Open Call to Artists - Request for Qualifications
Outdoor Public Art Project for downtown Livermore, California.

The City of Livermore invites a visual artist or artist teams to develop a site-integrated public art project to be permanently located at Livermorium Plaza at Mills Square Park in the heart of downtown Livermore, California. The art will commemorate the discovery of Livermorium, which was adopted as Element #116 on the Periodic Table on May 30, 2012. The artist or artist team will work with City of Livermore staff and consultants to integrate the artwork into a full redesign of the park.

Request for Qualifications submission deadline is January 27, 2014 at 5:00 pm, Pacific Standard Time

Eligibility

This Call to Artists is open to professional artists or artist teams residing in the United States who meet the following qualifications:

- Successful completion of at least two original, permanent public art projects commissioned for an outdoor environment.
- Aesthetic excellence in the design and execution of completed projects.
- Ability to design, fabricate, install or oversee the installation of commissioned work.

Background and Project Context

Founded in 1869, Livermore is California's oldest wine region and is surrounded by wineries, farm lands and ranches that mirror the valley's western heritage. The City's current population of 83,325 encompasses 26.44 square miles and is the easternmost city in the San Francisco Bay Area and the gateway to California's Central Valley.

As home to renowned science and technology centers, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratory, Livermore is a technological hub and an academically engaged community. The City has become an integral part of the Bay Area, successfully competing in the global market powered by its wealth of research, technology and innovation.

Livermore is also active in celebrating its arts, culture, and western heritage. Historic Downtown Livermore is enjoying a renaissance, reestablishing itself as the city's preeminent shopping, dining, entertainment and cultural district. With the addition of several residential projects and a pedestrian-oriented environment, the City is creating an active urban living experience.

Background of Livermorium

In December 2000, scientists working at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, Russia, along with scientists from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, announced the creation of #116 on the Periodic Table of Elements.

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) officially approved Livermorium as the name for element #116 on May 30, 2012. The name Livermorium (atomic symbol Lv) was chosen to honor Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and the City of Livermore. The IUPAC selected the name to recognize the contributions of the scientists in Livermore to heavy and super-heavy element research. Scientists at LLNL have been involved in this type of research since the Laboratory's inception in 1952.

To celebrate the multiple collaborations between researchers from LLNL and scientists from the Russian Flerov Laboratory of Nuclear Reactions that began in 1989, an international naming ceremony was held in Moscow. The ceremony was attended by Livermore's Mayor and a delegation from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. At that time, both element #114 Flerovium (Fl) and element #116 Livermorium (Lv) were formally recognized by the IUPAC.

Located in the bottom right corner of the periodic table of elements, Livermorium was created by bombarding curium targets with calcium at one-tenth the speed of light. Although Livermorium decays 47 milliseconds after creation, its discovery is hailed as an important scientific breakthrough.

Currently, there are only two cities in the United States and 11 cities in the world with elements named after them. On June 24, 2013 Mayor John Marchand re-dedicated Mills Square Park as Livermorium Plaza and announced that May 30th would be annually celebrated as Livermorium Day.

Public Art Budget
The budget for this project is $175,000. The project budget includes all costs related to the artist's project management fees; the artworks final design, fabrication, transportation, delivery and installation costs; subcontractor and consultant fees including any engineers or fabricators; permit and license fees; General Liability and other insurance required by the City, and all other costs associated with the art project.

Program Goals
The art should:

- Be an original, site-specific art project for a public space.
- Provide an interactive and educational experience that invites the public to learn more about Livermorium and science.
- Use light, wind or other natural phenomena to create art that is engaging and kinetic.

Location of the Livermorium Public Art Project
The public art will be permanently located on Livermorium Plaza at 116 South Livermore Avenue. This is the main intersection in Livermore's downtown and the final corner of this intersection to be redeveloped. Landscaping improvements on the 8,500 square foot plaza will occur during the art installation and will be designed to complement the public art that is selected for the site.

Selection of Artists for Conceptual Design Proposals
Applications will be pre-screened by City staff to ensure that the applicants meet the minimum qualifications as described in the Application section.

A Community Advisory Panel consisting of representatives from the City's Commission for the Arts, downtown businesses, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and interested residents will review the applications and rank them according to the selection criteria defined below. Applicants with the three highest rankings will be invited to develop and submit conceptual proposals. The City reserves the right to select fewer or additional artists based on the applications.

Application
All requirements listed below must be met or the application will be removed from consideration.

