



**Request for Qualifications
Sculpture/Obelisk and Viaduct Art Installation
Oak Park Avenue Streetscape**

Oak Park, IL

Publication Date: January 18, 2024

Application Deadline: February 20, 2024

Call to Artists

The Village of Oak Park is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to professional artists or design firms to create permanent, original, exterior, public art installations to be located along Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park, Illinois as part of the Oak Park Avenue Streetscape project. There are two separate installations being sought; artists may submit responses to this RFQ for one or both pieces of art. The artist must identify which artwork location(s) they are submitting a response for: 1) The Sculpture/Obelisk and/or 2) The Viaduct Art installation. If an artist is submitting for both, two separate submittals providing the appropriate qualifications are required.

The selection process will incorporate two phases: Phase I will include collecting applications and portfolios from qualified, interested artists. The committee will select artists from the Phase I pool to continue into the next phase.

The artists selected to continue to Phase II will be invited to submit a proposal, including concept artwork (sketches, photos of maquettes, 3D renderings, or any media that would communicate the intent of the design/artwork concept), a budget, and other information for their design. The committee will then select artists to interview, after which, a recommendation will be made to the Village Board for the artist(s) and their artwork. The selected artist(s) will then present their design to the Village of Oak Park Board. Once approved, the artists and the Village of Oak Park will agree to the final budget and installation timelines in the final contract.

“The artist” refers to any applicant, and “the Village” refers to the Village of Oak Park. “The artwork” refers to either installation and will be further defined as “the sculpture/obelisk” and “the viaduct installation”.

Eligibility

This Request for Qualifications is open to all professional artists, artisans, designers, and design firms. Subcontractors may be hired to provide technical assistance to the artists. This technical assistance may include: construction, fabrication, and/or assembly, and must be under the direct supervision of the contracted artist. For the RFQ, budget allocation is not required regarding subcontractors, however, please describe how subcontractors would be involved in the creation and/or installation of the artworks(s). The contracted artist(s) will be responsible for all



subcontractors. Further, the contracted artist(s) will be required to provide proof of insurance for themselves and their subcontractors if they are selected for the final installation.

Persons not eligible for submission:

- Village of Oak Park employees and their immediate family members/persons living in their household
- Elected officials and their immediate family members/persons living in their household

Project Summary

The Hemingway district is the latest business district within Oak Park to develop a streetscape project, making it a highly anticipated project. The sculpture and installations requested will be a part of the Oak Park Avenue Streetscape project, a street rehabilitation and refurbishment of the corridor from Pleasant St. to Ontario St. along Oak Park Avenue. The project will include improvements of the sidewalk, curb, and roadway, as well as improved benches, streetlighting, and outdoor dining areas. The project area, also known as the Hemingway District, houses many businesses, shops, and restaurants. The area has a rich history, and is home to beautiful, historic, and notable architecture.



*Figure 1. Existing Conditions
Oak Park Avenue Facing South Towards North Boulevard*



*Figure 2. Design Concept
Oak Park Avenue Facing South Towards North Boulevard*

Project Sites

The Village has identified two locations of opportunity for artistic enhancement, and each installation will be seen by hundreds of pedestrians, drivers, local shoppers, and tourists daily. Note: the installations will experience all seasons of the year and will be viewed at different speeds and heights. If the artist intends to apply for both locations, the artist should provide separate qualifications for each location, as two separate selections will be made: 1) The Sculpture/Obelisk 2) The Viaduct Art Installation. The same artist may be selected for both pieces, or two separate artists may be chosen.



Figure 3. Rendering Showing the Locations of the Two Installations (the Viaduct Installation Will be the Located on the Two Walls on Either Side of the Road)

