.

Project Description:

The Alley Beautification project is a commission of new work(s), where the artist is the creator of the space. The artist will have the support of the City’s Committee on Public Art (CoPA). The project will be overseen by CoPA with final authority being the Grants Pass City Council. Key stakeholders include business owners adjacent to the alley and the City’s Historical Buildings & Sites Commission (HBSC). The Beaver Alley is the second in a series of alleyways to be improved with public art.

Criteria

For the Beaver Alley we are looking for work(s) that create a sense of Community, Connection with others, and playfulness. One desired element of the space is to feature a Selfie Spot that is “Instagram worthy.” Most importantly, the art must be respectful to all community members and the Historic District design guidelines. Specifically, we are looking for work(s) that cause the public to 1) pause, enter, and look deeply at the space, and 2) engage in the space, and 3) record their presence in the space with a unique image (selfie and a hashtag).



Budget

The City of Grants Pass will fund the project. Proposals up to \$15,000 will be considered. Proposals must include a budget detailing material, project costs and artists fees. The budget must also include installation fees and any permits and or engineering needed to complete the installation. The City will cooperate with the selected artist for the development and placement of the artwork.

Artist Eligibility

Proposals are solicited from professional artists, artists teams as well as students are encouraged to apply. Proposals shall include renderings and complete description of the proposed sculpture including installation requirements. Applications should include a short biography, and a statement of interest regarding the project and the proposed site. Up to four examples of recent work should be included as prints or digital images. Proposals can be submitted in person, by

standard mail or by e-mail. Questions regarding the project and the application can be directed to James Conway (contact information below).

Application

After initial review of applications up to four finalists will be selected and may be requested to interview with the Committee or a subset of members. Travel expenses are not covered for finalists selected to interview, and a teleconference can be provided. Final selection will receive approval by the City Council upon CoPA's recommendation.

James Conway, MPA

Economic Development Specialist – CoPA Staff Liaison

City of Grants Pass

101 NW A St. Room 202

Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

jconway@grantspassoregon.gov

541 450 6071

Proposals must be received by 5:00 PM on **September 1, 2022**. The intention is to complete the project during the 2023 budget year ending on June 30, 2023.