- Full application completed through the Western States Arts Federation online website www.callforentry.org
- A statement of interest (2,000 characters maximum). The document should include why you are interested in this project and your approach to creating public art. If you are applying as a team, the letter should clearly describe the contribution of each collaborator.
- A vitae or résumé that describes the artists or teams experience including a minimum of two original, site-specific public art projects.
- Three to five references from projects of similar scope and size.
- Artists must provide at least three (3) and up to a maximum of six (6) images and/or videos of their previous work.

You must use the online site to apply for this project. The name of this call is **City of Livermore: Livermorium Public Art Project**.

Selection Criteria
Artists will be selected to submit a conceptual design proposal based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence, innovation, and originality.
- The aesthetic quality of the past work including content, craftsmanship, uniqueness and context.
- Visual and technical sophistication of previous art.
- The artists demonstrated ability to translate art concepts into durable materials that can withstand a long term exposure in an outdoor environment and requires minimal maintenance.
- Evidence that the artists existing public art projects have maintained an appropriate level of quality and integrity over time.

- Proven ability to work in a public environment and collaborate with City staff and landscape design professionals. As part of the public art, the artist may recommend specific landscaping features, however, the City reserves the right to accept or decline any landscaping recommendations from the artist.
- Demonstrated ability to complete projects on time and within budget.

Responsibilities for Artists Submitting Conceptual Designs

- Artists selected to submit a conceptual design proposal will be asked to attend a project orientation. All artists who attend the orientation and travel more than 60 miles from the project site in Livermore will receive a pre-approved travel allowance.
- Artists can collaborate with the City when developing the conceptual design including identifying initial ideas for artwork, content and scale.
- Artists will be provided at least 10 weeks to develop design concepts.
- The conceptual design proposal must indicate the artists design intent, possible location of the proposed artwork or installation, materials and fabrication processes, a preliminary budget based on actual cost estimates and a project timeline. Finalists will be expected to provide to scale renderings and other visual materials to adequately illustrate the proposed artwork.
- Proposed budgets must include verifiable cost estimates for design development, fabrication and/or fabrication oversight, delivery, installation, professional consultants, the artist's project management fees, required insurances and all other costs associated with the art project. The evaluation of the proposed budgets will be an integral part of the selection process.
- The conceptual design proposals will be placed on display in City Hall and publicized through the City's social media for at least a two-week period. During this time the public may comment, though not vote, on the proposals
- The Community Advisory Panel may choose to complete an additional follow up interview with each of the artists submitting a conceptual design before they recommend a final selection. If this occurs, the question and answer session will be completed via conference call or Skype.

Honorarium

Each artist or artist team that the City requests a submission of a conceptual design proposal will receive a $1,250 honorarium upon the successful submission of the design.

Final Selection Criteria

To select the finalist from the artists submitting conceptual design proposals, the Community Advisory Panel will take into account all public comments in conjunction with the criteria listed below. Using this information, the Advisory Panel will make a recommendation for a finalist to the City's Commission for the Arts. The Commission, in turn, will review the Panel's suggestion and make their recommendation to the City Council for the final selection of public art.

- Artistic excellence, creativity and originality of the project's concept.
- The artist's response to the stated goals of the project
- The technical feasibility of the proposed artwork, including maintenance requirements, resistance to vandalism and appropriateness for public access.
- An evaluation of the proposed budget including:
    - The budget's feasibility for the scope of the project
    - An analysis to determine if the artist has completed appropriate research and obtained viable cost estimates from subcontractors and suppliers.
- Positive feedback from professional references.

Ownership of Materials
All documents, sketches, plans, reports and all other materials including models, submitted as part of the conceptual design proposal will become the property of the City of Livermore upon payment of the honoraria to the artist. Exceptions include material samples, tapes or other materials presented to illustrate the proposal but are not integral parts of the proposal.

Project Schedule *(may be subject to change)*
RFQ Application Deadline: January 27, 2014
Selection Panel Review: to be completed by February 14, 2014
Selected Artist Orientation: Completed by March 14, 2014
Conceptual design proposals due: May 23, 2014
Public Review of proposals: May 30 – June 20, 2014
Community Advisory Panel Review of proposals: to be completed by July 15, 2014
Recommendation to Commission for the Arts: July 22, 2014
City Council deliberation on final artist selection: September 8, 2014
Contracts developed: September through November
Fabrication and Installation: TBD

Questions?
All questions should be submitted by January 17, 2014. You can contact Jean Prasher, Livermorium Project Manager by email at japrasher@cityoflivermore.net or call (925) 960-4586.