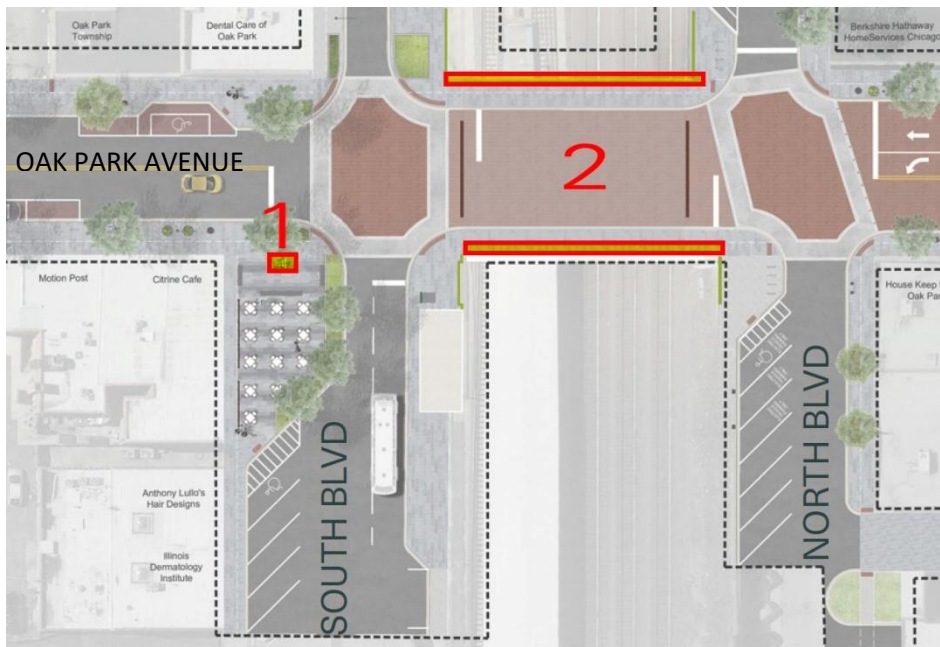


Figure 4. Illustrative Plan View of the Locations of the Two Installations



Artwork Locations

1. SCULPTURE OR OBELISK

Nearest Address: *100 S Oak park Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302*

The requested installation will be located on the Southeast corner of the intersection of South Boulevard and Oak Park Avenue. The installation will serve as a place for local shoppers and pedestrians to gather. This area is currently located next to a dining space of a local restaurant, and a CTA train station, and the space welcomes diverse, multi-generational users. The installation will be seen from all sides, and depending on height, from up high from the train station or from the top if a viewer is located in an adjacent building. Typical plans and allowances for monument scale will follow this RFQ, as the design of the plaza is being defined. However, an estimation for the footprint of the sculpture is 5ft by 5ft with a height allowance of about 12ft. These dimensions will likely be refined as design development as the project evolves. Furthermore, the sculpture base will be integrated into the design of the area; the selected artist will coordinate with the Village design team consultant for seamless integration. Please see Appendix A for further site context and previous schematic designs.

Village Vision for the Sculpture or Obelisk:

This work has the benefit of being highly visible to three major viewers: pedestrians, drivers and train commuters. As such, the installation will serve as a beacon to the business district and become a landmark of Oak Park. The installation will also serve as a key feature to the gathering area. The Village is open to artwork that integrates stories and histories of the area *or* artwork that is materially focused and/or abstract. Consideration of place, context, and perspective is paramount.

Engineer/Architect Recommendations and Notes:

- The artist should consider that this art piece will be located in a family-friendly area where pedestrians and children will be present. The safety of the piece should be taken into consideration
- The artist should consider the possibility of graffiti or vandalism to the piece and provide ideas or solutions to accommodate such acts
- The sculpture or obelisk shall not contain a fire or water element
- The artist needs to follow public realm guidelines and safety restrictions that may come to light as design of the streetscape develops, specifically related to the nearby CTA station

2. VIADUCT ART INSTALLATION

Nearest Address: *900 South Boulevard, Oak Park, IL 60302*

The Viaduct art installation will be located on both the east and west side of the viaduct walls, underneath the railroad tracks on Oak Park Avenue. The viaduct walls are made of concrete, and



are directly adjacent to the sidewalk. The artwork will be seen from the front, and its two sides, through the supports of the viaduct itself. The artwork will be seen from vehicular traffic and pedestrians on either side of the viaduct. The area to consider for the viaduct installation is approximately 7-8ft in height, and 80-85ft in length. Both sides of the viaduct walls are extremely similar in size, but vary slightly. Please see Appendix B for further information.

