



## CALL FOR ARTISTS

### **Errol Heights Park Opportunity | Portland, Oregon**

The [Regional Arts & Culture Council](#) is seeking an artist/artist team living in Oregon or Washington to design, fabricate and install permanent exterior artwork in Errol Heights Park. The budget available for the commission comes from the City of Portland's Percent for Art Program and is approximately **\$85,000**. The deadline for submissions is **Wednesday, April 28, 2021**.

#### **About Errol Heights Park**

[Errol Heights Park](#), fondly described as a “little gem of a Park,” is located in the [Brentwood-Darlington](#) neighborhood, comprises more than 16 acres between Southeast 45<sup>th</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenues, and from Southeast Harney Street to Southeast Tenino Street. The Woodstock and Ardenwald/Johnson Creek neighborhoods are also adjacent to the south and west of the park.

Approximately 1,477 households are within a half-mile walking distance of the park. Volunteer groups such as Friends of Errol Heights, Friends of Trees, and Johnson Creek Watershed Council have been dedicated stewards of the Errol Heights property for many years and members have participated in important ecological enhancement projects at the park. The defining feature of the park is a topography that creates an ideal setting to escape the city's busy pace, enjoy the gurgling stream, and absorb the sounds of nature. A [community garden](#) of 55 plots in the park's upper area near Southeast Tenino Court has been a focal point of the undeveloped park and a community gathering place.

#### **Art Goals | Art Opportunities**

The goals for public art at the park are: (1) to strengthen the bond between people and the living earth through art; (2) respond to the ecology, biology and natural processes found in the park; (3) provide experiences for park visitors that focus on the aesthetic qualities of the park. Use of materials with proven longevity in the outdoor environment is encouraged. The four seasons have dramatic visual impact on the park and the art could play a role in showcasing the changing seasons.

The majority of the park is in environmentally protected zones and artwork cannot be sited in any of the Conservation or Protection Zones at the lower elevation of the park (refer to the map of the OS<sub>c</sub> and OS<sub>p</sub> zones towards the end of this PDF). Most capital improvements will occur in the upper area of the park and artists should consider those areas (listed as OS/open space in the map) the most viable locations for permanent art installation/s.

## Park Design Goals + Themes

An outcome of design development for the park's improvements, led by [Mayer/Reed Inc.](#) and in collaboration with the surrounding communities, four themes were identified: *My Backyard* (history of land use, hidden gems, quirky, authentic); *Wildlife Family* (kinship, sense of responsibility/stewardship, sharing the neighborhood with others; refuge and protection); *Elemental Experience* (water, stone, earth; raw materials; gritty, multi-sensory); and, *The Woods* (explore, discover, enchant, celebrate cycle of life). An important design goal was to enhance park visitors' sense of discovery and embrace the park's charm by maintaining and reimagining existing landscapes and site features.

More specifically, the upper area of the park along Tenino Court will be designed to allow greater use by the community and will be key to developing a sense of community through recreational opportunities. Accessible trails will allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy the wildlife and native vegetation. Benches, overlooks, and small gathering areas will provide people more solitary experiences. Errol Creek, now a ponded wetland thanks to an active beaver population in the lower park, will be enhanced to provide better habitat for fish and other wildlife.

## Budget

The selected artist/artist team will receive \$85,000 for this opportunity, inclusive of all project expenses including artist/s fees, design, materials, fabrication, engineering and installation.

## Are you eligible?

Artists or artist teams living in Oregon or Washington are eligible to apply. If applying as a team, at least one member must meet the residence eligibility requirement. RACC is committed to engaging new communities of artists and expanding the range of artistic and cultural expression represented in the City's public art collection.

## Selection Process

Complying with COVID-19 safety guidelines, the selection process will be entirely virtual. A selection panel comprised of artists, the park project's landscape architect, and community members will review artists' submission materials and choose up to four finalists to interview for the commission.

Criteria for selecting finalists for interviews are (1) quality of past work as demonstrated in submitted images; (2) ability and interest in creating site-specific artwork; (3) how past artwork has fit one or more of the general goals described above -- through process and/or in the final design.

(Note: the selection panel is not required to commission an individual from among submitting artists and neither issuance of this RFQ, nor evaluation of any or all proposals, obligates the Regional Arts & Culture Council to award a contract from this RFQ.)

