

# If This Bluff Could Talk



## A Call for Artist (RFQ)

DEADLINE: October 5, 2018

For more information, contact: Brian C. Peterson AICP, Special Project Manager,  
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## **If This Bluff Could Talk**

The City of Red Wing will contract with a creative artist to lead a Community Placemaking project that will focus on engaging the community in telling a variety of stories about Red Wing's powerful and iconic natural landmark: **He Mni Can – Barn Bluff**. To the Dakota people, the bluff is one of the most sacred places in the world. For recent western culture, it holds decades of newer memories and is key to the identity of Red Wing. It is clear the landmark represents different meanings to different people. Sometimes these different points of view create conflict. The purpose of this project is to reach out and engage the community in telling the many and varied stories about the bluff so that we honor and document our human relationship with this place. The City also hopes to promote understanding of different points of view about the bluff as park visitors explore, hike, and climb the bluff.

The project will consist of two phases. The first consists of collecting stories and visual documentation. The second includes completing artistic product(s) that reflect the stories. We anticipate the final artistic product will represent four to six distinct stories or points of view. The process must be highly interactive and participatory with an emphasis on community engagement.

We are open to and encourage submissions representing a wide range of artistic products and media. We hope to see proposals from artists with backgrounds in visual, literary, performance, and/or video processes. We especially hope to be surprised by the creativity of applications. We expect that the artists' experiences during the first phase of collection and documentation will drive the final artistic product.

## **Forecast Public Art & Creative Placemaking Steering Committee**

Forecast Public Art, a St. Paul-based non-profit, partnered with the American Planning Association to develop and pilot a Public Art and Placemaking Learning Tool for City Planners, made possible through support of the National Endowment for the Arts' Our Town program and the Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund. Five cities in Minnesota were selected by Forecast in 2017 to participate in developing the learning tool and produce a pilot project, including Austin, Mankato, Rochester, Winona, and Red Wing.

Red Wing's pilot project has been developed in partnership with Live Healthy Red Wing, (LHRW) a local organization that collaborates with local corporate, governmental, education, and non-profit organizations with the mission to increase the health and well-being of our community by improving policies and systems, enhancing the physical environment, and building an inclusive culture where every resident feels heard and

connected. LHRW is providing the City with the financial support for this project through funding it has received from the Center for Prevention of Blue Cross Blue Shield through their Active Living for All program and from the Goodhue, Wabasha, and Pierce County United Way.

A Creative Placemaking Partnership Steering Committee (Steering Committee) has been formed to help develop and coordinate the project. The Steering Committee will assist with the artist selection process and with final contract discussions. The Steering Committee will also act as a sounding board and advisory group throughout the life of the project. Red Wing city staff will provide day-to-day contact for the contractor.

### **Project Context**

In 2016 while developing a master park plan for He Mni Can – Barn Bluff, the City of Red Wing received a complaint that a memorial to Prince was painted on the bluff. Public Works crews were then sent to cover the graffiti. The City does have a graffiti ordinance that it enforces throughout the community, but graffiti has been allowed to exist in this particularly visible location on the bluff for many years without enforcement (except when complaints are received). This initiated considerable community debate among residents wishing to continue the tradition of painting on the bluff and those in the community wishing to see the bluff kept in its natural state. This matter is more fully summarized in the report: He Mni Can – Barn Bluff Graffiti Policy Report, August, 2018.

In addition, the He Mni Can – Barn Bluff Park Master Plan adopted by the City in June of 2016 provides valuable background information. The City has been awarded a significant grant from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission and part of these funds will be used to develop trailhead improvements focusing on interpretation. We intend to incorporate the stories and artistic products from this placemaking project into the park improvements in 2019.

The He Mni Can – Barn Bluff Graffiti Policy Report and the He Mni Can – Barn Bluff Park Master Plan may be viewed and downloaded at the following website link:

<http://www.red-wing.org/800/Graffiti-Policy-Discussion>

## **Budget**

A budget of \$10,000 is available to cover all contractor costs, including artist time, design, materials, travel, meeting presentations, and administration.

## **Selection Process**

Members of the Steering Committee reviews applications and chooses artists to interview based on:

- Experience working with projects of a similar nature
- Ability to complete a project (references and work samples)
- Artistic quality
- Ability to facilitate community building processes

We are particularly looking for a creative artist(s) with experience and expertise in facilitation; participatory processes; community interaction with diverse groups; is diplomatic and culturally sensitive. We look to the selected artist to recommend an approach to the project and to determine the final products of the project but expect those products to be some combination of oral and visual documentation of the broad and diverse stories with many layers. There is an expectation that the artist will work directly with the Dakota Indian Community and other community residents and institutions.

The City will conduct an information session from 10 AM to 11 AM on Wednesday September 12, 2018 in the Council Chambers at Red Wing City Hall, 315 West Fourth Street, Red Wing. Attendance is not mandatory but the session is intended to help answer any questions that applicants may have.

After interviews in the later part of October, the selection committee selects a finalist to negotiate a final scope of work and contract.

## **Timeline**

8-30-18	Announce RFQ
9-12-18	Information Session
10-5-18	Proposals Due
October	Interviews and Decision
4-30-19	Project Completion

## Required Submission Materials

1. Credentials: A resume or curriculum vitae (CV) demonstrating professional history and skills, or experience as a professional artist (two page maximum).
2. Statement of interest: Brief introductory narrative that also provides insight about interest in the project and ability to execute (one page maximum). Please include Name of the Artist(s) or Organization; Street Address; City; State; Zip; Phone; and Email Address.
3. Proposed approach and schedule: Summary of how to approach the project and what key products would result that represent at least four to six distinct stories or points of view. Please provide a proposed schedule for completing the project's two phases.
4. Images: Up to 10 digital images and/or three digital video files (two minute limit per video) of work completed within the past 10 years.
5. References: Three professional references who can speak to the artist's ability to meet deadlines, work with a community, and lead an innovative and creative program. Include name, title, organization, phone number and email.

## Submittal Process

Email submission materials to: [Project.Submission@ci.red-wing.mn.us](mailto:Project.Submission@ci.red-wing.mn.us)

Submission Deadline is **October 5, 2018**

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