

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) – County of Monmouth, NJ Public Park Sculpture/Monument Commemorating America’s 250th Birthday

The County of Monmouth (NJ) is inviting artists to apply to be pre-qualified to submit design proposals for a public sculpture/monument to commemorate the 250th birthday of the United States in 2026 and Monmouth County’s role in the Revolutionary War. The selected artist/team will design, fabricate, and install a permanent public sculpture/monument at Swimming River Park in the River Plaza section of Middletown, New Jersey.

Budget: To be determined

Request for Qualifications submission deadline: February 1, 2024

Location

Project address: 483 West Front Street, Red Bank, NJ, 07701

Owner’s mailing address: Monmouth County Park System, 805 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ 07738

Contact: Monmouth County Park System, Andrew Spears, aspears@monmouthcountyparks.com, (732) 842-4000, ext. 4216.

The 18-acre Swimming River Park is a property of the County of Monmouth and includes a waterfront area with boat ramp, fishing docks, walking trail, seating area and open lawns.

Eligibility

- Artists aged 18 or older may apply as an individual or a team.
- Must have experience in completing at least two outdoor/indoor public works of similar scale.
- Must be available for on-site visit Monmouth County to present the proposal.
- Applicants must reside in the United States.
- There is no fee to submit to this opportunity.

Project Criteria

- The monument will be cast bronze and positioned on a pedestal in a seating plaza.
- Artistic interpretation should be representational in design, although creativity is encouraged. Design should include at least three human forms.
- The monument must be structurally sound and safely secured.
- The monument must be of a scale large enough to be clearly visible and appreciated by motorists on the adjacent West Front Street and Swimming River Park’s paved walking trail.
- The monument must be capable of withstanding adverse weather conditions, including hot summers, cold winters, rain, wind, and snow.

- The monument must have a low exposure to visitor injury. The public must be protected from possible injury from materials.
- The monument must be original to the designer(s) and address the project theme of “Monmouth 250 – Freedom’s Battleground”.

Budget

The budget is to be determined once the finalists are selected. The budget is inclusive of all costs associated with the design, artist fee, planning, materials, engineering, permitting, fabrication, shipping, installation, completion of the project, and maintenance plan for the artwork. This budget is to include all travel costs and insurance. This budget does *not* include site work and construction of the seating plaza and monument pedestal, which will be funded separately by the County.

Timeline

Completion of the entire project, including installation of the sculpture, is no later than April 1, 2025.

Phases for Design Submission

- Phase 1: Request for Qualifications
- Phase 2: Design Phase
- Phase 3: Presentation of Designs by Finalists
- Phase 4: Design Selection, Construction Begins
- Phase 5: Installation of Artwork

Phase 1 Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

All interested artists must submit an RFQ as a single PDF including all the information listed below. RFQs must be received by 5 pm (EST) on **February 1, 2024** via email or standard mail.

RFQ submissions should include:

- Cover letter/letter of intent
- Artist bio
- Three general professional references from clients/professionals, including phone and email
- Evidence of artist’s ability to produce final product
- Photograph documentation of at least two similar public art projects with various views, including the location of artwork (detailed documentation of past artworks encouraged). Include owner’s contact information.

Phase 2 Design Phase

The selection team will contact up to three finalists to develop design proposals. Finalists will visit Monmouth County in March or April, 2024 to present submissions to the selection committee.

- Finalists will be contacted via email.
- Finalists will receive compensation of \$3,000.
- Finalists are responsible for all expenses associated with a Monmouth County visit and final presentation including travel, lodging, and meals.
- Finalists will be required to secure a New Jersey Business Registration Certificate.
- Finalists will be required to provide proof of insurance.

Phase 3 Presentation of Final Design

Finalists will travel to Monmouth County to make a final presentation to a selection committee. Final Presentation requirements include:

- Model form or computer-generated presentation of proposed monument (to include multiple angles).
- Artist's statement about the proposed monument.
- Detailed description of the proposed monument.
- Specification of medium, materials, weight, and dimensions.
- Description and details of the fabrication process.
- Timeline for project including design, fabrication, and installation details.
- Detailed budget to include all associated costs for completion.

Phase 4 Final Selection / Construction Begins

The final artist selection and design will be determined and announced by June 2024. Artist(s) will begin final design and fabrication of the monument over the second half of 2024.

Phase 5 Installation of completed Artwork

Installation of the completed monument will take place no later than April 1, 2025.

Submit

To submit your RFQ, complete prepare a single PDF including the requested information under "Phase 1 Request for Qualifications (RFQ)" above.