



## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR BIENNIAL OUTDOOR SCULPTURE EXHIBITION IN JOHNSON CITY, TN**

The Public Art Committee of Johnson City, TN is seeking pieces of leasable outdoor sculpture to be installed for two years (June 2023 – May 2025 cycle) in Founders Park and several other sites in Johnson City.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The exhibition is open to all professional artists, preferably professional sculptors, who are at least 18 years of age and reside in the United States. City of Johnson City employees and members of the Johnson City Public Art Committee are not eligible to apply.

**COMPENSATION:** Upon the successful installation of the selected sculpture the Artist will receive a \$2000.00 stipend for the 24-month lease of the piece. Hotel accommodations for a total of 1 night will be provided by the City of Johnson City, Public Works Department, to accepted artists for installation. Each artist will also receive exposure on the Johnson City Public Art website, including a new virtual map and tour of all public art installations, and other related media. Please note that if an installation consists of multiple free-standing elements, these will be considered a single piece for the purposes of compensation.

**DEADLINE:** December 9, 2022 by 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

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### **ABOUT JOHNSON CITY**

The eighth-largest city in Tennessee, with a population of close to 67,000, Johnson City was founded in 1856 and later became a major rail hub for the Southeast. Johnson City is distinguished as a community that embraces art, the environment, commerce, science, community, and education. It is home to a broad-based economy and to East Tennessee State University.

Johnson City, with an elevation of over 2,000 feet, is located in the Appalachian Highlands. Farmland, undulating hills, lush valleys, and many lakes and rivers surround it. Johnson City has an abundance of unspoiled natural beauty and four distinct seasons.

### **BIENNIAL OUTDOOR SCULPTURE EXHIBITION**

Exhibition dates: June 2023 - May 2025

This sculpture exhibition, primarily located in Founders Park, is part of a larger **greenway vision for the city**. The greenway includes areas of pollinator plants and sites for public art, in addition to functional items such as benches, planters, educational kiosks, an outdoor events facility used by various vendors like the local farmers market, and bike racks. The greenway plan is visualized as both symbolic and practical: feeding culture and commerce between the community and university, as well as physically nurturing the environment by providing a habitat that is beneficial to all.

- The virtual interactive map of public art in Johnson City and site photos are available at <https://jcpublicart.com/public-art-map/>.
- Examples of previous sculpture rounds may be seen at <https://jcpublicart.com/gallery/>.
- A virtual tour of our archived and current downtown art exhibitions is available at <https://jcpublicart.com/virtual-tours/>.

## JUROR AND GUEST CURATOR

**The juror and guest curator for this year's exhibition will be Isaac Duncan III.** Duncan received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame, Certification of Secondary Art Education from St. Mary's College, and Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Kentucky. In addition to a prolific sculptural practice, Duncan has taught primary, secondary, and post-secondary art courses in Michigan, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

In 2018, following a stint as the assistant to internationally renowned sculptor John Henry, Duncan established his own studio in Tennessee (Duncan Sculpture & Services), where he creates large-scale sculpture and fabrication projects. His sculptures have been acquired by numerous private collectors and several public and private institutions in the Southeast and Quebec.

His professional accolades include artist residencies at Gallery 37/Archi-Treasures, Illinois, the Richard Hunt Studio Center, Michigan and the Association of Visual Artist, Tennessee. Duncan has been a nominee for the prestigious Joan Mitchell Foundation Sculpture Fellowship and NIKE private proposals. He is also a recipient of the Tennessee Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship in 2017.

A champion for the discipline of sculpture, Duncan is Past-President of Mid-South Sculpture Alliance, a national non-profit organization which promotes a supportive environment for sculpture and sculptors. He currently sits on various art boards and committees, including International Sculpture Center, ArtsBuild, and the Tennessee Arts Commission granting committees.

## SCULPTURE

The committee is seeking **original art works** that may be functional or nonfunctional, temporary or permanent, in any media suitable for outdoor public space. All sculpture must meet the following basic requirements:

1. The work must be structurally sound so as to stand-alone or to be secured to a concrete pad. The project must be of a scale large enough to be clearly visible.
2. The work must be capable of withstanding adverse weather conditions, including hot summers, cold winters, rain, wind, and snow. Founders Park may occasionally flood; sculptures should be able

to withstand brief and occasional periods of water around the base.

