

Request for Proposals for Sculpture for the Rotary Clubs of Joplin Sculpture Garden

Deadline for Submissions: Monday, January 15, 2024

Soroptimist International of Joplin (the “Club”) is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Sculpture for placement in the Rotary Clubs of Joplin Sculpture Garden, located in Mercy Park in Joplin, Missouri.

Artist Eligibility

Southeast Kansas-, northeast Oklahoma-, northwest Arkansas- and statewide Missouri-based female artists with proven experience in sculpture and the creation of art for public spaces are encouraged to apply.

About the Project

The Club is seeking a medium- to large-scale sculpture representative of the past, present, and future of Soroptimist International of Joplin. The sculpture shall be modern, unique, dynamic, accessible, and approachable, highlighting the mission, programs, and ideals of the Club. Rotary Clubs of Joplin Sculpture Park guidelines can be found on page 5, and information about the Club can be found on page 4.

Selection Committee

The selection of artwork for the Soroptimist Sculpture is overseen by the Sculpture Committee (the “Committee”), made up of volunteer members of the Club.

Selection Criteria

The Committee will review proposals submitted by artists and will select artwork based on the following criteria:

- Quality, appropriateness, and suitability of the proposed sculpture in relation to the RFP:
 - Design considerations: sculpture must be durable, require no maintenance, meet safety standards, and adhere to installation procedures and other Sculpture Garden regulations.
 - Medium, forms, and concept: suitability of the proposed medium, forms, and artistic concept to the stated project request.
 - Suggested location: suitability of the proposed sculpture to the location. The specific location within the Sculpture Garden will be determined by the Club and the Rotary Clubs of Joplin, but artist recommendations are encouraged. Location of each sculpture in the park will be determined by considerations of aesthetics, integration with the surroundings, ease of maintenance, and safety.

- The artist’s ability to carry out the commission, to keep the project within budget, and to complete the work on schedule. Assessment is based on evidence of successful projects undertaken and completed as noted in the artist’s resume and work samples.

- It should be noted that our goal is to unveil the sculpture in its permanent and final location around the date of September 5, 2024. Artists are encouraged to submit proposals even if further timeline discussions are deemed necessary by any artist or the Club.

- Artists may submit existing works from their catalogue.

Design Considerations

Proposals for the outdoor sculpture should factor in the need for the sustainability and longevity of materials and media. All materials of the sculpture must be of a durable material (i.e., bronze, stone, marble, or stainless steel) and able to withstand the effects of weather. Works of inferior workmanship or materials will not be approved. For example, works of concrete, wood, or thin, hollow bronze will not be accepted.

Adverse site conditions include wind, sun, snow, extreme heat, freezing temperatures, potential for vandalism, etc. Therefore, the Committee requests that the sculpture acquired for this site be durable, low maintenance, pose no hazard to the public, and require minimal conservation (optimally, maintenance-free for up to 20 years). Artists submitting proposals are required to provide a statement of recommended maintenance, as well as a recommendation for lighting of the artwork.

In keeping with the family-friendly nature of the Joplin city parks, all sculpture must be appropriate for a general audience of all ages. Artworks most likely to receive approval are those which consensus opinion deems successful in its impact on the viewer. In addition, the park is subject to certain deed restrictions and covenants which were placed on the land when it was deeded to the City. A further consideration is a Rotary International prohibition on the association of Rotary with weapons of any kind.

The suitability of the scale of the proposed work to the site.

Medium, Forms, And Themes

The Selection Committee requests:

- The proposed sculpture should enhance and support the Mercy Park location, which was the former location of St. John's Hospital, which was destroyed in the May 22, 2011, EF5 multi-vortex tornado.
- The scale of the sculpture should relate well to the surrounding architectural elements and be attractive from a distance view as well as up close by visitors.
- Style specifications – an approachable, aesthetically modern representative, interpretive, or abstract creation representing Soroptimist International of Joplin.

