



WESTBROOK ARTS & CULTURE PUBLIC ART REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Downtown Westbrook, Maine

OVERVIEW:

Westbrook Arts and Culture is making a call to artists who have a significant connection to Maine to submit proposals to design, create and install exterior artwork in downtown Westbrook, Maine. The committee will consider making direct purchases for completed pieces that clearly align with the site background information provided below.

The total project budget is approximately \$47,500.00 and the submission **deadline is Friday, June 30, 2017.**

BACKGROUND:

The city of Westbrook, Maine has a strong Franco-American heritage with a rich immigrant culture, past and present. Historically, current-day Westbrook was part of Falmouth until 1814, when it was set off and incorporated as a separate community, soon named Westbrook after Colonel Thomas Westbrook, an early settler and mill operator. In 1871, this community split into two municipalities; the current City of Westbrook and Deering. Westbrook was incorporated as a City in 1891.

Saccarappa Falls and Congin Falls provided waterpower for early mills within the city, and an 1829 sawmill made Westbrook famous for its lumber. Other industries included machinery and water wheels, carriage and harnesses, shoes, bricks, flour, and more. The Portland Manufacturing Company built a cotton textile mill at Saccarappa Falls and a paper mill was built at Cumberland Mills, once an Indian planting ground known as Ammoncongin. By 1859, it produced 1,000 tons of paper annually. In 1867, the factory's name changed to the S. D. Warren Paper Mill and then to Sappi in 1994.

Although Westbrook has been linked for more than a century to the Maine paper and wood pulp industry, the city has seen great diversification of industry. Though there is still a manufacturing core, there is a growing commitment to support small businesses, the creative economy, and diverse recreation opportunities.

Westbrook Arts and Culture is interested in proposals that address the desire for a centerpiece in the new pedestrian bridge plaza, which serves as a connector for the two sides of the river.



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Key themes:

- Presumpscot river
- Urban rural
- Mill town
- Tight knit community
- Outdoor recreation
- Diverse ethnic population
- Franco American heritage
- Paper Industry
- Rich immigrant history

POTENTIAL PUBLIC ART AREAS INCLUDE:

Artists must address either of the following two options in their proposals:

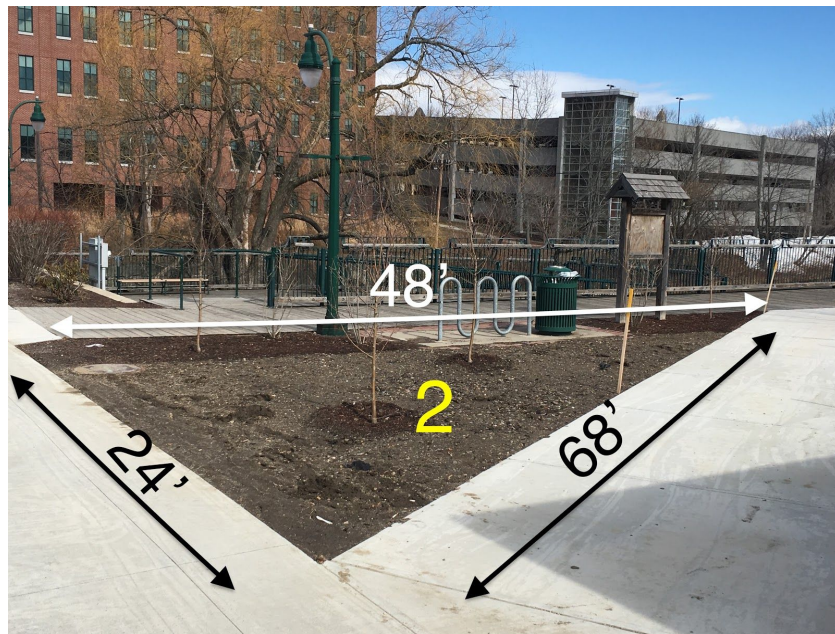
Option #1: *See photo.* End of Vallee Square





