



ARTSparks 2013 – Occidental Square Park

Call for Artists

ARTSparks—a partnership between Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs—is seeking proposals for arts projects for Occidental Square Park within the time-frame of June through September 2013. Any and all arts disciplines are welcome.

Individuals and organizations are asked to submit one to three distinct proposals for how they would implement a specific project in this unsecured public space. Collaborations or simultaneous projects are welcome. Final negotiations and scheduling of projects will be determined after proposals are chosen.

Background

Part of the City of Seattle's [Center City Initiative](#), ARTSparks contributes to making our downtown parks attractive, safe, and welcoming public spaces. The goal of the program is to help bring a lively and creative atmosphere to our downtown parks, converting them into showcases for the imagination where, simply by entering the park, people are encouraged to experience, question, interact with, investigate, and respond to art – for free and as a natural part of daily downtown life.

Project Specifics

Projects must activate the park for *a least one week in duration* and may extend to several weeks. With the basic goal of creating continuing artistic interest in the park for approximately 15 weeks, ARTSparks welcomes proposals for a full range of project sizes and budgets—from long-lasting, larger-budget projects to projects of shorter duration and smaller budgets.

A map and a one-page introduction to Occidental Square Park are attached. Please note the boundaries to the park. Applicants are strongly encouraged to visit and familiarize themselves with the park before designing or submitting their ideas.

The art project should:

- activate the space and engage pedestrians passing through.
- as much as possible, address the space as a whole and encourage use of the park.
- accommodate daily park maintenance work and community activities scheduled for the park. *For a current schedule, please contact Victoria Schoenburg (see below).*

The artwork may (but is not required to):

- be two- or three-dimensional, allowing for movement through the space.
- offer participatory or interactive experiences for visitors to the site.
- allow for a short- or long-term experience.
- include projection, light or sound.
- include performance components.

Eligibility

Applicants must have demonstrated experience in producing public arts events or installations. Priority will be given to applicants with experience producing programs in outdoor, public settings in collaboration with one or more sponsoring organizations.

Program Budget

The program will extend for up to 15 weeks. The funding available totals \$27,000 for the full season. Proposed artworks may range from one-week projects to larger projects that last for a month or more.

Electricity and water are available on site. To help reduce costs, Seattle Parks & Recreation will, when possible, provide support in the form of tables, chairs, tents, and some on-site staffing.

Application Requirements

1. Cover page with applicant's name, mailing address, phone and email.
2. One to three distinct proposals with sample budgets attached (maximum three pages per proposal, including budget).
3. Resume, including list of exhibits or event series and of work in outdoor settings (maximum two pages).
4. Work sample, submitted on CD-R or DVD-R, with demonstrated examples of applicant's experience in implementing projects appropriate for outdoor public spaces. The CD-R/DVD-R should be formatted so your work samples are arranged in the order you want them seen.
5. Work Sample Identification List: List should include information about all work samples, including both still images and samples submitted on CD-R/DVD-R. For each project shown, please include written information citing title, date and duration, location, nature of project, applicant's role, and participating artists.
6. Specify time frame between June 1 and September 30, 2013 when project(s) could be scheduled. *Please note: Other community events will also be scheduled in Occidental Square Park during this period. For an updated calendar, please contact Victoria Schoenburg (see below).* ARTSparks projects may potentially coincide with each other or with other events, if the uses don't conflict.
7. (Optional) Support materials: articles, reviews, sample publicity materials, and/or references for any projects conducted under contract with or in partnership with governmental or public agencies.

Selection Criteria

- Artistic merit and quality of the proposed program.
- Extent to which the project actively integrates with the unique character of Occidental Square Park.
- Community impact, i.e., feasibility of the proposed project to provide an artistic attraction that will add significant interest to the space and enhance the experience of being in the park. (Projects should attract people into the main area of the park. See map.)
- History of previous work.
- Proven ability to work cooperatively and collaboratively with governmental agencies and community stakeholders.
- Demonstrated ability to work within a timeline and budget.
- Ability to successfully realize the proposal.

Activities and installations should be focused within the boundaries of the actual park (see map). PLEASE NOTE that much of the area around Occidental Square Park is not park property and is therefore subject to different permitting regulations and procedures.

All proposals are expected to reflect a realistic understanding of the social and physical challenges of performing or displaying art in a non-secure, urban, public site.

