



CALL TO ARTISTS: REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS SEAL SITTERS YEAR OF THE SEAL SCULPTURE PROJECT

PROJECT SUMMARY

Seal Sitters Marine Mammal Stranding Network is requesting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified artists to design, fabricate, and install a largely-realistic, bronze sculpture of a harbor seal mother and her pup. The artwork will be installed on West Seattle's high-visibility Alki Beach.

BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

Project Budget

The total artwork budget is \$12,000. This amount is inclusive of artists' fees, overhead, fabrication, installation on site, insurance, contingency, and other artist-related costs. An additional \$1,200 for sales tax will be added for a total of \$13,200. Seal Sitters has received a Seattle Department of Neighborhood Grant to fund this artwork.

Background

Seal Sitters Marine Mammal Stranding Network is an all-volunteer group dedicated to the protection of marine mammals. Founded in 2007, we have expanded from seven founding members to a current volunteer list of over 170. Now in our seventh year of existence, we have trained close to 600 volunteers and donate thousands of hours each year in public service. As a grass roots neighborhood organization operating in West Seattle, we work to engage residents in making West Seattle a community that respects and supports a healthy marine environment. Seal Sitters is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

The sculpture is an integral element of the *Year of the Seal*. The *Year of the Seal* will celebrate how fortunate our West Seattle community is to 'Share the Shore.' A community education and mobilization project, it will serve to remind us that ours is a fragile ecosystem. And it will raise community consciousness of the importance protecting our marine environment and the marine mammals and shorebirds that share our urban shores. The year's climax will be *Harbor Seal Day* in September with the unveiling of the seal mom/pup sculpture on Alki Beach. Information on Seal Sitters may be found at www.sealsitters.org and www.blubberblog.org.

The sculpture is a public artwork funded by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods that will be located on Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation property. The artwork needs to be approved by Parks in the ProView review process before installation. As such, the following will be involved in artist discussions regarding design, safety, and maintenance:

- Seal Sitters Core Group
- Department of Parks and Recreation Planning and Development Division, Paula Hoff
- Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Jason Huff

Sculpture

Material and Size

The life-size sculpture will be created in bronze material and measure approximately 5' wide by 3' tall.

Content and Intent

The artwork, should:

- Illustrate the affectionate bond between a mother harbor seal and her pup
- Resonate with people of all ages and background
- Fit into the natural setting of Alki Beach
- Be suitable in scale for the location
- Meet basic safety standards for public art
- Be designed for easy maintenance

Seal Sitters views the sculpture as a tool to:

- Mobilize the community to respect our marine life
- Further the community's sense of spirit and pride
- Stimulate social interaction
- Raise awareness about the health of Puget Sound and the Salish Sea

Site

The sculpture will be installed at Alki Beach (additional photos and map attached). The work will be placed within the circular area indicated on the site photo, allowing space for landscaping elements.

Actual placement within the site will be determined in consultation with selected artist based on design and size of the work. Work cannot impede flow of pedestrians or vehicles.



Installation and Pedestal

The Artist may wish to incorporate a pedestal in the sculpture design. It could be a rock or other object that fits in the beach setting. Funds for pedestal materials are *separate* from the Artist Fee.

However, the Artist Fee *includes* the cost to the Artist of installing the sculpture on the pedestal or other foundation.

Plaque

An educational plaque will be incorporated in landscaping. The decision as to what this plaque will include will be made separately. The plaque is funded separately from the Artist Fee. We will request Artist suggestions regarding how best to integrate a plaque in the surrounding landscape.

Landscaping

The Artist will recommend landscaping, if appropriate, for the beach setting.

ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

Eligibility

Professional artists and artist teams residing in the Pacific Northwest are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to artists who possess a Pacific Northwest public art track record and have produced public works of art displaying marine mammals.

Selection Panel

The *Year of the Seal* Sculpture Committee will review the applications and select the artist.

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will use the following criteria to select the artist:

- Artistic quality of past work as demonstrated by submitted slides or photos. To supplement these, the artist may refer reviewers to items presented on the artist's website.
- Artist's ability to respond to the context and scale of the space as indicated by past works
- Artist's experience with incorporating community input during design development

ARTIST SCHEDULE

Activity	2013 Target Dates
Deadline for Entry	March 22
Selection Panel:	March 25
Artist Notification	March 26
Artist Site Visit/Community Meeting. Artist will present preliminary concepts and hear from Seal Sitters, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Art and Cultural Affairs, and community members on their interests and concerns.	April 17*
Artist Presentation of Design Proposal. Artist will present preferred design (that will have been approved by Seal Sitters, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs) to the community.	May 20*
Final Design Officially Submitted and Approved	May 31
Sculpture Completed and Installed	Late August
"Harbor Seal Day" Sculpture Unveiling Event	September 7

*Final date to be determined in conversation with artist

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All submissions must be received via email. No mailed submissions will be reviewed.

This RFQ require the following materials to be submitted via sealsitters@me.com:

1. A brief one-page letter of interest addressing selection criteria and highlighting particular qualifications for the position and perceptions about the project.
2. Up to six (6) digital images of recent public art installation work according to the instruction. Please submit only one image per artwork. Please keep file sizes of images at a minimum while maintaining sufficient quality for review. (A link to an online gallery of work is an acceptable addition, but not in lieu of emailed digital images)
3. Each artwork shall include the following descriptive information:
 - a. Title of artwork or project
 - b. Dimensions
 - c. Media
 - d. Artwork/project budget
 - e. Date of artwork/project completion
 - f. Project/artwork description (300 character limit). Include project location and client (with contact information).
4. Current resume, not to exceed four printed single-sided pages or two megabytes.



PROPOSED SITE FOR SEAL SITTERS' SCULPTURE



SEAL SITTERS' SCULPTURE – LIMITS OF WORK



VIEW OF SITE



VIEW OF SITE