

BECAUSE OF  
HER STORY

 Smithsonian



GOLDEN TRIANGLE®

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS  
TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART  
CONNECTICUT AVENUE



Location: Connecticut Avenue Median  
Pictured L: HYBYCOZO's *Golden Spike*, 2018 installation  
Pictured R: Kate Raudenbush's *Axis Mundi*, 2019 installation

## Golden Triangle Business Improvement District & Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative

Calling all emerging and mid-career artists. The Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (BID) and the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative invite you to submit your qualifications to be considered for a public art project to be installed along Connecticut Avenue in 2020. We're seeking one project that aims to pay tribute to women and their history in our shared public spaces. The artworks will be located in the heart of DC's central business district on the Connecticut Avenue Median (at K Street NW).

**Both new and existing works are eligible.**

Budgets of **up to \$35,000** will be considered for the projects. Fees for artists/artist teams cannot exceed 20% of the total project budget. Up to five semi-finalists may be selected to create concept proposals. Finalists will receive a design proposal stipend.

### **ABOUT The Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative**

The Smithsonian launched the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative—*Because Of Her Story*—in 2018. The initiative is one of the country's most ambitious undertakings to research, collect, document, display and share the compelling story of women, which is inclusive of all persons who identify as female or have a history of being designated female but identify differently.

More info on the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative at:

[www.womenshistory.si.edu/about](http://www.womenshistory.si.edu/about)

More info on Golden Triangle Arts at: [www.goldentriangledc.com/initiatives-public-art/](http://www.goldentriangledc.com/initiatives-public-art/)

**All qualifications must be submitted online here:**

<https://bit.ly/2jmiriw>

**DEADLINE: September 9, 2019, 11:59PM (EDT)**

### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

This temporary artwork will be on Connecticut Avenue and K Street, a prestigious and highly visible location in one of the most vibrant and bustling corridors in DC and the Golden Triangle neighborhood. The artwork will relate to the integral themes and goals of The Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative and will lend itself to related programming and public engagement. This project builds on the success of the 2018 collaboration between the Golden Triangle BID and the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery. Additional info on that collaboration is [here](#).

## **PROJECT GOALS**

- Install artwork that acts as a beacon, creating both drive-by and pedestrian interest.
- Identify an artist and artwork that highlights women's voices to honor the past, inform the present, and inspire the future.
- Expand the reach of the American Women's History Initiative by increasing visibility in public spaces and by using complementary digital technologies to boost engagement.
- Showcase a dynamic and distinctive contemporary artwork that enhances the neighborhood.
- Select an artwork that complements and relates to its location.
- Create a strong visual impact on the space evident during the day and at night.

## **SITE LOCATION & ARTWORK FOOTPRINT**

The location for the artwork is marked on the map below. The artwork should optimize this space to achieve the goals of the project.

### **Location: DESIGN NOTES**

- Overall size cannot exceed the following dimensions: 8 x 8 feet wide and 15 feet tall.
- Sculpture should be designed to be mounted and anchored securely to concrete sculpture pad (pad is 8 x 8 feet wide and 12 inches deep).
- There is access to power at the site via a 110 V outlet.
- If sculpture utilizes colored lights, palette must exclude red, yellow, and green for traffic safety.



### **ELIGIBILITY**

This request for qualifications (RFQ) is open to all professional artists residing in the United States. DC-based artists will be given preference in the instance of identical scoring. Artists can propose existing works or new works.

### **BUDGET**

**Project budgets of up to \$35,000 will be considered**, inclusive of artist design fees (no more than 20% of the total project budget) and costs associated with design, fabrication, transportation, shipping, installation, de-installation, insurance, and engineered drawings (stamped by a DC-licensed engineer). The Golden Triangle will manage permitting and photo documentation.

### **PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY &amp; DELIVERABLES</b>
September 9, 2019	RFQ Deadline
September 2019	Panel to select up to five (5) semi-finalists
Early October 2019	Semi-finalists notified
November 8, 2019	Round Two Proposals Due
November 2019	Panel Review
December 2019	Selected artist notified
December 2019	Proposal submitted to CFA and DDOT public space review; permitting process begins, phase 1 fabrication
January – April 2020	Artwork fabrication
May 2020	Install artwork
June 2020	Event/Dedication/Kick-off
March 2021	Removal/De-installation

## **ART SELECTION & APPROVAL PROCESS**

The Golden Triangle BID will convene an Advisory Panel to recommend artists based on their qualifications, artistic merit, prior work experience, and professionalism necessary to complete these projects. Representatives from the Smithsonian Institution, the area community, and other experts in the field will review submissions.

The final design proposals will be subject to the review of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), National Capital Planning Commission, and DC Department of Transportation. Upon approval of the concept design, the selected artists, and representatives from the Golden Triangle BID will determine the best strategy for obtaining the required permits. The artist whose design is approved will then enter into an agreement with the Golden Triangle BID for the fabrication, installation, and programming of artwork. The artists/teams may subcontract with artwork fabricator(s) and installer(s). These projects are contingent upon funding availability and permitting.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **Artistic Content 40%**

- Work demonstrates high standards of artistic excellence; and
- Artist has potential to connect to themes related to The Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

### **Capacity and Sustainability 30%**

- High degree of professionalism and relevant work experience, especially in the area of public art and public space programming.

### **Audience Engagement and Impact 30%**

- Past audience engagement experience that encourages participation in the arts; and
- Opportunity for a diversity of audiences to engage with the ideas and themes central to The Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

**Submit the following information to demonstrate the necessary qualifications:**

- Resume/CV;
- Up to 10 Past Work Samples;
- Up to 10 Images of a Proposed Work (this is only required if you are proposing an existing work rather than creating a new, commissioned piece);
- Work Sample Index, including project budgets;
- Cover letter;  
Include the following:
  - 1) How this project relates to your past work;
  - 2) Your approach to this project;
  - 3) How you relate your work to the American Women's History Initiative; and
  - 4) The key themes and concepts driving your work; and
- Professional references for three contacts.

## **HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL**

Materials must be submitted electronically via Jotform by:

**11:59PM (EDT) on September 9 2019.**

Submit here: <https://bit.ly/2jmiriw>

## **OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Selected Artist or Team will:**

- Enter into an agreement with the Golden Triangle BID for the duration of the project. Throughout the contract, the artist, design team, and subcontractors, will be required to maintain relevant licenses and carry professional liability insurance of \$2 million.
- Work with the Golden Triangle BID to determine the best strategy to install the artwork.
- Secure any necessary fabricators and installers, obtain cost estimates, and develop fabrication and installation schedules.
- Keep an itemized expenses checklist and receipts for financial reporting purposes.
- Provide an artwork maintenance plan for the completed artwork.
- Coordinate all engineering, construction, and installation with the Golden Triangle BID Public Space Curator.

## **PUBLICITY**

The Golden Triangle BID and Smithsonian Institution will include the artist or team's information on its website, social media outlets, and other various media outlets. A weather-proof plaque/label with pertinent information and approved text will be installed with the artwork. The Golden Triangle BID and Smithsonian reserve the right to photograph the artwork for educational purposes, brochures, and other publicity. All copyrights remain with the artist. The Golden Triangle BID will host a public dedication ceremony in early 2020 upon installation of the artwork.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Contact: Karyn Miller, Public Space Activation Curator

**Golden Triangle Business Improvement District**

[kmiller@goldentriangledc.com](mailto:kmiller@goldentriangledc.com) or 202-684-8924

For more information on the Golden Triangle BID, Visit: [www.goldentriangledc.com](http://www.goldentriangledc.com)