

September 15, 2023

CITY OF DRIGGS

CALL TO ARTISTS / FABRICATORS – DRIGGS CITY CENTER PLAZA IMPROVEMENTS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 2PM WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

CONTACT PERSON: Doug Self, Community Development Director

Ph: (208) 354-2362 ext. 2111 or E-mail: [dself@driggsidaho.org](mailto:dself@driggsidaho.org)

SUMMARY OF CALL TO ARTISTS

With support from the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health, the City of Driggs is seeking artists, custom furniture fabricators or others experienced in the design and fabrication of outdoor public art and furniture to create one or more works that improve the function and experience of the Driggs City Center Plaza (60 S Main St) as a place to find daily inspiration and forge social connections.

The City of Driggs specifically seeks to commission one or more works that address some combination of the following needs identified through surveys and dialogue with the community and plaza stakeholders: unique custom seating, interactive or non-static public art, and screening/noise buffer from Main Street,.

The planned location for the work(s) is along the plaza's Main Street sidewalk, in the roughly 50ft x 15ft area currently landscaped with shrubs, which will be replaced by plaza pavers.

The full Call to Artists may be obtained from the City's website at: [driggsidaho.org/bids-rfp](http://driggsidaho.org/bids-rfp)

# CALL TO ARTISTS & FABRICATORS

## DRIGGS CITY CENTER PLAZA IMPROVEMENTS

TYPE OF CALL: Application / Qualifications

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 2pm, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

CONTACT PERSON: Doug Self, Community Development Director  
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## **Project Background**

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The Driggs City Center Plaza was initially designed and improved through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, with the following goals, which are still relevant for the current project:

1. Create a permanent arts-focused public space that will draw on surrounding geographic features and celebrate physical and historical elements that define the sense of place felt in Teton Valley.
2. Contribute to the larger effort to revitalize downtown Driggs.
3. Incorporate space for organized events such as Shakespeare in the Park, an annual snow sculpture competition and summer farmer's markets, while also beckoning visitors and children to explore.
4. Encourage spontaneous informal gatherings and activities.
5. Incorporate permanent artworks as well as art built into the hardscape.

The design for the Driggs City Center Plaza draws its inspiration from the surrounding geography. Sinuous paving forms evoke the rivers while native plantings tie into the regional flora. The river forms flow through the site and into the building where they continue and become part of the Teton Geo Center exhibitions.

The public art elements installed in 2014 include stacked-wood benches on the north end of the plaza and two sandhill cranes sculpted from scrap metal pieces. It is envisioned that the benches will remain, but that the sculptures will be relocated offsite.

## **Public Art Description and Goals**

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The City of Driggs specifically seeks to commission **one or more works that address some combination of the following needs** identified through surveys and dialogue with the community and plaza stakeholders:

- Unique Custom Seating
- Interactive or non-static public art.
- Screening/noise buffer (from Main Street)

The planned location for the work(s) is along the plaza's Main Street sidewalk, in the roughly 50ft x 15ft area currently landscaped with shrubs, which will be replaced by plaza pavers. The existing wayfinding sign will be moved to the location of the north crane sculpture (Exhibit A).

Works should also contribute to achieving the following characteristics:

- Engages and encourages interaction among residents and visitors who will use the plaza, attend events, or pass through the space.
- Provides inviting and comfortable features and amenities that make passersby want to stop.
- Builds on the themes of nature, climate and history established for the plaza and Teton Geo Center.
- Is compatible with the extreme climatic conditions found in Driggs. Note that works may be designed as impermanent or seasonal.
- Reflects and celebrates the thriving arts community of Teton Valley.

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### **Project budget**

The budget for the project is currently \$35,000, with some room for increase if justified. The artist(s) will be notified of the final budget during the design development phase so they may design accordingly. This budget will include all costs of creating the artwork, including but not limited to artist fees, travel, insurance, overhead, design, fabrication and installation costs.

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### **Selection Criteria**

- Artistic excellence as demonstrated by past work and the submitted materials.
- Innovative and creative design concepts.
- Understanding of the project and ability to create works that respond to the goals of the project.
- Availability to meet the project timeline.

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### **Anticipated Timeline**

Deadline for submittal of credentials – 2:00 pm, November 15, 2023

Finalist interviews – November 28 – December 1, 2023

Award - Artist placed under contract to develop design concept – December 6, 2023

Design concept reviewed and approved – January 17, 2024

Installation is anticipated in May-June, 2024

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### **Submission Requirements**

Responses to this Call should include the following elements:

1. Cover letter – Include name, address, telephone number and email address as well as a statement describing your interest in the project (including a general description of your intentions for the work(s)),

why you feel your work fits the goals of the Driggs City Center Plaza, and your availability during the project timeline.

2. Current resume or CV with 3 references.
3. Images of recent work with title, medium, dimensions, brief description, location, date of work, commissioning entity and budget.

Responses must be digital as a single PDF document, with a maximum size of 20 MB, emailed to: [dself@driggsidaho.org](mailto:dself@driggsidaho.org) received no later than 2:00 pm on November 15, 2023. For questions or additional information contact Doug Self at (208) 354-2362, ext. 2111.

Attachments: Exhibit A –Driggs City Center Plaza Plan

