



Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC)

Public Art Competition

Request for Qualifications

Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) is the master developer charged with the rejuvenation of Calgary's oldest community – East Village – a 49 acre brownfield site in Calgary's downtown core. Imagined as a true urban village with life on the street day and night, East Village pulls its inspiration from some of the most livable neighbourhoods in the world. The area is bordered by two rivers, many thriving inner city neighbourhoods, a 40 acre historic park, and has direct access to public transit.

The master plan envisions a vibrant and mixed-use community of 11,500 residents in 3,900 condominium and townhome residences; where an eclectic mix of architecture ranging from century old buildings to a state-of-the-art New Central Library and the National Music Centre, and inspiring public spaces celebrate nature, offer connection, recreation and rejuvenation.

East Village will be pedestrian and people-friendly: walkable, bikeable, strollable, durable: in short, livable.

In November, 2013, CMLC announced the construction of a New Central Library in East Village; the project team and budget was similarly described.

CMLC seeks an artist or artists' team to create an artwork or artworks for the New Central Library (NCL) in Calgary, Alberta. CMLC encourages all locally, nationally and internationally qualified artist and artists' teams to apply. The public art design will beautify, enliven and activate various spaces within the new public library complex. The successful artist/artists' team will work with CMLC and the design firm Snøhetta|DIALOG to determine the best location for public art within the library complex.

Budget: \$2.0 million (CND)

Closing Date RFQ: September 15, 2014

ABOUT

The Calgary Public Library is a distributed library system that features 18 branch locations. It is the second-most used system in Canada and the sixth-most used library system in North America. 66% of households utilize the Calgary Public Library, and 393,430 Calgarians hold library cards.

Annual Circulation: 17,121,718
 Number of items in the collection: 2,952,354
 Total books; 1,689,315
 Total E-books: 509,015
 Total music Items: 87,648
 Total DVD's/Blu-rays: 188,005

Planning for a New Central Library began in 2004 as the institution approached its centennial. CMLC considers the building of the New Central Library as one of the most important civic gestures the City has made since the 1988 Winter Olympic Games and to that end, CMLC managed an international Design Competition for the New Central Library building in 2013. Thirty-eight firms responded to the RFQ, from which eight were invited to interview with the selection team, and three to submit proposals. After months of anticipation CMLC announced that the architectural team of Snøhetta (based in Oslo and New York) and DIALOG (a Canadian firm with offices in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Toronto) were selected for the project. The project's total cost is \$245 million (CND).

SITE

The New Central Library (NCL) will be located in Calgary's East Village. The East Village is a 49-acre urban renewal site located at the eastern edge of downtown Calgary, at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers where the city was founded in 1875. The area spreads east and west along the Bow River and incorporates wide open rushing water and open park-like areas at the eastern most end, with an intensely mixed-use urban edge as one moves west along the river toward the core of the downtown. Over the years the community fell into disrepair; it is currently in the midst of a major transformation.

Since 2007 CMLC has committed more \$345 million in infrastructure investment into East Village which has attracted almost \$2 billion of planned investment to the community. Currently under construction are: two (2) major mixed-use residential projects that will include approximately 1,400 new condominiums; a 320 room dual-branded Hilton Hotel, the National Music Centre (www.nmc.ca), the revitalization of St Patrick's Island that includes a new pedestrian bridge and various other public realm infrastructure projects consisting of urban scaled park spaces, public art installations and more. All these projects can be viewed at www.calgarymlc.ca.

From the very beginning of the East Village redevelopment CMLC has been committed to the most innovative and captivating public art and the creation of engaging public spaces. The New Central Library will be located on a prime location in the East Village, one block east of City Hall and straddling a Light Rail Transit line creating a link between East Village and the downtown core. The building will occupy approximately 236,000 square feet, including public space. The importance of publicly accessible and community-oriented spaces is an integral part of the Functional Program: 90% of the library, including collections space, will be public space.

CMLC and PUBLIC ART

CMLC Mission: *"Our passionate, experienced placemaking brings new energy to old neighbourhoods, creates credibility and confidence, and inspires communities to build, grow, and believe."*

Created by Calgary City Council, the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) was incorporated in the spring of 2007 as a wholly owned subsidiary of the City of Calgary. CMLC's mandate is to implement and execute the Rivers District Community Revitalization Plan, a public infrastructure program within Calgary's downtown east side, specifically within East Village.

Both the Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) and the East Village Master Plan envision arts and culture as the heart of East Village. Considered the 'software' that gives a neighbourhood its true soul and character, public art and a vibrant cultural scene are critical to the area's success.

To that end, CMLC is committed to further establishing an arts presence in East Village and building a legacy of public art installations and programs of local, national and international significance. (www.calgarymlc.ca)

NCL – PRIME DESIGN TEAM Snøhetta + DIALOG

Snøhetta arkitektur-landskap began as a collaborative architectural and landscape workshop, and has remained true to its trans-disciplinary way of thinking since its inception. Today, Snøhetta has grown to become an internationally renowned practice of architecture, landscape architecture, interior architecture and brand design. Comprised of two main studios: in Oslo, Norway and New York, USA, the practice currently has 130 employees from 20 different nations.

