



Request for Proposal

Hodges Square Lighting Project

A Thames River Innovation Places (TRIP) sponsored project

I. Introduction

Hodges Square, New London CT, in partnership with and under the umbrella of Thames River Innovation Places (TRIP) is seeking a professional artistic firm, individual artists or consortium to work with the Hodges Square Village association, New London Arts Council and the City of New London to create site specific light projection artwork as part of the Hodges Square Reconnection Project. The purpose of this opportunity is to strengthen the sense of place, encourage innovation and promote the arts in Hodges Square. The intent of this procurement is to select a single proposal that delivers the best value for the project scope and to execute the contract with the successful proposer.

II. Project Intent

The project is a short-term, temporary public art installation of a vibrant lighting display and that will enhance public safety, and the quality of life for Hodges Square residents and visitors. The project is designed to be a sustainable solar powered light projection display telling the story of innovation, the Thames River, history of Hodges Square, and I-95 Interstate. In addition to the installation of the light display, the proposal at minimum should demonstrate;

- Enhancing the gateway in and out of Hodges Square;
- Solar powered installation
- Be an appropriate and original artwork for outdoor installation able to withstand severe weather, vandalism, graffiti etc and be adequately and safely displayed and secured;
- Consider light reflecting into residences homes and vehicles traveling on I-95.
- Reflect community values;
- Consider site limitations or opportunity and underpass coverage area. The design of the artwork may be freestanding but not attached to the underpass structure;
- Be in alignment with DOT Guidelines for Aesthetic Objects and Treatments within CTDOT ROW;
- Potential for longevity and low maintenance of the project will be given higher consideration;

Depending on the successes of the project, installation could become long-term.

III. The Award

Funding available for this project is up to \$55,000 including artist commission, materials and installation.

IV. Site and Immediate Surroundings

The Hodges Square neighborhood houses one of the city’s oldest neighborhoods, an 18-acre city park - Riverside Park, and an historic mill (c. 1650) that represents one of the earliest mill industrial sites in the country. The National Register of Historic Places recognized Hodges Square as an historic district in October 2016. Hodges Square is the connecting neighborhood for Connecticut College and the Coast Guard Academy, and links the neighborhood to the downtown area and Waterfront Park. The history of New London is interwoven with its relationship to the water. The Thames River and Long Island Sound are the agents of change, diversity, industry, and economy. That relationship with this resource will continue to be a major factor in the future of the City.

The center of the corridor on Williams Street incorporates the Interstate 95 area, which creates a significant challenge for visual appeal and livability. The roadways are complex, filled with on/off ramps, and nine overpasses mixing city and state streets together in concrete spaghetti-like crossroads. This exchange is the main connecting section of the north/south economic corridor. The intent of this project for art deployment is to have the most dramatic impact and visual context of connecting the Hodges Square economic zone to the rest of the city.



Note: the underpass are double sided and all identified underpass's is critical to the beautification of the neighborhood. Nonetheless, priority would be given to underpass 1, 2, 3, and 4. Additional consideration will be given to proposer that includes underpass 5, 6, and 7.

V. **How to Apply**

Artists interested in this project must prepare and submit the following:

- **Proposed Artwork Concept** - This proposal shall include conceptual design drawings, sketches and/or any medium sufficient to communicate the artist concept. It should include a **budget** and describe the specifications for the artwork related to materials, size, weight, installation requirements and maintenance guidelines.
- **Letter of Interest** - no more than one page in length, which explains your interest in the opportunity. Please include your name, contact information and state the format of your sample submittal.
- **Artist's Statement** - no more than 200 words in length, describing your work.
- **Current Resume** - If submitting as a team, an individual resume should be submitted for each team member.
- A list of at least **three professional references** familiar with your work and working methods. The list must include complete addresses and telephone numbers.
- Work samples on CD / DVD / USB of your work. Artists applying as a team should submit work samples of each individual artist's work. All work samples must be submitted in either of the two following formats:
 - a. A minimum of eight digital images saved on one CD. All JPEGs must be sized at 250 dpi, 5"x7". You must number and title each JPEG and include a description sheet with corresponding numbers. The sheet should list your name and the titles, dates, media, and dimensions of your work.
 - b. Video(s) on a standard formatted DVD player. Video should be no more than ten minutes in length and each video on the DVD should be a single chapter. Clearly label DVD with your name and title(s) of the work(s). Do not submit original work. Note: if you are submitting video on DVD, you may send up to two additional images supporting your qualification to create public artwork. Each JPEGs must be formatted as instructed above and sent on a separate labeled CD with a description sheet.

Optional: Each artist may include up to three selections of support materials such as reviews, news articles, web links and other related information.

All proposals must be received by 4:00 pm on December 3, 2019, either by mail or hand delivered to:

Hodges Square Art Opportunity
City Hall, 181 State Street
New London, CT 06320
Attn: Sybil Tetteh, 2nd floor

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope and shall be labeled “Hodges Square Art Competition”. Please submit five (5) hard copies and one (1) USB disk of your proposal with any attachments.

VI. Final Artist Selection:

The selection committee will review the submittals and select an artist to create an original site-specific artwork.

The final commission of the artwork for the site will be awarded by the first week in December 2019, with art pieces installation planned for January 2020.

Additional Information:

The selected artist will receive a Contract for the Commission in the amount up to \$55,000 which must be sufficient for all elements of the project including fabrication, shipping, and installation.

No Suspension or Debarment

By submitting the information called for by this RFP, the Respondent submitting the information certifies that neither it nor those within its organization or proposed team are under suspension or debarment by any governmental entity, instrumentality, or authority.

The terms and conditions including a proposed payment schedule will be negotiated between the city and the selected proponent.