3. The work must be suitable for pedestrian interaction with a low exposure to injury. The public must be protected from possible injury from materials and the work must not include moving parts.

4. The work must be original and preferably (but not necessarily) be relatable to features of Johnson City and the greenway vision plan. Works that interact with the wind to create sounds/musical tones are also acceptable.

5. The work must be available for a period of two years, from installation in late May 2023 to removal in early May 2025.

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Artists may submit up to 5 pieces for consideration. These must all be available for display during the May 2023 - May 2025 time period.

Artists must submit a digital packet at <http://jcpublicart.com/call/>:

- **Cover Letter/Letter of Intent** – Letter of intent, not to exceed one page for each sculpture, that includes a description of the sculpture(s) submitted. You may include photos of the sculpture(s) in your letter or simply refer to the sculpture(s) by the title (you will be asked to upload sculpture images with their corresponding titles separately).
- **Current CV or Resume**
- **Brief Artist's Statement** (150 words max)
- **Image Detail Sheet** – Include a thumbnail image of each piece submitted. Label each image with: Entry #, title, medium, date completed, dimensions, weight, and price
- **Two images of each submitted piece** - Please name each image file using the following format: LASTNAME.#.title.jpg (or png). For each sculpture entry, use a new number - i.e. #1A, #1B for two views of first entry, and so on
- **Three Professional References** – Each of whom can speak to your qualifications, with phone and email contact information
- **Entries must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) on December 9, 2022.**

## **ARTIST AGREEMENT OVERVIEW**

### **Installation**

Installation must take place between May 15 to 31, 2023. Selected Artists are responsible for the transportation of their work to and from the site and are encouraged to be on site to oversee installation. Installation costs regarding site preparation will not be the responsibility of the Artist. In addition, the City will provide adequate staff and any heavy equipment required (i.e. crane or forklift)

to assist the Artist with installation.

### **Insurance Requirements**

Because the City of Johnson City is self-insured, each Artist shall be solely responsible for providing all risk property insurance coverage for the sculpture while on loan and during transportation to and removal from the exhibit site. **The Artist shall provide the City of Johnson City with a \$1 million liability insurance policy with the City of Johnson City named as the Additional Insured for the duration of the exhibit prior to installation of the sculpture.**

### **Purchases**

Negotiation and sale of the sculpture is the responsibility of the Artist, however the Public Art Committee of Johnson City will make every good effort to promote the artists' work to potential buyers. The Artist shall pay the Johnson City Parks & Recreation Foundation a fee of twenty percent (20%) of any sale while on exhibit or within six (6) months thereafter. At the conclusion of the exhibition, the Public Art Committee may recommend that one or more works be purchased by the City for inclusion in Johnson City's permanent collection.

### **Other**

- Artists chosen shall enter into a contract with the City and in that will agree to temporarily loan sculpture to the City and in return the City agrees to temporarily display Artist's sculpture.
- Artist has full legal title and copyrights to the sculpture while on temporary loan to the City.
- Artist shall be responsible for maintaining sculpture. City shall be responsible for maintaining the exhibition site.

### **ANTICIPATED TIMELINE**

- **Deadline for submissions:** December 9, 2022 by 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)
- **Notification to selected artists:** January 31, 2023
- **Installation of sculptures:** May 15-31, 2023
- **Founders Park Sculpture Tour with Curator:** Date to be determined

### **Questions regarding the sculpture competition?**

Michael Anthony Fowler

(Chair, Public Art Committee; and Chair, Leased Art Sub-Committee)

[fowlerma@etsu.edu](mailto:fowlerma@etsu.edu)

### **Point of contact for general information only:**

Cheyenne Kumbhare

City of Johnson City

[ckumbhare@johnsoncitytn.org](mailto:ckumbhare@johnsoncitytn.org)

423.975.2706



The following two new sites have been added for the 2023-2025 leased sculpture period:



Traffic Circle at Browns Mill Rd. and W. Mountainview Rd. Intersection



N. Roan St. & Princeton Rd. Intersection