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CALL FOR ARTISTS: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
NEAR NORTH SIDE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD  
GATEWAY SCULPTURE PROJECT

The City of St. Louis, Missouri, is interested in commissioning an artist or artist team to create a site-specific gateway sculpture for a public space at N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Biddle as part of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. This opportunity is open to artists with the capacity to successfully complete design and installation/fabrication of the project within the budget and timeline. The submission process is described below. Up to three (3) finalists will be selected and paid a stipend to develop concept proposals for this opportunity. *Artists are also invited to submit existing work that is available for purchase so long as it aligns with the goals and criteria for this project.* The budget for the artwork is not to exceed \$200,000 and must be installed no later than August 30, 2024. Submissions are due February 19, 2024.

#### ABOUT THE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) is a program of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development that leverages significant public and private dollars to support locally-driven strategies that address neighborhoods with public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. The City of St. Louis' [Near North Side Choice Neighborhood Initiative](#) encompasses [Carr Square](#) and [Columbus Square](#) neighborhoods, along with portions of [Old North St. Louis](#) and [St. Louis Place](#).

The CNI neighborhood team has been working with Near North Side (NNS) residents since the launch of the Critical Communities Improvement Plan in July, 2020. This plan builds on the capacity and insights provided by residents and will result in a series of neighborhood improvements designed to promote individual and community wealth. Residents indicated they wanted safer spaces to play, have fellowship and relax; cleaner and better streets; opportunities for meaningful careers that can sufficiently support families; good development of vacant land and buildings; and greater unity and collaboration between neighbors.

Through this process neighbors also identified a need to send a clear signal that long-awaited transformation of the Near North Side Choice Neighborhoods has arrived, and to firmly distinguish and honor the community's past and progress, through art and culture. In addition to this gateway sculpture opportunity, improvements will include:

- Community-engaged public art installations
- Tree-scaping and sidewalk rain gardens
- Pedestrian and park infrastructure to encourage rest and fellowship along the corridor



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## ABOUT THE PROJECT SITE

The site for the gateway sculpture is in a triangle shaped piece of land at the intersection of N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Biddle. Plans for the site include transforming it into a park-like space, populated with a variety of tree species and two benches. Situated along N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, it is a highly visible location along a busy corridor and sits near the intersection of the four neighborhoods that comprise the Near North Side: Carr Square, Columbus Square, Old North, and St. Louis Place.

## ART OPPORTUNITY

An artist will be commissioned to create a site-specific work of art for the triangle space at N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Biddle that serves as both a gateway visible to passers-by and a visual anchor that engages visitors.

### Gateway Sculpture Goals

- Create a sense of arrival for residents and visitors to the Near North Side.
- Convey a sense of unity and shared identity for the Near North Side.
- Celebrate and highlight the Near North Side's unique identity, history, and pride of place.
- Bring creativity, beauty, vibrancy, and a visible icon to the 14<sup>th</sup> Street corridor.

### Gateway Sculpture Budget

\$200,000 to include all costs of designing, fabricating, and delivering the artwork, including but not limited to, design, engineering, fabrication, shipping, travel, insurance, and overhead. The foundation/site work and installation will be paid from a separate budget.

## SELECTION PROCESS

The CNI Art Advisory Group, comprised of members of the surrounding community as well as site stakeholders, will advise the City on artist selection and approval of the Concept Proposal.

- The Art Advisory Group will select up to three (3) finalists to develop and present a concept proposal. The Art Advisory Group has the discretion to select a single artist to develop a Concept Proposal.
- Finalists will receive a stipend of \$2,500 to participate in the concept proposal process, which will include attending a briefing prior to developing a proposal and a virtual technical review meeting to review the concept proposal prior to submission. Proposals will include renderings and a short narrative description, as well as a preliminary budget and timeline.
- Finalists will present their concept proposals virtually to the Art Advisory Group. The Art Advisory Group will recommend a final artist/concept for the project.