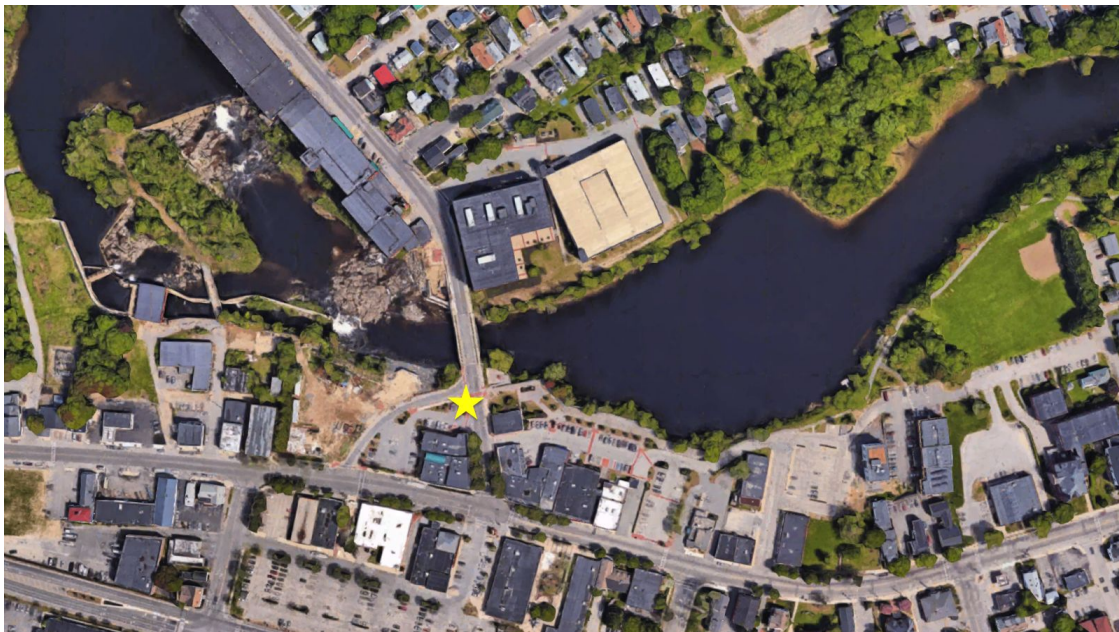
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Option #2: End of Vallee Square (site 1) **and** adjacent open space (site 2)





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QUESTIONS:

If you have questions about the locations or would like to visit them with a committee representative, please contact Caren Michel at westbrookartsculture@gmail.com.

PROJECT BUDGET:

There is approximately \$47,500 in Westbrook Arts and Culture funds available for artwork for this project. These funds will be used to commission work(s) from a single artist, more than one artist or an artist team. An artist budget proposal must cover all design, fabrication, transportation, documentation, and installation expenses, including any building or site modifications associated with the artwork.

SELECTION PROCESS:

The Westbrook Arts and Culture selection committee of five members will jury submissions for the project. The committee will review the materials to determine whom to invite for a second round of evaluations. Artists selected for the second round will receive a **\$250.00** design fee for refining their proposals. Final proposals will include detailed models, drawings, renderings, samples of work and/or materials depending on the nature of the proposal. All finalists will present their final proposals to the committee in person. Please do not submit detailed models, drawings, samples, or final proposals for the first round of the selection process.

All submitted materials will not be returned.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR FIRST ROUND:

Applications are reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Artistic strength as shown through vision, originality, and understanding of craft (30 points).
- Ability to translate artistic concepts into work that will activate or enhance the proposed space (25 points).



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- Application is comprehensive in information and ideas are well communicated (20 points).
- Ability to design work that is sensitive to social, environmental, historical, and/or other relevant contexts (15 points).
- Capacity to complete the proposal on time and within budget (10 points).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

All professional artists who have a significant connection to Maine may apply. Artist Members of Westbrook Arts and Culture, members of the selection committee, and their immediate families are ineligible. Students at any level are ineligible. The project is open to all artists age 18 and over, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical disabilities. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines.

DEADLINE:

Friday, June 30th, 2017 at 11:59 PM is the deadline for submission of materials. Materials received after this date may be excluded from consideration.

MATERIALS REQUIRED IN INITIAL SUBMISSION:

Materials must be submitted online through Westbrook Arts and Culture email: westbrookartsculture@gmail.com

All required materials must be sent as individual files attached in a single email. All documents must be in a PDF format and all images must be in a jpg or PDF format. Any submissions that do not follow the requirements may be considered ineligible. Make sure submissions are labeled correctly, and that your name, phone number, mailing address and email information is on every document.

Your proposal must include:

1. A current concise resume for participating artist(s) (2 pages maximum).
2. A brief one-page written proposal describing your past work and how you plan to



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address the potential art area(s). Discuss what your concept and approach will be in addressing the public art space(s) of the site. Please do not submit detailed models, samples, or final proposals for this round of the selection process. A simple sketch (1 per installation area) may be included to clarify your idea if necessary.

3. A brief explanation of the artist(s)'s connection to Maine
4. An itemized budget estimate to give cost expectations. A more precise budget will be requested for those invited to the second round of evaluation.
5. A brief statement of anticipated maintenance required for the artwork including seasonal considerations.
6. Five digital images of recent work, resolution of 72 dpi at a minimum of 5 x 7 inches in jpg format no larger than 1.5MB per image. If an artist team or artist organization applies, they may only submit five images for all artists. (The optional proposal sketch does not count as an image. Please include any sketches with the narrative portion of the proposal.)
7. A list of the submitted images identifying title, artist, medium, size, location, and other pertinent information about the image submissions.

Name each file with your last name first and name of the document, e.g.:

Doe_John_resume.pdf

Please label and number your images as follows:

Doe_John1_Title of the work.jpg

Make sure submissions are labeled correctly, and that your name and contact information is on every document.

HOW TO SUBMIT MATERIAL

E-mailed materials should be sent to westbrookartsculture@gmail.com.

In the email subject line, please write: WAC Public Art Proposal.

Please attach all images and documents to the e-mail, embedded images or documents written in the body of the e-mail will not be accepted.

Please send document files in PDF format and image files in PDF or jpg format.