

Benicia Arts and Culture Commission

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ART PROPOSALS

Decorative Working Piano “Play Art” Seasonal Program

The City of Benicia’s Arts and Culture Commission’s Public Art Program is seeking artists to design and implement the following public art project:

Play Art: Decorative Working Piano

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

This public art opportunity is for artists or teams of artists to design and execute dynamic Working Piano Art Decorations described as “Play Art” in specific downtown Benicia sites. There is no Application fee.

There is one public use site that is in consideration and available for submission.

Premise: Provide customized painted pianos decorated by local artists for the community at-large to play.

- Each piano acts as a blank canvas for the arts community’s creativity and provides public access to these musical instruments.
- The intent of the “Benicia Play Art” program is to integrate Music and Art by bringing people together, and to share vital moments of joy, connection, and arts for all.
- This piano, we believe, will entice many hidden musicians to come out of the woodwork. In essence they become street performers—adding to the greater ambiance of the community.
- The program will run from mid-May through mid-September-October. Pianos will then be moved into storage.

Selection of Artists and Artwork:

Working Piano Public art submissions will be considered based on the following criteria:

- All visual art forms and materials will be considered.
- Style: Artwork reflecting any school, movement or method style will be considered.
- Range: Artwork may be conceptual or tangible;
- Character: Artwork must be appropriate in scale, media, style, and content to the project and environment to which they relate.
- Permanence: Consideration should be given to structural and surface integrity, and must be durable and require minimal maintenance.
- Design Elements: In addition to meeting aesthetic requirements, Decorative piano public art may also be asked to serve as a means of defining architectural space, e.g. establish focal points, clarify, identify or indicate boundaries, modify and/or enhance specific spaces.
- Public Safety/Liability: Artwork and art places must be free of unsafe conditions or other factors bearing on public liability.
- Diversity: The Public Art program should strive for diversity, reflecting the social, ethnic and cultural fabric of the City.

Artist Selection Criteria:

1. Artistic quality, including excellence in the artwork’s craftsmanship, originality and integrity of the material used.

2. The appropriateness of the artwork to the surrounding community to include its scale, form, content, and design.
3. The relationship of the artwork to the social and cultural identity of the community where the artwork will occur.
4. The artist's ability to successfully complete the project on time and within the proscribed budget.
5. The artist's proposed materials and their appropriateness to the project with regard to structural and surface integrity, protection against theft, vandalism, public safety and weathering, and an analysis of long-term maintenance needs.
6. The artist's proposed method of installation of the artwork and an evaluation of safety and structural factors involved in the installation.
7. The durability of the materials and projected cost of maintenance of the artwork.

DETAILS WORKING PIANO PROGRAM

Background

The decorative working piano will be placed at a visible city-owned site in the downtown and can be considered as an opportunity for incorporating artwork and music. In order to make this program work, the piano will be supplied and warehoused at Gordon's Pianos in the Arsenal. Gordon's will provide warehouse space to each artist to decorate the pianos.

DETAILS

The City of Benicia Arts and Culture Commission is accepting applications from qualified artists for Public Art for the decoration of this piano

ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS AND SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Open to all Greater Bay Area residents
- Concept and imagery (50%)
- Artistic Excellence (30%)
- Previous Artwork Experience (20%)

ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS CONTENT AND REQUIREMENTS:

- General understanding and appropriateness of surroundings both in historic and non-historic districts
- Specific details of paints, decals and vinyl wraps to be used
- Compliance with community safety standards

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please read this section carefully. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The applicant's name must appear on all material submitted. Applications must be received by the end of the day on March 31, 2023. Artists must provide the following in an **electronic format and sent or deliver material to Benicia Library, 150 East L Street, Benicia, CA. 94510. For more information call Helaine Bowles at 707/746-4358 or email her at Hbowles@ci.benicia.ca.us.**

Completed Application Form;

- Current Resume/CV (PDF or Word format)-Note: if this is a group submission, submit a single resume for the entire team with individual resume integrated into one document;
- List of supplies used;
- Concept Description & Design Mock-up—a brief description of the proposed installation drawn to scale with color using the provided image of the wall to closely represent the planned installation;

- Budget & Timeline—selected artists is welcome to begin work as early as soon as selected.
- Examples of Previous Work—include 1-3 samples of past and recent work with descriptions. Include location, commission organization and budget for the work submitted as illustrative examples; you may submit up to three designs;
- Send or deliver all above materials (jpeg images, electronic documentation in PDF or Word documents) on a USB to: Benicia Public Library, Attention: "Public Art Submission" 150 East "L" St., Benicia, CA 94510.

COMPETITION AWARDS:

- Individual Pianos \$1,200+ \$150 for materials

TIMELINE:

- Submission Call for Artist release: March 10, 2023
- Submissions due: March 31, 2023
- Benicia Arts and Culture Commission Review: April 13, 2023
- City Council Review: If Required TBD
- Notification to Artists: April 28, 2023
- Work Completion: May 31, 2023

Finally, all submitting artists carefully review all of the information on these pages and submit questions or inquiries to Benicia Public Library, Attention: hbowles@ci.benicia.ca.us. *Please include email address and phone/text.*

Application Deadlines **March 31, 2023**

Please note, the city reserves the right to limit the size and placement of the artist's signature and placement thereof.

Appendixes:

1. **Attachment:** Application Form

The City reserves the right to reject any and all submissions.

*Thank you for your interest in becoming a part
of the art landscape of Benicia, California!*

City of Benicia Arts and Culture Commission
Public Art Initiative

Cover Sheet

Application Form

Code: _____

(The committee secretary will assign your personal code.)

I am applying for Project _____

Please print:

Artist Name: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Email: _____

Experience: Please provide brief statement of your experience in creating and implementing this type of project:

Resume and References: Please provide your resume and list of references on a separate document. Resumes can be no longer than two pages. If submitting as a team, the maximum number of pages is three, and all resumes must be submitted at the same time.

Description of Past Work: Submission must include a list of past work with descriptions including location, dates, significant materials and budget:

Submit Application to:

Benicia Public Library
150 East L St.
Benicia, CA 94510
Attn: Public Art Submission

Or email to
hbowles@ci.benicia.ca.us