### Eligibility

The opportunity is open to artists and artist teams residing in the United States, though the selection criteria favor artists residing in St. Louis and/or with a connection to the north St. Louis neighborhoods and community surrounding the site. The selected artists will also have experience executing ideas from concept to completion and meeting a specified budget and timeline. Previous experience working in the public realm and with a public agency preferred.



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### Pre-Application Workshop

Prospective applicants will be able to attend a virtual Pre-Application Workshop February 8, 2024, at 4pm CST. Here City staff and consultants will talk about the opportunity and walk through the application process. The workshop is optional.

Advanced registration for the workshop is required through Zoom: [Registration Link](#)

### Qualifications Review Process

The Art Advisory Group will review artist qualifications and select up to three (3) finalists to develop Concept Proposals. Artist qualifications will be reviewed by the Panel based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence: What is the quality of the artist’s work and their compatibility with the project?
- Goals: Does the artist’s body of work demonstrate an ability to create an artwork that responds to the goals of the project?
- Approach: How well does the artist communicate his/her understanding of the project?
- Capabilities: Does the artist have sufficient experience to be able to design, fabricate, and install an artwork on time and on budget?
- Connection: Does the artist have a connection to and interest in creating a work for St. Louis, the Near North Side, and/or the community and history surrounding the site?

### Finalist Review Process

Up to three finalists will be paid a stipend to attend a site visit and orientation, develop a site-specific Concept Proposal (including renderings, a narrative description, budget, and timeline), and present it to the Art Advisory Group. The selected artist will then be placed under contract for final design, fabrication, and installation of their approved concept.

### Selected Artist Scope of Work

Each selected artist will be responsible for designing, fabricating, and installing the artwork, including:

- Based on the approved Concept Proposal, developing final design documents detailing every physical feature of the construction, the artwork, and its integration with the site (the final design).
- Executing the final design on schedule and in a manner that conforms to the approved Concept Proposal.
- Managing all aspects of the installation of the artwork.
- Providing maintenance and conservation instructions for the completed artwork.
- Work cooperatively and maintain effective communication with all parties involved in the project.
- Participating, as requested, in community outreach and attending a dedication event.

### Tentative Timeline

Pre-Application Workshop	February 8, 4:00 p.m.
Deadline for Questions	February 12
Call for Artists Deadline	February 19



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Advisory Group Reviews Submissions and Selects Finalists	Week of February 26
Finalists Present Concept Proposal to Committee	Week of April 12
Final Design and Fabrication	May-Aug, 2024
Art Installed	August 30, 2024

## TO SUBMIT

All materials are due before 11:59 pm CST on February 19, 2024. A link to the application portal can be found [here](#).

You will be required to submit images, including:

- 5-10 sample images of previously completed projects that represent your body of work AND/OR you may share existing work that is available if it aligns with the goals for this project (jpg, gif, tif, png).
- Corresponding image information about each work sample. Please use the fields provided, including: title, year, location, commissioning body, medium, brief description, dimensions, weight and project budget/price. If an existing work that is available for sale, please indicate this in your image description.

You will also be required to submit the following on the application form:

- Describe your interest in the project, and the idea or ideas you would like to explore, in the site-specific artwork (500 words).
- Describe your connection to St. Louis, the Near North Side, and/or the community and history surrounding the site. If no connection, describe why you are interested in creating a work of art for this community (150 words).
- A résumé/CV no longer than 3-pages, including current contact information and email address (pdf, doc or docx).
- Names and contact information for 3-5 professional references.
- Your contact information and website.

**Please do not send specific proposals at this time.** Only finalists will be asked to create Concept Proposals for the opportunity.

