

RFQ: Public Art for Ottumwa's Main Street



Request for Qualifications

The Ottumwa Area Arts Council (OAAC), in collaboration with the City of Ottumwa and Main Street Ottumwa, request artists or artist teams to submit their interest and qualifications to design public artwork for the Main Street Streetscape.

Streetscape improvements are underway on the 100-300 blocks of East Main Street. This call seeks artists to work with the project team to incorporate public art into the three mid-block crossings, with one artist/artist team represented on each block. This should include four small works at each corner of the crossing as shown by the red circles on the image to the right.

Project Timeline

- Applications due:** 11:59 PM on 3/13/20
- Finalist Notification:** Anticipated 04/2020
- Contracts Executed:** Anticipated 05/2020
- Final Design Review/Approval:** Anticipated 08/2020
- Installation Requested by:** 04/2021

*This RFQ is managed by the Ottumwa Area Arts Council
For questions, please contact Holly Berg, President*



Budget

Maximum of \$15,000 per block, including delivery and oversight of installation. Finalists will be provided \$2,500 honorarium to complete designs and budget with approval by OAAC. Remaining funds provided upon delivery.

Contact

For questions or more information on this RFQ, contact:
Holly Berg, President
Ottumwa Area Arts Council
641.680.4701 OttumwaArts@gmail.com

Overview & Background



Ottumwa was established on the banks of the Des Moines River in the mid 1800s. The population boomed to a peak of over 33,000 and has served as a trade and economic center of Southeast Iowa. The community suffered a decline due to a loss of several major manufacturers in the 1960s. The next several decades saw a loss in population, businesses and a lack of investment in the heart of the community—downtown.

However, the people of Ottumwa have shown resilience, tenacity, and pride for their community and a downtown renaissance is in full motion. Main Street Ottumwa has been instrumental in breathing new life into the city center.

Over the past decade, downtown has seen the addition of dozens of upper-story apartments, three blocks of façade improvements, and numerous events for community members of all ages. The Main Street Ottumwa district has seen over 200 building rehabilitation projects and more than 50 net new businesses—many of which are owned and operated by a diverse array of community members, including women and recent immigrants.

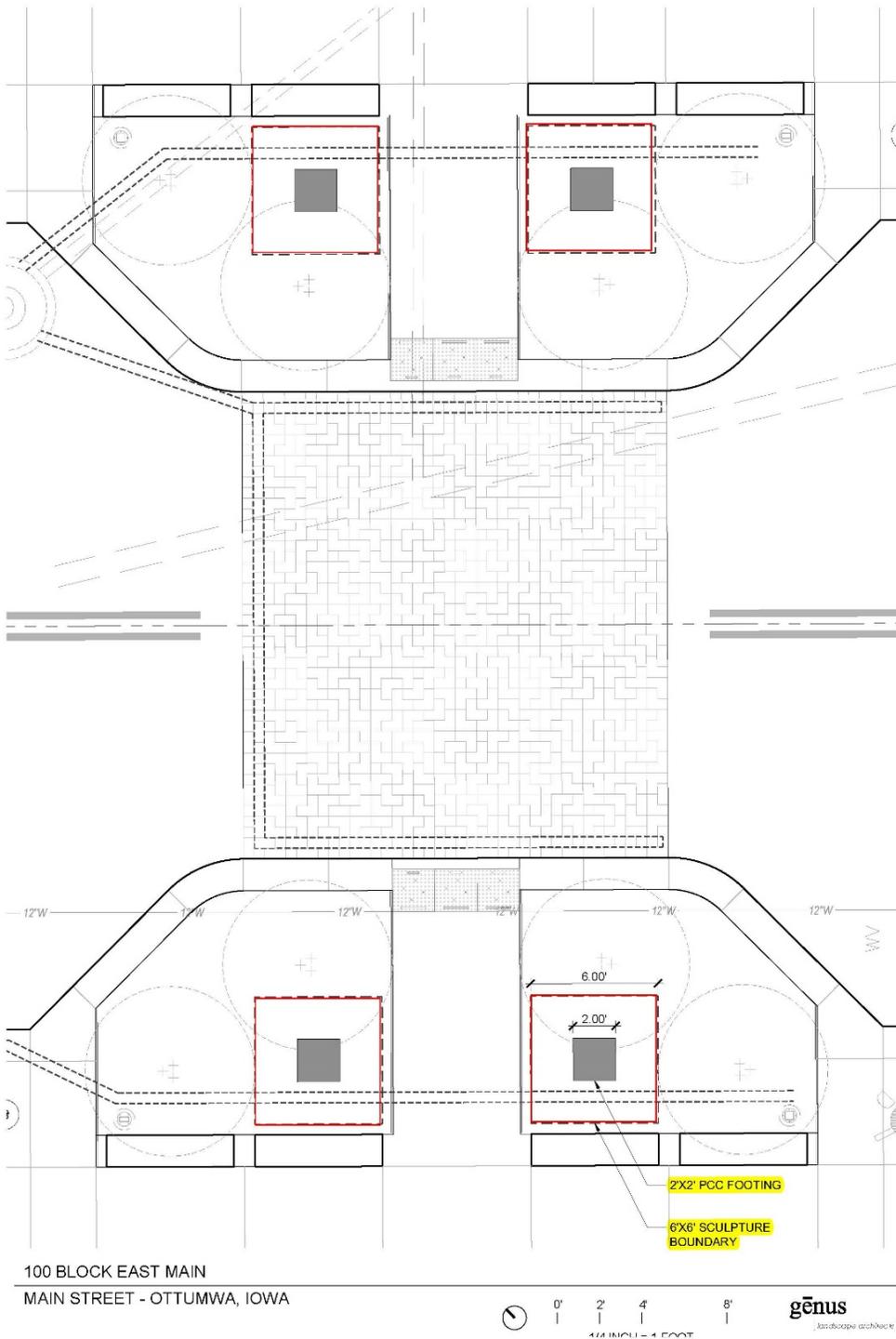
To solidify its revival and continue to promote investment in downtown, the City of Ottumwa is completing a three-block comprehensive streetscape project of East Main Street. The completed streetscape will feature two traffic lanes, underground storm water drainage, bioswales, updated utilities, and brick accented sidewalks with trees and native plantings.