Budget

Artists submitting proposals should include all expenses for the proposed sculpture including the cost of shipping. Costs can include supplies and materials, artist(s) fees, and travel costs. No design fees will be paid for preliminary sketches or designs submitted with the proposal. Documentation photography for the artist's portfolio is not an allowable expense.

Consideration should be given to the fact that the Club is a small, nonprofit entity 501c (3) that uses annual income to support its charitable programs for women, girls, and children on a local, state, national, and international level.

Semifinalists may be asked to refine their proposals or present their plans to the Selection Committee. The Committee reserves the right to make a decision that it believes is in the best interest of the project and to adjust the process as needed.

General Liability Insurance

- Artists receiving contracts for commissions are required by the State Attorney General's office to have current general liability insurance.
- Artists are not required to have general liability insurance at the time the proposal is submitted. However, artists selected for the project are required to submit a current Certificate of Insurance at the time of contracting to verify that a current general liability insurance policy is in place and that limits of coverage are appropriate to the scope of the project being undertaken.

How to Submit a Proposal

Artists must submit the following materials electronically via email to sijoplin@soroptimist.net or via USPS to PO Box 1741, Joplin, MO 64802 by January 15, 2024.

- 1) **Proposed design:** Include a two-dimensional graphic representation of preliminary concept. Concept may be presented in any medium (photo, graphite, colored pencil, pen and ink, watercolor, etc.).
- 2) **Artist's statement** regarding their thoughts, theme, symbolism, and interpretations of the submitted artwork.
- 3) **Prior work:** Five (5) to fifteen (15) still images (JPG) that provide an example of the quality of your work (full and detail shots) including 1-3 photos of completed work that directly relates to your proposal, a link to artist website, and information on placement locations of previous public sculptures.
- 4) **Artist's suggestion for sculpture placement in the garden** and a **statement of recommended maintenance**.
- 5) **Sculpture specifications** including dimensions and weight. Indicate any unusual foundation support or anchoring, or shipping considerations, that might be anticipated.
- 6) **Resume** including 3 references.

Soroptimist International of Joplin will hold ownership of the individual sculpture contracted, funded, and received by Soroptimist International of Joplin, and all rights to likenesses of that particularly contracted individual sculpture.

Deadline: Monday, January 15, 2024.

No late proposals will be accepted.

Questions? Contact the Committee at sijoplin@soroptimist.net

Soroptimist International of Joplin History, Mission, and Programs

Since 1937, Soroptimist International of Joplin, Missouri, has devoted its energy to passionately improving the lives of women and girls in our local community and throughout the world. We envision a world where women and girls have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

Our mission is to provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

Our years of experience working with women and girls have taught us that education is the key to unlocking economic empowerment of the world's women and girls. When women and girls are educated, they have opportunity, choice, and power to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families.

We focus our efforts on the following areas:

- Live Your Dream Awards to help women gain access to education
- Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls in high school
- Camp Soroptimist, a week-long summer camp for Jasper County foster children
- Workplace campaign for domestic violence
- Teen dating violence awareness
- Human trafficking awareness

WHY WE DO IT

In every country in the world, women and girls face obstacles and discrimination solely because of their gender.

- 1 in 3 women have been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in their lifetime (Amnesty International USA)
- 1 in 4 high school-aged girls do not graduate (National Women's Law Center)
- Of single mothers under the age of 30, only 7% nationwide have finished college (The Shriver Report)
- Around the world, 150 million girls under the age of 18 are victims of sexual violence each year (UNIFEM)

HOW WE DO IT

Soroptimist International of Joplin members raise funds for various Soroptimist programs, awards, and Camp Soroptimist by selling delicious nuts and candies in the fall and by hosting a comedy event in the spring.

Guidelines for Donations of Sculpture to Rotary Sculpture Garden in Mercy Park

Introduction: The Joplin Rotary Club and the Joplin Daybreak Rotary Club have joined together to establish a sculpture garden within Mercy Park. The purpose and mission of RSG is to enhance the quality of life for citizens and visitors to our community by establishing and maintaining a sculpture garden in an existing city park.