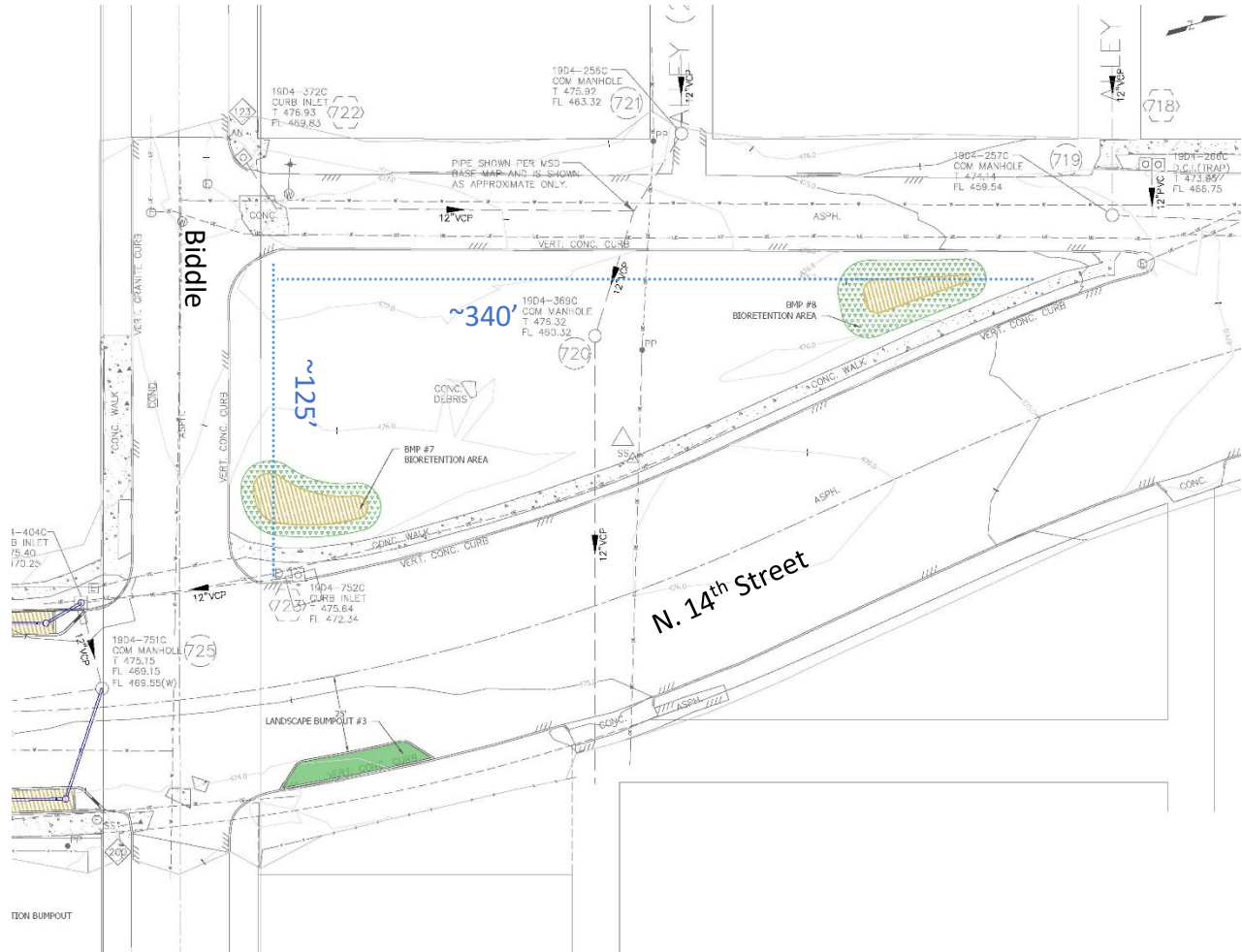
## QUESTIONS?

- The full application be found [here](#).
- Please submit all questions via email to [art@viapartnership.com](mailto:art@viapartnership.com) no later than February 12.
- Responses to all questions will be posted [here](#) by February 14.
- For Technical Questions about the submission process, visit: <https://zealous.co/help/>
- More Information: Near Northside Website: [NNS STL Choice \(nearnorthsidestl.org\)](http://NNS STL Choice (nearnorthsidestl.org))



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### ATTACHMENT A – N. 14<sup>th</sup> and Biddle Triangle Site Plan





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ATTACHMENT B – Site Photos



Looking Northwest



Looking South