## How To Apply

All application materials must be submitted through the *RACC Opportunity Portal*, an online application system. Applicants will need to create an account, or log into their existing account at [www.racc.org/apply](http://www.racc.org/apply). If you are applying as a team, please assign one person to apply and be the contact on behalf of the team.

## Application Requirements

- **Artist Resume/Bio.** Upload a PDF of no more than two pages that outlines your creative activities and artistic accomplishments. If applying as a team, submit one PDF that includes a resume/bio for all team members.
- **Statement of interest.** In 3000 characters or less, provide a statement that explains why this project, its themes and focus is of interest to you and why you'd be a good match for the project. Do not submit a proposed artwork at this stage of the process.
- **Up to 8 images of past work** (jpegs no larger than 5MG each). These images are the primary way the quality of your work is evaluated. Provide no more than two images per artwork. For each artwork, please provide title, year completed, dimensions, media, dimensions, location. Conceptual information is desirable but not required.

Once you have started your application, you can save after each step and sign out—your application will be saved as a draft that you can continue to work on as needed. Once you hit "Submit," your application is final. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions during the process.

**Submissions due: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 5 p.m.**

## Information Sessions for Artists

1. Wednesday, March 24 at 1 p.m. on Facebook Live. Follow [Regional Arts & Culture Council](#) on Facebook to stay informed of this and other upcoming opportunities.
2. Thursday, April 1 at 6 p.m. on Instagram Live. Follow @regionalarts on Instagram to stay informed of this and other upcoming opportunities.
3. Monday, April 12 at 6 p.m. on Zoom, RSVP [here](#).

Attendance is encouraged but not required to apply for the project. Artists are encouraged to [visit the park](#) prior to submitting their applications.

## We're Here to Help!

If you have questions about the overall opportunity or the RACC application portal, please email project manager Salvador Mayoral IV with questions or to set up a time for a phone call: [smayoral@racc.org](mailto:smayoral@racc.org).

If you don't have a computer or online access, please don't hesitate to contact RACC for assistance. Also, if you prefer these materials in another language please contact RACC project staff for translation services.

## Important Dates

- March 24<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup> - Info Sessions
- April 28 – Applications Due
- May/June 2021 - Interviews/artist selection
- Summer 2021 – Summer 2022 – Park Construction



The **Core Values and Guiding Principles in the Master Plan** address how people will use the park, how it should be managed, what the teaching opportunities are, and what its inherent character is. The five categories provide a foundation for the recommendations in the Master Plan and help define principles that will guide future park improvements:

Please review the listed Guiding Principles and identify which principles you believe are most important as we move forward in planning for Errol Heights Park.

**Recreation Needs:**

- Provide a variety of spaces and facilities that are appropriate to the site and its designation as a hybrid park.
- Meet recreation needs of existing and future area residents in designated areas.

**Environmental Restoration:**

- Develop a “systems” approach to improve habitat values for flora and fauna through an ongoing program of invasive species removal and habitat restoration.
- Protect quality of waterway by providing fish habitat for resting and rearing.
- Establish a process for ongoing evaluation of hydrology and use to inform and design restoration improvements
- Control human and domestic animal access into restoration sites and natural areas.
- Restore wetland habitat, function and quality.

**Interpretive Programs:**

- Provide opportunities for students and people to learn about the site, its natural resources and its history.
- Provide restoration involvement opportunity for school groups, neighbors, and Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

**Beauty and Character of the Site:**

- Enhance and improve the park’s visual character through a vegetation management program
- Honor and respect the park’s historic and cultural precedents.
- Continue legacy of neighborhood involvement and partnerships with neighborhoods, Friends groups, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, and others.
- Educate others about stream stewardship and assist in altering habits and practices to better protect Errol Creek.

**Access and Circulation:**

- Develop a circulation system for the park to connect the site to adjacent neighborhoods and to the Springwater Trail.
- Improve access to the park for pedestrians and maintenance vehicles. Provide limited parking areas where needed for automobiles and school buses.
- Parking areas should not be located within the current park boundaries but should instead be sited along existing roads.
- Develop a pathway system that integrates the park’s three access points. The system should include a loop connecting the lower basin to the upper recreation area.
- The path system will consist of two trail types: hard surface path that meets ADA requirements and is 5’-8’ wide, and soft surface paths built of bark mulch or gravel and be used in natural areas where there are no ADA accessibility requirements.
- Access into sensitive natural areas should be discouraged and limited to maintenance functions.
- Eliminate the use of rogue trails with educational signage, fences and restoration plantings.





