



The Columbus Museum
Columbus, Georgia
Making Conversation Public Art Installation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Columbus Museum is seeking proposals from artists in the American Southeast to design and fabricate an outdoor public art installation at Warren Williams Homes, a housing community in Columbus, Georgia operated by the Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia for the *Making Conversation* project. Artists who live or have lived in the Chattahoochee River Valley of Georgia and Alabama are especially encouraged to apply. *Making Conversation* changes the narrative of a place often viewed through unfair stereotypes by bringing underrepresented stories to the forefront. A major goal of the project is to change the narrative and share residents' pride in their own community. A team of Columbus Museum staff and volunteers has been meeting with Warren Williams residents to gather residents' oral histories and pictures of living in the neighborhood or similar communities. These stories, images, and other objects will be shared in an exhibition at the Museum (December 15, 2018 – May 26, 2019), bringing people together across generational, racial, and socioeconomic divides. The commissioned public art installation will become part of the Warren Williams neighborhood. Artists are encouraged to reflect on residents' stories and images shared during the project throughout the design and fabrication process. The artwork will give the residents of Warren Williams, visitors to the site, and members of the public the opportunity to reflect on what it means to reside in Warren Williams and be a member of the Columbus community.

A Brief History of Warren Williams Homes

At the end of the Civil War, housing for newly freed African Americans was concentrated on the eastern edge of Columbus. Over time, randomly arranged shotgun houses appeared in the low-lying land around Weracoba Creek at the bottom of Wynn's Hill, giving the neighborhood the name of "The Bottoms." Women in the neighborhood often walked up the hill to work as domestic maids or cooks in homes belonging to wealthy whites, while some took in laundry or sewing at their homes. Male residents often worked as laborers at the nearby railroad yards or on the busy docks of the Chattahoochee River downtown. In 1944, as many of the original wooden homes deteriorated and demand for housing for civilian war workers increased, the Housing Authority purchased the land to create modern apartments. Federal and local funding—supplemented by contributions from Columbus business leaders—built

Warren Williams Homes. Its name comes from a white Phenix City business leader and Confederate veteran whose son spearheaded local fundraising efforts for the neighborhood.

Site Plan

The site for the public artwork is Warren Williams Homes at 1200 Warren Williams Road, Columbus, Georgia.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/1200+Warren+Williams+Rd,+Columbus,+GA+31906/@32.4668565,-84.9760871,430m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x888ccd0ecbea7b2b:0xa34fc2ec70ea060d!8m2!3d32.467278!4d-84.976297>

Budget

The budget for this project is not to exceed \$20,000, which will include artist fee and fabrication.

Transportation and installation cost will be covered by The Columbus Museum. This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Estimated Timeline

October 2018: The Request for Proposals will go out to professional artists.

November-December 2018: The RFPs will be reviewed and an artist will be determined for the project.

Working with the selected artist, the committee will determine the exact location of the art installation within the community.

January 2019: The contract between the artist and the museum will be finalized.

January 2019-May 2019: The public artwork will be created and installed.

June 2019: A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place to unveil the public art installation.

Guidelines

Artists may consider adding interpretive signage into the artwork as a way to educate visitors. Because the artwork is an outdoor commission, weather and maintenance must be considered. The artwork must be engineered to withstand severe weather, hurricane force winds.

About the commission

The Columbus Museum has established a committee to review artist submissions and interview finalists.

The selection committee will include Warren Williams residents, Housing Authority staff members, Columbus Museum staff members, community planners, and a professional artist.

Additional information

Please refer to the following links for more information:

The Columbus Museum website: <http://www.columbusmuseum.com/>

Making Conversation website: <http://makingconversation.net/>

Warren Williams, the Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia website:
<http://www.columbushousing.org/page.asp?urh=PropertiesViewer&id=7>

Qualifications

Professional artists who have experience managing, designing, and completing a significant outdoor art installation. Artist must be able to provide evidence of adherence to stated budget and timely completion of previous project(s) through project documents and/or professional references.

Selection criteria

- Artistic aesthetic
- Quality of work samples
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively
- Demonstrated ability to design a site-specific work within a thematic concept

Submission instructions and materials

Applications accepted through: December 15, 2018

Required information for this application:

Resume/CV:

Submit a brief, current resume including:

- Contact information
- Your website
- Previous relevant art commissions
- Exhibitions, awards, grants
- Education
- References

Letter of interest:

Must address how you would produce an artwork that will resonate within the theme and guidelines set forth in this Request for Proposals and its selection criteria.

Artwork images:

In the "Images of Your Work" section of your application on CODAworx, please submit at least three (3) and up to five (5) different completed artworks or past commissions. For each completed artwork, you will be prompted to upload a single main image and specify the title of the artwork, location, year completed, medium, and dimensions. You have the option to provide more images and information for

your completed artwork by publishing a CODAworx “project”. With a CODAworx “project” you can include additional images and more information about your project or artwork. When complete, include the link to the “project” with the main image. Follow the link below to publish the additional images and information for your application: <https://www.codaworx.com/account/project>.

Images must be JPEG file format with a minimum of 620px width and a maximum file size of 5MB. Horizontal images are recommended.

Slides, prints or any physical submissions of artwork will not be accepted.

To apply follow this link:

<https://www.codaworx.com//rfp-toolkit/rfp/making-conversation-public-art-installation>

For questions about this opportunity contact Lila Stone at lstone@columbiumuseum.com

For questions about how to apply on CODAWorx contact info@codaworx.com

Submission Instructions and Materials

Applications will be accepted through the CODAworx RFP Toolkit.

1. Sign up for a free account at www.codaworx.com/registration to start an application.
2. You may return to your application before it is submitted by logging in on CODAworx, clicking your name in the top right, and selecting “RFP Dashboard”.