EXPRESSON OF INTEREST

Lygon Street Public Art Commission

RMIT University, Victorian Multicultural Commission
and Victorian Trades Hall Council

Artists or groups of artists are invited to apply to develop a contemporary work of art in public space as part of the Lygon Street Cultural Precinct Development.

Theme of Proposed Work

The theme of the project will be an interpretation of the relationship between the Victorian Trades Hall Council and RMIT University within the context of a multicultural Victoria, and the importance of the Lygon Street Precinct.

This project will make a mark in one of Melbourne’s famous streetscapes, and help boost the viability and vibrancy of the Lygon Street precinct.

RMIT University began as the Working Men’s College supported by three principal benefactors – Francis Ormond, the Victorian Government, the Victorian Trades Hall Council.

The Victorian Trades Hall Council was a key contributor to the establishment and development of the RMIT University.

The proposed work will explore this connection in a contemporary context. Reference may be made to the past, present or future. The theme is to be developed within the context of Victoria’s multicultural community and the Lygon Street precinct.

For further reading on the themes, see attached references.

Medium

The work is to be permanent which means a minimum of 7 years. The medium is open and may include digital, sound, object, kinetic, art platforms or interactive works. Cross disciplinary collaboration is encouraged.

Site

The proposed artwork is to be located on RMIT University property facing Lygon Street between Queensberry and Victoria Streets, Carlton. Artists may propose locations within the designated area. It is possible works may be attached to RMIT buildings 45 or 96. Artists may also consider the grounds outside the
Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC) building. (See site map attached)

**Budget**

The budget for this commission is $80,000 (+GST). The budget includes all artist fees, materials, consultancies, fabrication, installation, permits, attribution and/or interpretative signage and the production of a maintenance manual for the art work. Please note: this is a relatively small-scale project in relation to the site.

**Selection Process**

The Lygon Street Public Art Commission is a two- staged Expression of Interest (EOI) process. This consists of stage 1, an initial EOI, and stage 2, three (3) shortlisted artists’ conceptual development and feasibility study.

**Selection Criteria**

A proposal will be assessed on how it demonstrates:

- artistic merit and conceptual integrity
  - Innovation in the use of medium, site or interpretation of the theme
  - A creative response to the project brief
  - Technical and practical feasibility of the project

**Submission requirements**

**Stage 1**

Initial expression of interest

Interested artists are required to submit the following:

- A written description of how the proposal addresses the theme of the commission and site. This must outline the conceptual frameworks of the proposed work. No more than two A4 pages.
  - A current CV of no more than 2 A4 pages
  - A preliminary budget itemising all project costs
  - A plan identifying the preferred location of the proposed work within the designated site (see above).
  - Details of the legal structure and insurance under which the artist or group is working and insurance details (sole trader, company, incorporated association).
- Artists should also supply up to 12 images of previous work as printed image or on CD or DVD

**OPTIONAL**
• Artists may provide initial design drawings indicating any important structural or physical issues that will need to be addressed. Drawings indicating the scale, materials and finishes of the proposed works. A maximum of 3 A3 pages.

Please note: there is no fee paid for any work submitted in stage 1

**Stage 2**

**Concept development and feasibility study**

Up to three (3) artists will be shortlisted and paid a fee of $3000 (+GST) to develop the proposal. Shortlisted artists will be provided with feedback from the selection panel that must be addressed in the concept development stage to establish the feasibility of the work.

It is the responsibility of the artist to undertake the feasibility study in order to be considered for the commission. This work includes but is not limited to the verification of costs and processes to fabricate and install the work. This verification will be in the form of written quotations from suitably qualified and experienced contractors who meet all legislative requirements to undertake the work specified (eg. insurance, OH&S, certification etc.)

This feasibility study will include a timeline (including planning approval) on the production and installation of the work within the parameters of the project and evidence of a commitment of subcontractors to deliver the quoted work within the requisite schedule.

This feasibility study will include a finalised budget and a reworked representation of the proposal from the initial expression of interest within these constraints.

**Project management**

The selected artist will be responsible to deliver the project on time and to budget.

A project manager will be appointed to liaise between RMIT University Property Services (in relation to liaison with architects and engineers), the City of Melbourne (in relation to street closure, access, permit application and building standards), and the artist to deliver the selected work. The project manager will arrange for a structural engineer’s report on the selected site, provide expert advice via RMIT’s in house staff and negotiate the final location of the work with the artist and Property Services. The cost of the structural engineer will be met by the commissioning body but does not include engineering specifications for the artwork itself that will be provided by the artists within the project budget.
Timeline

Stage 1
Expressions of Interest open Monday 9 January 2009.
Expressions of Interest close by Friday 26 March 2010.

Stage 2
Shortlisted artists notified and feedback provided Friday 9 April 2010.
Concept development & feasibly study by shortlisted artists due Friday 4 June 2010

Selected Artist notified 11 June 2010
Project commences 11 June 2010
Project Completed Monday 1 November 2010.
Project Launch Monday Late November 2010. (TBC)

Send Expression of Interest to Tammy Wong, Lygon Street Public Art Project, RMIT University, School of Art, GPO Box 2476V Melbourne Vic 3001
For further enquiries: Tammy Wong tammy.wong@rmit.edu.au

Attachment A

Reference


Site

indicates sites that can be considered in proposals
VTHC gorunds