Village Vision for Viaduct Art Installation:

The vision of the Oak Park Avenue viaduct installation is to create an inviting, safe, well-lit, beautiful, and iconic space that pedestrians are drawn to for many years to come. It should serve as a connection between North and South Oak Park Avenue, connecting each side of the business district. The Village is open to artwork that integrates stories and histories of the area *or* artwork that is materially focused and/or abstract. Consideration of place, context, and perspective is paramount. Consider how the two walls relate to one another and how experience changes depending on perspective. Note: the work will be seen at all times of day and during all seasons. Material choices must be resilient. If lighting is not a part of the work or within the artist's capabilities, the Village design team consultant will support the addition of lighting.

Engineer/Architect Recommendations and Notes:

- The art installation will not be able to be attached directly to the concrete façade of the viaduct wall. Instead, it needs to be mounted on a panel or similar structure
- The artist should consider the effects of water dripping onto the element from the tracks above
- The artist should consider the possibility of graffiti or vandalism to the piece and provide ideas or solutions to accommodate such acts
- The art installation should not create habitat or opportunities for pigeons to roost
- If the artist wishes to design the lighting considerations themselves, all lighting design must be coordinated and submitted to the Engineer for approval prior to the purchase



*Figure 5. Existing Conditions
Oak Park Avenue Viaduct – East Side Facing North*



*Figure 6. Existing Conditions
Oak Park Avenue Viaduct – North Side Facing Southeast*



Artist Objectives and Goals

The overall goal of the artwork is to create an inviting, comfortable landscape that can be celebrated by community members, business owners, and tourists alike. At this time, the Village does not have a preferred theme or color pallet for either installation.

All artwork must meet the ADA and Illinois Accessibility Code requirements for protruding objects in the circulation path.

Selection Process

Phase I

The Phase I responses to this RFQ for both the Sculpture/Obelisk and the Viaduct Art Installations will be reviewed by an internal committee comprised of Village staff and the Village design team consultants for the streetscape project (Terra Engineering and Design Workshop). The committee will select a limited number of artists for each of the two pieces to move into Phase II. The committee will consider all items that are included in the application and portfolio.

DO NOT SEND A CONCEPT PROPOSAL IN PHASE I. Only submit the information requested in the “How to Apply” section below. Include one set of qualifications per installation (Sculpture/Obelisk and/or Viaduct Art Installation) and tailor your submittal per the context of the work.

Phase II

After the Phase II committee reviews the proposals, the committee will make a recommendation for the finalists for each piece of art to the Oak Park Area Arts Council. There may be up to three finalists named for each art installation, and each will be interviewed by the committee. Note: not all artists who submit to Phase II may be interviewed. The artist(s) selected/recommended by the Oak Park Area Arts council will be required to make a presentation to the Village Board. The Village Board will ultimately approve the proposed art, contract, and budget for each piece.

Each artist selected to continue to Phase II will receive a total stipend of \$2,500 for each concept they have been asked to develop, along with the information the artist is asked to submit and present to the committee. See “how the apply” section below.

The installation of the art will be completed by fall 2025.

Budget Details

As part of Phase II, the Village committee will seek concepts and proposals that include a budget that will cover all expenses associated with, but not limited to: project design, labor, fabrication, project management, material, tools, contracted services, operations, meetings, and travel required to complete the artwork. The budget should also include all costs related to permits,



licenses, taxes, insurance, transportation, delivery, and documentation of the completed project. Any expense that exceeds the contracted amount will be the artists responsibility.

The artists shall be responsible for coordinating with Village staff and representatives to oversee all aspects of the art installation. Costs associated to the technical assistance provided by Design Workshop (lighting and landscape coordination) or Terra Engineering (structural engineering and support) will not be incorporated to the budget submitted by the artist. The final cost of the art will be agreed upon and included in a written contract before work commences.

Artist Scope of Work and Timeline

The artist will be expected to work throughout the project with the committee who will be making the final recommendations to the Village board. The schedule below is assumed, but dates may shift as needed.