In 1989, Snøhetta received its first commission to re-invent the great Alexandria Library in Egypt, after winning an international design competition. This was followed a decade later by another competition-winning proposal for the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet. In 2004, Snøhetta was commissioned to build the only cultural building on the World Trade Center Memorial Site, and a permanent office was then set up in New York. Snøhetta is currently involved with more than 50 projects in Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. Working in a global context gives each designer valuable cultural and economic insight and contributes to the foundation of Snøhetta's continuously evolving professional knowledge base.

“The importance of art into our projects from earliest conceptual phases of the design is of great importance to Snøhetta. The development of an artistic expression in conjunction with an artist or artists allows for contextual attitudes and ideas to become an integral aspect of the design concept. Consequently many of Snøhetta's built works include artwork by local or international artists. We are continuously inspired by the unique perspectives artists bring to our work and find these cross collaborations develop architecture as well as art towards new expressions and content. Just as the choice of building materials is affected by what is natural for the individual project and specific site, a contextual understanding assists in the choice of the artist and technique for the architectural project.” (www.snohetta.com/process)

DIALOG

DIALOG is a Canadian multidisciplinary architectural design firm with studios in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto. Its name conveys the firm's uniquely collaborative approach, which is founded upon the engagement of clients and communities by multidisciplinary teams in an interactive planning and design process that encompasses architecture, engineering and landscape architectural services. One of DIALOG'S core values is sustainable design, and they bring that value to all of their projects. Hands-on leadership is provided by 42 principals supported by an exceptional team of 91 principals who play key roles in the day-to-day operation of its studios and projects. (www.dialogdesign.ca/)

PUBLIC ART CONSULTANT

Art to Public

Art to Public is a private consultancy firm that specializes in consulting services in the area of public art. Art to Public manages major public art projects and commissions for corporations, civic entities and private individuals.

Project Budget

The total budget for this project is \$2 million CAD. The budget is inclusive of all artist and artists' team fees and any associated expenses for design, fabrication shipping, insurance, site preparation, and installation costs.

Required Submission Materials

- A statement about your interest in public art and how it should engage or respond to its environment and the viewer.
- Annotated image list - ten images labeled with: date, title, medium and dimensions of past work. If images reflect public work, include the location of the project and the commissioning agency. Multimedia items (video and or sound clips) that describe your work may be included as part of the annotated image list but not exclusively so. Links to web based portfolios are encouraged.
- A selected biography (CV), including current contact information.
- If working as part of a team, brief resumes of each team member and a description of past experiences working together.
- Two or three reviews or news articles about past projects (optional).
- Two (2) professional letters of reference.

Selection Criteria

- Creativity
- Originality expressed in past work
- Have a strong understanding of scale
- Practical understanding of public art, implementation process, and the ability to see the project to completion
- Proven track record: public art, museum and gallery work.
- National and international profile through reviews of exhibitions, literature and other peer assessments
- Interested in addressing the challenges of the site, the building, and a willingness to work with the design team Snøhetta/DIALOG in the early stages of the project
- Ability to produce a high quality work of art within the project budget
- Highly professional

RFQ Submission Due Date: September 15, 2014

Selection Process

A Selection Committee will evaluate each response and prepare a long list for consideration by a Jury. The adjudication and selection of potential candidates for the *Request For Proposal* (RFP) process will be formalized through a Professional Recommendation to the Steering Committee of the New Central Library project authored by the Selection Committee and Art to Public. Candidates will be notified if they are to move into the RFP process. Those moving into the finalist process will receive an honorarium of \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00 (CDN) for the development of and the support of the final Design Concept. All applicants will be notified regardless.

Schedule (Subject to Change)

- Deadline for the RFQ: September 15, 2014
- RFQ Evaluation: September 16 – October 15, 2014
- Notification to Potential Candidates: November 2014
- RFP Request: January 2015
- Deadline for RFP: March 31, 2015
- Adjudication: April 2015
- Finalist Selected: April 2015

Additional Information

All submissions will be treated as confidential between the CMLC and each respondent. CMLC will not disclose their contents to other participants or to the general public. CMLC reserves the right to discuss submissions with its consultants and related parties.

Participation in the RFQ or RFP process does not imply a contract with CMLC.

CMLC reserves the right to withdraw the RFQ, initiate an alternative selection process, or re-issue the RFQ at any time.

CMLC has no responsibility for costs incurred by artists or artists' teams for responses to this RFQ.

All submissions become the property of the CMLC.

Format and Address

You are requested to submit three (3) hard copies and one electronic copy in PDF format (on CD-ROM or USB stick) of your submission to:

CMLC Public Art Request for Qualifications
c/o Art to Public
Suite 105, 999- 8th Street SW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2R 1J5

Deadline

Proposals may be accepted until September 15, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. MST. Responses that do not fully meet the criteria outlined above will not be considered at the sole discretion of the CMLC. Late submissions will not be accepted. No faxed submissions. Submissions will not be returned.

It is the respondent's responsibility to request clarification of any item that is unclear or uncertain within the contract of this RFQ package by contacting:

Art to Public/CMLC Public Art Manager
ArttoPublic@tbgl.com
+403-244-2066

Disclaimer

CMLC reserves the right to use images of the successful artwork procured at the conclusion of RFP process for not-for-profit promotion and educational purposes.