



Sawmill Multicultural Art and Nature County Park Call to Artists

For

**Coconino County Parks and Recreation
Flagstaff Arizona**

January 2020

A. Introduction

Coconino County Parks and Recreation (CCPR) is seeking proposals from Arizona artists or artist teams who create large-scale, three-dimensional sculptures to be a part of a public exhibition opportunity at Sawmill Multicultural Art and Nature County Park located in Flagstaff.

Artists will be reviewed by a seven (7)-person selection committee composed of two (2) Parks and Recreation staff, one (1) Board of Supervisors, one (1) Board of Supervisor appointed community member, one (1) NAU art faculty member, one (1) Flagstaff Unified School District staff faculty, and one (1) member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The selection committee will review artists' initial submissions and then select five artists to display their sculptures based on submissions and site visit. Each artist will be given a \$1,500 stipend to cover costs associated with preparation, moving, and installation of their sculpture.

B. Sculpture Placement

Sculptures will be located on one of five concrete surfaces along the sculpture walk. Sculptures may be installed in other areas of the park if the artist and committee collaborate on the location and with the approval of CCPR. Artists must submit sculptures that are durable and suitable for outdoors with the ability to withstand the elements of the local climate as well as interaction with the general public.

C. About Coconino County Parks and Recreation

Mission Statement: Coconino County Parks and Recreation engages the public in delivering quality parks, equitable community partnerships, diverse recreational opportunities, and distinctive natural areas and open spaces.

Vision Statement: Coconino County Parks and Recreation enriches lives through exceptional parks and programs.

Workplace Values:

Passion: We engage positively and enthusiastically in our jobs to accomplish our mission.

Accountability: We take responsibility for our actions.

Resourcefulness: We encourage innovative, creative thought, and adaptability.

Knowledge: We recognize, respect, and learn from peoples' diverse experiences.

Solidarity: We work together through communication, collaboration, and cooperation to achieve a common goal.

Our Commitment:

We accomplish our mission by:

- Managing 3,286 acres in six county parks,
- Maintaining 24 miles of trails on Coconino County property and easements,
- Maintaining two conservation natural areas,
- Hosting the annual Coconino County Fair, and
- Implementing the 2002 voter-approved capital improvements sales tax initiative, the Coconino Parks and Open Space Program (CPOS).

We provide recreation programming with a primary focus on outdoor and environmental education. We work with private and non-profit partners to provide high quality, unique parks and recreation services throughout Coconino County.

We strive to connect with the community by engaging the public and delivering exceptional customer service to all who visit the Coconino County Parks System.

D. About the SiteOverview

Sawmill Multicultural Art & Nature County Park was built on a "brownfield" where one of Flagstaff's first sawmills operated from 1908 to 1993. The logging and lumber industry shaped the structure of Flagstaff by attracting Mexican, African American, Swedish, Polish, and Italian families to work at the mills.

The park offers recreational and educational opportunities. Meander around the backyard wildlife habitat gardens and see how a contaminated industrial site can be transformed into an environmental and aesthetic amenity. Its public art celebrates the diversity of the surrounding community.

Willow Bend Environmental Education Center

The mission of the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center in Flagstaff, Arizona, is to provide education outreach services that build environmental awareness and an ethic of responsible stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.

Willow Bend Environmental Education Center was founded in 1978 by Jim David, a schoolteacher, and Jim Alam, a supervisor with the Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District (CNRCD). Since then it has served as Coconino County's only year-round full-time environmental education center.

Friends of Willow Bend Gardens

The Friends of Willow Bend Gardens is an all-volunteer organization whose primary purpose is to support the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center by restoring the habitat demonstration gardens used in its programs.

See Section I for context map and site photo.

E. Project Goals and Considerations

- Fits well within the context of the site (in terms of scale, design and theme).
- Each sculpture will provide a focal point for aesthetic and cultural engagement and will instill conversation, foster interaction and evoke appreciation by the general public.
- Consideration of the audience – residents, Willow Bend patrons, students and visitors, with a particular emphasis on general public.
- Materials should be of the highest quality and fabricated for durability as well as for minimal maintenance.
- Plant selection: For living sculptures, projects will use non-invasive, native, drought tolerant plant materials that consider existing environments and micro climates; creating wildlife habitats are most desirable.
- The park is located in the City of Flagstaff which is a Dark Sky Community. If projects incorporate lighting, they shall be in accordance with dark sky standards.
- The artists commit to lending the selected works for a minimum of 36 months, unless sold. If a sculpture is sold while on display at the park, the artist and CCPR will schedule the removal of the sculpture during an agreed upon time. Any expense related to the sculpture's removal is the artist's responsibility.
- A selected artist is responsible for providing sufficient anchoring hardware for the artwork and for coordinating with the Parks and Recreation Department to finalize installation.

F. Eligibility

The Call to Artists is open to all artists or artist teams over the age of 18. Artists must reside in Arizona. Artists who have a strong professional profile, peer recognition, a history of public exhibitions, and who are experienced in semi-permanent, urban-scale works for exterior locations or who have successfully worked on collaborative projects are encouraged to apply.

G. Selection Process

Prospective artists are asked to submit the following items by email to Sawmillparksculptures@coconino.az.gov before 4:00PM MST, February 21, 2020:

1. Three to six digitally formatted reproductions depicting perspectives/profiles each of up to three works of art from every side. Art work and support material should be sent as JPEG images and documents, respectively, not exceeding 3 MB each. All files should be named with a number and the last name of the artist. All submissions and support material must be submitted by email and received by the Parks and Recreation Department by 4:00PM MST, February 21, 2020. Late entries will not be accepted. **Please note that the county e-mail can only accommodate file sizes up to a maximum of 25Mb. If your files exceed this size limit you will**

need to send multiple e-mail submissions of 25Mb or less. Artists can also mail materials to Parks and Recreation 2446 Fort Tuthill Loop, Flagstaff, AZ 86005.

2. A short résumé or biographical sketch, not to exceed two pages, highlighting experience and education. Artists must reside in Arizona.
3. An artist statement and a typewritten description of the artwork (250-word maximum) detailing the title, year of completion, materials used, dimensions, weight, support/anchoring components, motivation behind the creation and the meaning of the piece(s). If more than one piece is submitted for consideration, please include a checklist.
4. Site-specific work also should include the exact location or a general proposed placement of the work for review by the Review Committee. Sawmill County Park is public park so feel free to visit and view the existing artwork and park amenities.

The public reception for the artists and sculpture walk is planned for July 10, 2020.

For all questions and inquiries regarding this project, please contact Brian Grube, Assistant Director, Sawmillparksculptures@coconino.az.gov or call 928-679-8005.

H. Timeline: January- July 2020

- January 8 Announcement of Call to Artists
- February 14 Deadline for submission of questions regarding the Call to Artists at 12:00PM MST
- February 21 Deadline for receipt of submissions at 4:00PM MST.
- February 24-March 6 Review of submissions and selection of shortlist
- March 10 Shortlisted artists will be contacted
- March 18 or 20 Site visit with CCPR and selection committee
- March 23 – April 3 Final review of proposals and selection of artists
- April 6 Final selection of artists will be contacted
- May – June Sculptures to be installed, dates TBD by CCPR
- July 10 Public Reception for artists

Artists are encouraged to consider these and other surfaces within the park. CCPR will approve the final proposals.