RFQ POSTED	January 18, 2024
Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting	February 1, 2024
RFQ Questions Due	February 8, 2024
Q&A Posted on Website	February 13, 2024
RFQ Applications Due	February 20, 2024
Phase II Pool Selected	March 1, 2024
Preproposal Video Call	March 8, 2024
Design Proposals Created	March-April 2024
Artist Interviews	May 2024
Final selection – Oak Park Area Arts Council*	May 2024
Winner Notified	May 28, 2024
Anticipated Village Board Award of Agreement*	June 4, 2024
Design Work Begins*	June 10, 2024
Final Installation Complete*	Fall 2025
Artist to Attend Opening Event*	November 2025

*Timeline subject to change



Intellectual Property Rights

All intellectual property rights for the work ultimately selected by the committee shall be the exclusive property of the Village of Oak Park. The artist may feature documentation of the work in their portfolio, but the work may only be reproduced in any means by the Village of Oak Park.

Physical Property Rights

At the completion of the installation of the structure/obelisk and the viaduct art installation by the contracted artist, all artwork and installations will be of the property of the Village of Oak Park. The maintenance of both pieces will be the responsibility of the Village of Oak Park, unless the Village determines to enter a maintenance agreement with the contracted artist(s).

Legal Agreement

The Village of Oak Park reserves the right to alter any aspect of the selection process or the overall project in any way for its own convenience at any time. This Request for Qualifications does not constitute either an expressed or implied contract and its provisions are subject to change.

How to Apply

To apply for this project, please submit the following documents with relevant information in **one** PDF, in the below order:

- A. A letter of intent that includes:
 - a. The project name – indicating what type of medium you specialize in and intend to work with for this project
 - b. Indicate which art piece you are submitting the letter of intent for
 - c. Your name and the name of your team members, if applying as a team
 - d. Your most current contact information including address, telephone number and e-mail address
 - e. The reasons you are qualified for this project
 - f. The reason you want to be selected for this project/ why you are a fit for this project
 - g. Experience with collaborative projects
 - h. Any connections to Oak Park or Illinois
- B. Resume(s) for lead artist and any other team members (1-page maximum each)
- C. Artist statement, goals and objectives (2-page maximum for each installation)
 - a. If the submission is on behalf of a team, please identify the lead artist and indicate if the individuals have previously collaborated and the nature of the collaboration
 - b. If the artist or artist team has worked with not-for-profit organizations, local governments, state agencies, or other similar groups, please indicate which entity you worked with and a short description of the project



- c. Indicate what the artist/team's goals and objectives would be for the space for each installation
 - d. Include any ideas, *in narrative form*, for themes/ideas to be considered for this space
 - e. Include any known subcontractors and previous collaborations, or known scopes that would be subcontracted
 - f. Include a budget range for each idea you would like to pursue
- D. Portfolio
- E. References of at least three professionals (commissioning agency or organization, design or arts professional, architect, landscape architect, engineer, etc.) who have detailed knowledge of your work and working methods. Include contact name, project type and scale, complete address, telephone number and email address for each reference.
- F. Optional: One page of additional support material, including links to press clippings or other relevant information on past projects.

Further instruction for information required for Phase II will be shared with applicants if they are chosen as a Phase II finalist for the project.

Please note:

- Only send applications in PDF form. No other format will be accepted
- Do not send design proposals as a part of Phase I
- Do not submit detailed budget information as part of Phase I
- All submittals become property of the Village of Oak Park and will not be returned. The artist will retain copyright
- Submissions may be presented for public viewing

Applications must be received no later than February 20, 2024 at 4:00pm Central Time. No applications will be accepted after this time and date.

Applications may be e-mailed to: Lauren Wojcik, lwojcik@oak-park.us

The pdf file must be no larger than 10MB.

If you have any questions about this RFQ, please e-mail them to Lauren at the address listed above with subject title "OPA Art RFQ Question" by February 8, 2024 at 4:00pm Central Time. A compiled Q&A will be posted to <https://www.renewtheavenue.com/> no later than February 13, 2024 at 4:00pm Central Time.

Appendix A

CURB EXTENSION AT SOUTH BLVD. AND S. OAK PARK AVE. Schematic Design: Plan



Final material selection and program placement will be determined in the Design Development phases of work. Rendering intended to depict a concept and program only.