Governance: Rotary Sculpture Garden, Inc., a Missouri Not-for-profit Corporation, has been granted 501 ©3 status by the IRS. The Board of Rotary Sculpture Garden, Inc. will serve as the governing body for the garden. Two representatives from the City of Joplin will serve as permanent members of this board. One of these representatives is the Director of Parks and Recreation and the second will be another city employee of his choosing. The remaining members of the board of directors are members of the two Rotary clubs, the arts community, and the city at large.

Additions of Sculpture to the Park: It is anticipated that additions of sculpture to the park will be by donation of private individuals or corporations. All donations will be subject to approval of first the Board of RSG and finally the City Parks Dept. Prospective donors must secure written approval before donating or loaning a sculpture. The decisions of the board of RSG, Inc. and the City Parks and Recreation Dept. are final.

Factors to be considered:

1. All sculpture must be of a durable material, i.e., bronze, stone, marble, or stainless steel, able to withstand the effects of weather. Works of inferior workmanship or materials will not be approved. For example, works of concrete, wood, or thin hollow bronze will not be acceptable.
2. **Appropriateness:** in keeping with the family friendly nature of the Joplin city parks, all sculpture must be appropriate for a general audience of all ages. Artworks most likely to receive approval are those which consensus opinion deems successful in its impact on the viewer. In addition, the park is subject to certain deed restrictions and covenants which were placed on the land when it was deeded to the City. A further consideration is a Rotary International prohibition on the association of Rotary with weapons of any kind. Another consideration is the suitability of the scale of the proposed work to the site.
3. **Safety:** works of art should be safe to passersby, curious spectators (especially children) and the environment as a whole. Sharp projecting elements, loose parts, and other public hazards will prevent the official acceptance of an artwork.
4. **Placement in the park:** Location of each sculpture in the park will be determined by considerations of aesthetics, integration with the surroundings, ease of maintenance, and safety.
5. **Maintenance:** Artwork must be designed and constructed so as to minimize maintenance requirements, vandalism, theft, or graffiti. It is anticipated that routine cleaning of the sculptures will be done by Rotary and community volunteers; RSG cannot in good faith accept works of art which present an unreasonable maintenance burden. Artists must supply information and instructions relating to proper maintenance of each sculpture. Care must be taken to make sure that the installation features do not add to the burden of maintenance of the park. For example, a base for an installation must be flush with the ground surface and enough space must be left so that mowers can move around it. Space between the work and the nearest tree or structure must allow for the passage of a large mower.
6. All sculptures must be identified with a permanent plaque bearing the artist's name, title of the work, date, and name of the donor. Costs of installation of the sculpture and the identifying plaque will be borne by the donor. The wording and siting of any plaques related to the public art must be approved by RSG and should be gained at the time of the project approval.*
7. **Deaccession of Artwork:** Deaccessioning or removal of a sculpture from the park may be considered for one or more of the following reasons:
 - a. The sculpture is damaged, and repair is not feasible.
 - b. The work presents a public safety risk.
 - c. The work requires excessive maintenance or has failures of design or workmanship.
 - d. The condition or security of the artwork cannot be reasonably guaranteed in its present location.

Guidelines for Artwork to be Loaned to RSG, Inc.

In the event that a donor wishes to loan a sculpture to the garden, the following additional considerations apply:

1. Any works to be loaned to the garden must go through the same approval process as those being donated.
2. Considerations of durability, appropriateness, and safety will also apply.
3. The contract with the artist or donor must specify the length of time of the loan, and address issues of liability, installation, maintenance, and removal of the loaned artwork.

**This will be the responsibility of Soroptimist International of Joplin, not the artist*

FOR MORE INFORMATION on Soroptimist International, Soroptimist International of Joplin, and the Rotary Clubs of Joplin Sculpture Park:

ONLINE:

<http://www.joplinsoroptimist.org> (RFP available here)

<https://www.facebook.com/soroptimist>

<https://www.facebook.com/SIJoplin> (RFP available here)

<https://rotarysculpturegarden.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/JoplinRotarySculptureGarden/>