The ARTSparks partnership respects diverse cultures and encourages applicants, artwork, and programming that reflect and welcome the broad diversity of Seattle's communities.

Application Deadline

Submit via mail or hand-deliver by 5 p.m., Friday May 10 (Pacific Daylight Time):

Seattle Parks and Recreation
Attn: Victoria Schoenburg
100 Dexter Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

*Application and work samples must be delivered to our office by 5 p.m., Friday May 10, 2013 (Pacific Daylight Time). **This is not a postmark deadline.** Late samples will not be reviewed.*

Selection Process

A selection panel will review all applications submitted by the deadline, select the artists and provide suggestions regarding scheduling of the projects. The application process is flexibly designed to accommodate a diverse range of projects and arts disciplines. The selection panel will endeavor to structure a balanced, artistically rich, and sustainable program based on the project proposals.

Notification of Results

If necessary, applicants may be asked to meet with the program administrators to explain their project in greater detail. All scheduling and project expenses will be subject to negotiation. All applicants will be notified of the panel's decision no later than May 31, 2013.

Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope: Applicants who want their work samples returned by mail must include a self-addressed envelope with adequate postage. Applicants may also pick up work samples at the Seattle Parks and Recreation Office after receiving notification of results. Work samples without postage will be discarded 60 days after the notice is sent. Every effort is made to ensure safe handling of work samples, but the city of Seattle cannot assume responsibility for loss or damage.

We're here to help!

For questions regarding the park, logistical issues, program goals, or anything related to ARTSparks, please contact Victoria Schoenburg, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Center City Parks, at 206-684-7031 or victoria.schoenburg@seattle.gov

OCCIDENTAL SQUARE PARK

Occidental Avenue South between Washington and Main Streets

Basic programming information

- Access to electricity is available.
- The Alliance for Pioneer Square partners with Seattle Parks and Recreation in developing and funding programming in the park.
- During most non-rainy days, Seattle Parks and Recreation will have a park concierge stationed in the park from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to staff the information kiosk, help to keep the park tidy, and support programming.
- Bocce and chess playing is encouraged.

Background

Originally designed by Jones & Jones, 1972

Creation of a central plaza area and other renovations to the park were completed in 2006.

Occidental Park is in the heart of the historic Pioneer Square district. London Plane trees provide shade. Neighboring small businesses include bookstores, art galleries, boutiques, and a variety of other unique shops and eateries.

In 1970, the Seattle City Council established the Pioneer Square Historic District, and in the same year, the district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Pioneer Square Skid Road National Historic District. These moves came just in time to preserve many historic buildings from demolition.

- It was too late for buildings, such as the Savoy Hotel, that had stood on what is now Occidental Square. The entire block had been converted to a parking lot. City leaders, along with neighborhood activists, reversed the urban renewal trend by replacing this parking lot with tree-lined Occidental Park.
- The adjacent stretch of Occidental Avenue was closed to traffic and incorporated into the park. Directly south of the park, between Main and Jackson Streets, another block of Occidental Avenue was closed and converted to a pedestrian mall that allows browsers to enjoy sidewalk cafes and art galleries.
- The historic Grand Central Hotel, also known as the Squire/Latimer Building, opens onto Occidental Square. Designed by Nelson Comstock and Carl Troetsache, it opened in 1889 just after the Great Seattle Fire that consumed most of downtown. The hotel was in its heyday during the Klondike Gold Rush. Alan Black, Richard White, and architect Ralph Anderson acquired and rehabilitated the building in 1971 for retail and office use. The building's two-story central arcade opens onto Occidental Park.
- Totem poles and woodcarvings are by Duane Pasco (1970s). They were donated by art gallery owner Richard White and installed in 1987 and 1988. "The tallest totem, *Sun and Raven*, tells the story of Raven's theft of the moon and was created for the 1974 Spokane World's Fair. The nearby *Man Riding on Tail of Whale* was carved in 1971. The westernmost of the two facing figures is *Tsonoqua*, a mythological giantess and 'nightmare bringer' invoked by exasperated North Coast mothers to frighten their children into obedience. She faces a slightly less fearsome *Bear*." (Walt Crowley, *National Trust Guide: Seattle*, New York, 1998)
- The Seattle Fallen Firefighters Memorial by Hai Ying Wu (1995) honors generations of heroes.

Occidental Square Park