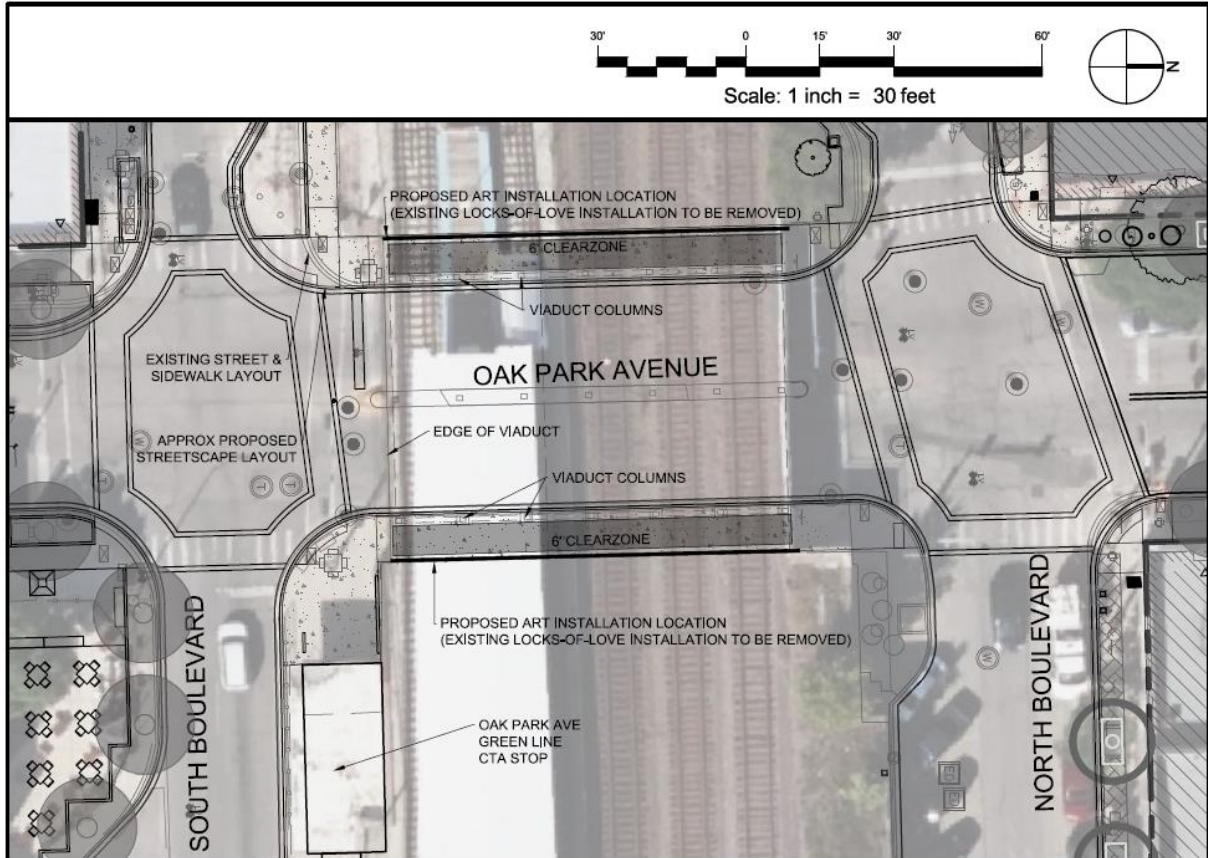
The final location and size of the sculpture/obelisk may change based on artist input, site lines, accessibility requirements and design development of the space.

N NOT TO SCALE



Schematic Design Concept: View Looking North-East
from S. Oak Park Avenue and South Boulevard

Appendix B



APPROXIMATE AVAILABLE INSTALLATION SPACE (EACH SIDE OF VIADUCT)

1.0-1.5' DEPTH FROM FACE OF VIADUCT WALL
7.0-8.0' HEIGHT FROM SIDEWALK
80-85' LENGTH ALONG VIADUCT WALL (EACH SIDE)

- VIADUCT COLUMNS
- SIDEWALK, 6' CLEARSPACE
MINIMUM REQUIRED
- EXISTING LOCKS-OF-LOVE INSTALLATION
(TO BE REMOVED)
- SELF-SUPPORTING COLUMNS FOR
INSTALLATION. NOT ALLOWED TO BE
SUPPORTED BY VIADUCT WALLS
- EXISTING VIADUCT WALLS TO BE
MAINTAINED BY UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

