



CALL FOR ARTIST PROPOSALS KING COLE COMMEMORATION PROJECT

The Friends of Riverfront Park ("FRFP"), a Washington nonprofit recently formed to support Spokane's signature urban park, is asking for proposals from artists for an art piece to commemorate King Cole and the 50th anniversary of Spokane's 1974 World's Fair ("Expo '74").

BACKGROUND: Through this art project FRFP wishes to recognize the extraordinary vision and contribution of King Cole to rejuvenating Spokane in the early 1970s, a person who nearly single-handedly secured Spokane's designation as a World's Fair site in 1974.

In 2021, the Spokane Park Board, which has exclusive jurisdiction over Riverfront Park, endorsed the installation of a commemorative art piece. FRFP has targeted the sum of \$250,000 for design, fabrication, site improvements and installation of the commemorative piece. Selection of the artist and approval of preliminary design(s) will be made by FRFP and interested parties. Final approval of the design of the piece is subject to the review and approval of the Spokane Park Board.

HISTORY: Spokane's Riverfront Park was the site of Expo '74. At the time it was selected as a site, Riverfront Park (then known as "Havermale Island") was an industrial area laden with railroad tracks, train depots, and other industrial structures, all obscuring a majestic river and falls flowing in and around the site. In preparation for Expo '74, the railroad tracks and other industrial detritus were removed and the area landscaped into an incredible urban park, complete with views of the largest natural urban waterfall in the United States. A comprehensive history of the park's rejuvenation and the bringing of Expo '74 to Spokane can be found in the book [The Fair and the Falls: Spokane's Expo '74](#), William Youngs (EWU Press, 1996). The newly renovated U.S. Pavilion in the center of Riverfront Park remains an iconic reminder of Expo '74.

By all accounts, Expo '74 and the resulting transformation of Spokane's downtown would not have happened without the enthusiasm, determination, vision and courage of King Cole. This project is intended to add to the relatively modest recognition of King Cole. Currently King Cole is recognized by the naming of "King Cole Way" which essentially consists of a wide wooden pedestrian bridge crossing the south channel of the Spokane River.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION. FRFP envisions a distinctive, commemorative, outdoor art piece located at the north end of the current King Cole bridge. The location approved by the Park Board for this commemorative art piece is shown on the attached [Exhibit "A."](#) . FRFP is seeking proposals for an installation that celebrates King Cole and his legacy. A visitor to the site should be left with a better understanding of King Cole as a person and an appreciation for the immense impact to Spokane made through his leadership. The goal is an art piece that is iconic, and is interactive, sculptural, kinetic, illuminated at night, or some combination of those elements. The successful applicant should assume that any installation will need to accommodate a narrative on or near the art piece explaining King Cole and the EXPO '74 story.

SCOPE, TIMING AND FUNDING. This is a privately funded art endeavor to be situated on public park land. At this time no public funds are expected to be available for fabrication, installation, or future maintenance (to the extent the chosen art assists in wayfinding and/or historic preservation, it might open possibilities for public funds). FRFP has commenced fundraising for the project and sufficient funds have been collected to pay for schematic design and preparation of a construction budget. FRFP anticipates having 100% of design and installation funds in-hand or pledged by December 31, 2023.

A complete turn-key project must work within the budget to include, as applicable but not limited to, the art piece, narrative element, site preparation, permitting, electrical/lighting, landscaping, irrigation, paving and other amenities desired to support the project. The selected project will be expected to use materials conducive to outdoor art in Spokane.

The selected artist will be responsible for the design, fabrication, and installation of the artwork within the given project budget. The contract will be three-phased, as follows:

Phase I: Solicitation and review of artist qualifications and concepts for the project by FRFP, selection of artist(s) and a preferred concept by the FRFP, and presentation of proposed concepts to the Spokane Park Board for review and preliminary approval.
(March 1, 2023 – June 15, 2023)

Phase II, not to exceed \$25,000. Following preliminary approval by the Spokane Park Board, the selected artist will be asked to develop a detailed design proposal for the art piece that will include illustrations and presentation materials, design, preliminary engineering, preferred landscape treatment, cost estimating, travel and lodging, etc.
(June 15, 2023 – November 15, 2023)

Phase III, not to exceed \$200,000.00. Phase III scope of work will be actual fabrication and installation of the art piece, including final engineering, permit approval, materials and fabrication, installation, sales tax, insurance etc. to deliver the project as designed. By Park Board rule, ten percent (10%) of the fabrication and installation budget must be set aside for maintenance. Target installation /completion date is June 1, 2024.
(November 15, 2023 – June 1, 2024)

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: Statements of qualifications and concepts must be submitted to the FRFP no later than **April 14, 2023**. Applications can be submitted by email to friendsofrfp@gmail.com or by mail to Friends of Riverfront Park, PO Box 10421, Spokane, WA 99209.

PRE-SUBMISSION CONFERENCE AND SITE VISIT: An optional pre-submission conference will be held at the following date, time and location. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the project, tour the approved art site and to ask questions of staff and representatives of FRFP.

Date: Friday March 10, 2023

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Riverfront Park, U.S. Pavilion.

Complimentary parking will be available at the lot at 809 N Washington St, Spokane WA 99201. After parking, please enter the US Pavilion at the West entrance adjacent to the Ticket Windows.

If attending virtually, please RSVP to jmoog@spokanecity.org" jmoog@spokanecity.org to receive a meeting link. The site tour portion of the pre-submission conference will not be available virtually.

QUALIFICATIONS AND APPLICATION

This opportunity is open to individual artists or artist teams working in the United States. Preference will be given to Inland Northwest artists (Washington, Idaho, Oregon) with a demonstrated appreciation for, and knowledge of, King Cole and the Expo '74 story. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have all necessary documentation and permits to work in the United States at the time of submittal of qualifications. One artist or artist team will be selected for the project.

Applicants should include a (1) brief statement of interest, (2) resume, (3) descriptions and photos of completed or commissioned works (preferably in public spaces) and (4) 1-3 proposed concepts with companion sketches of each concept.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / RECOMENDED LINKS. Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the following information related to King Cole, Expo '74 and Riverfront Park prior to preparing their applications.

Riverfront Art Plan:

<https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/riverfrontspokane/redevelopment/public-art/riverfront-park-art-master-plan.pdf>

RFP 2014 Master Plan:

<https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/parksrec/aboutus/planning/2014-riverfront-park-master-plan.pdf>

King Cole Commemoration Project: www.innovia.org/KCCP (please note this site is under revision)

"The Fair and the Falls" This book is no longer in print, although a revised printing is anticipated in 2024. A copy is available for review at the Spokane Public Library (Call Number: NW-R 979.737 YOUNGS). A PDF version of the book manuscript can be provided upon request.

EXHIBIT "A"
APPROVED LOCATION FOR ART INSTALLATION

