

CINCINNATI RIVERFRONT PARK PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

CINCINNATI RIVERFRONT PARK - DESIGN AND ART THEMES

Cincinnati Riverfront Park will be the city's new "front yard," situated on the Ohio River along the southern edge of downtown. It will reconnect our urban environment to the river and will link to existing parks which border on the river. With the Great American Ballpark to the east and Paul Brown Stadium to the west, the park faces the front door of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and surrounds the Roebling Suspension Bridge's northern foundations with tree groves and great lawns. It is also the setting for The Banks – a new mixed-use development under construction. The ensemble promises to be a regional attraction.

The Cincinnati Riverfront Park's features include gardens, water features, walking paths, promenades, playgrounds, a bike path, restaurants and cafes, performance lawns, a stage, a bike rental center, tree groves, a labyrinth, a wharf and public artworks. Construction of the first phase of the park started in September 2008; this phase is expected to be complete by Spring of 2011. Later phases will be constructed as ongoing public and private fundraising is fulfilled. Please visit www.crpark.org for a complete overview on the new park's design.

The park's public artworks will celebrate the unique character of the site, of Cincinnati and the Ohio River Valley. Potential themes include:

- celebration of residents' "common ground," the intersection of different cultures;
- portrayals of a timeline of riverfront/city history;
- interpretation of Cincinnati's development as a city;
- investigations of unique traditions of Cincinnati;
- Cincinnati Firsts: discoveries and innovations which happened right here.

Note: Additional information on history and culture relevant to all art commissions will be available online at www.cincinnatiiparks.com as projects come to light.

SITE SPECIFICATIONS FOR COMMISSIONED ARTWORKS

Final decisions about the location and programs for commissioned artworks will be made by the Cincinnati Park Board, but general ideas about new public artworks have been discussed:

- Art should be highly site-specific.
- The artworks should tell a story in an accessible manner.
- Some artworks will assist the public to learn about/rediscover spaces and features that used to exist on the riverfront.
- Art should encourage community involvement with the place and subject.
- Placement of art within the park will be physically accessible, and the artworks themselves will ideally invite direct interaction by visitors, regardless of physical disabilities.

- Additional sites for public art installation may be identified within other existing Cincinnati Parks.

BUDGETS FOR COMMISSIONED ARTWORKS

A variety of projects will be commissioned, with their realization contingent on progress in fundraising. Budgets and artist fees for individual commissions will depend on the nature of the project.

HONORARIA AND COMMISSION FEES TO ARTISTS

Each project will have its specific Request For Proposal, Application and Guidelines. Discussions of these materials will establish the content of the artist's contract with the Cincinnati Park Board.

Artists invited to submit proposals in the conceptual design phase will receive an honorarium appropriate to work requested. Typically included are preparation of drawings, models, maquettes and other materials which will be listed in the Request for Proposal document. Historical research will play an important part in development of all artist proposals, with an expectation that this will guide design work.

A stipend will be awarded to artists asked to follow through on already-defined concepts. Once final design is reviewed and approved by all stakeholders, the artwork will ideally be fabricated in our region. Coordination of services and partners for fabrication and installation phases will be provided by the Cincinnati Park Board Art Administrator, though the works of art themselves, their fabrication and installation will be the responsibility of commissioned artists and/or artist teams.

Honoraria will be paid in phases determined by the work schedule of the commissioned artwork. The total budget for the creation of public artwork for Cincinnati Parks is inclusive of all costs of design, fees, materials, fabrication, delivery and installation, and the costs associated with these items. These costs, for example, will likely include all or most of the following:

Artist/Designer Fees

Consultant/Contractor/Subcontractor Fees

Materials

Fabrication

Delivery

Site Preparation and Installation

Construction Costs and Supervision Costs

Permits (such as Building Permit)

Printing and Postage (printing of design plans and construction documents)

Site and Structural Engineering

Testing (such as soil compaction and concrete strength tests)

For commissioned projects, the Park Board provides:

- coordination and/or physical assistance to prepare the installation space and to place the artwork.

The Park Board does not provide (or pay for):

- transportation of artworks to or from the site or temporary storage of artworks;
- non-contracted installation construction or equipment for same.

The Park Board will not consider:

- conceptual design that requires financial support beyond the stated budget and stipend;
- proposals that are late or incomplete;
- proposals that are inappropriately scaled for the installation site;
- proposals that have problematic installation requirements.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF ART CONCEPTS

The Cincinnati Park Board is a cultural institution, where public presentation of art proposals includes meaningful narrative for the audience. Public presentations by artists participating in commissioned projects can take the form of a lecture, a panel discussion or other activities geared toward engaging the public.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Some commissions may use Artist Residencies to allow local professional and student artists to interact with visiting artists. Such artists-in-residence will be paired with partners from regional cultural organizations. The length of residencies will vary according to project but will generally range from 2 - 4 months and require a fulltime professional schedule.

When a commission involves an artist's residency, home-stays will be organized by a hosting organization. The visiting artist(s) will become active in their neighborhoods, cultivating interactions and relationships with partners and participating in local events. Cultural exchange and its relational aspects will become the basis from which design work should proceed. In addition, visiting artists are asked to connect with local peers by lecturing and/or leading at least one hands-on workshop for students and/or professionals in their medium and/or technique of specialization.

About the Client:

The Cincinnati Park Board

The mission of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners is "to conserve, manage, sustain, and enhance parks' natural and cultural resources and public green space for the enjoyment, enlightenment and enrichment of the Cincinnati community." The City of Cincinnati parks system has been rated 'excellent' by the Trust for Public Land. USA Today ranked Cincinnati Parks as one of the top three urban park systems in the United States. We have five regional and 70

neighborhood parks and 34 nature preserves, as well as parkways and neighborhood gateways. We maintain Cincinnati's Street Tree program on 1,000 miles of City streets. The parks system operates five nature centers, an arboretum and one of the larger public plant conservatories in the country. Our public art collection is the Midwest's largest. Add it up, and Cincinnati Parks manages more than 10 percent of the land area of the city.

Designers of Cincinnati Riverfront Park

Sasaki Associates has created some of the most recognizable icons of modern landscape architecture and was chosen to design Cincinnati Riverfront Park in 2001. Sasaki's landscape architecture practice is integrated with civil engineering and urban design to create new green spaces on diverse and challenging sites, including urban waterfronts. Sasaki Associates' work on Cincinnati Riverfront Park was inspired by the input of citizen stakeholders at a series of public meetings and focus groups that began in 1998. The design plans are consistent with the Park's Master Plan, created by Hargreaves Associates and approved in 1999 by the City, County, Planning Commission, Park Board and the Urban Design Review Board.

For further information, questions or clarification, please contact:
Art Administrator - Jan Brown Checco at jan@brownchecco.com
or call the Cincinnati Park Board administration building at (513) 352-4079.