Ottumwa Area Arts Council desires to ensure art is the component of this new, engaging space to enrich and enliven the experience of Ottumwa for its residents and visitors. The artwork should accentuate the streetscape and fit within the fabric of downtown Ottumwa.



The selected artists/artist teams will work with the Ottumwa Area Arts Council, City of Ottumwa, and project design team to develop artwork to be located on the four corners of each of three mid-block crossings. The selected artist will be required to work closely with the City of Ottumwa Public Works Department and affiliated structural engineers.

Guidelines



1. Chosen artwork will be required to withstand the outdoor Iowa environment with very limited maintenance. Artists should take into consideration the adverse weather conditions, pedestrian and vehicle traffic through the site, and the safety of the audience.

2. Cooperation with the City of Ottumwa Public Works Department and affiliated structural engineers needs to be considered. The artists chosen for this project will need to submit a description of requisite maintenance prior to acceptance.

3. Artwork placements are shown to the left in red. The dashed line indicates a 6' width to reflect the maximum width of the art to avoid conflict with sidewalk zone. The concrete footings in gray are shown as 2'x2' to be poured at a depth of at least 42". Please note the art size, weight and wind load may need to be reviewed by a structural engineer to determine footing depth and mounting details.

4. The Ottumwa Area Arts Council and City of Ottumwa reserve the right to reproduce images of submitted artwork for printed or internet publicity, catalog, map or other marketing or educational purposes.

Application

You may submit application materials via email to OttumwaArts@gmail.com.

All applications are required to provide:

- **Name/Team Name**
- **Contact information (address, telephone, email, website)**
- **Statement of Interest**
 - *Please describe why you or your team are well suited to work with OAAC on this project and what your participation will bring to improving the experiences of those traveling through downtown Ottumwa. Please limit to one page.*
- **Brief personal, or team biography**
- **C.V. or Resume**
- **Visual work samples**
 - *Please submit photos or video documenting up to 10 previous works with project budgets. Work samples should illustrate your artistic practice and public art experience. While prior proposals and concept renderings are acceptable, realized and completed projects are encouraged.*

Selection Criteria

- **Artistic Quality and Strong Design Skills:** Applicants should be able to produce a creative and functional plan that meets the goals and the specifications for the project.
- **Previous Experience:** Applicants should have professional experience working on public art or design projects that include project development, planning, fabrication, and public integration.
- **Accessibility and Availability:** This project requires collaboration with the project team in Ottumwa. Applicants should maintain reasonable availability to perform this work and complete the project.
- **Budget:** Work samples provided are within a reasonable range for the work performed.

Selection Criteria & Process

1. Request for Qualification (RFQ) issued, calling on qualified designers, artists, and firms to submit their interest and previous work samples to be considered for this project.
2. A selection panel comprised of project stakeholders will review all applications received.
3. The panel will recommend and select four to seven semi-finalist artists to recommend.
4. The selected semi-finalists will be presented to the public for input. Final selections will be made by a committee of members of the Ottumwa Area Arts Council and City of Ottumwa.
5. Contracts will be provided to selected artists and honorarium provided.
6. Draft designs and budget provided to OAAC for review and approval. Once approved, fabrication can begin.
7. Remaining funds provided upon delivery and installation.