The City of Dallas’ Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) and the Department of Code Compliance (Code) request proposals for a free-standing, outdoor community art installation in the Bonton neighborhood to serve as a neighborhood art park at 6307-9 Carlton Garrett in Dallas, Texas. The temporary art installation will be on display for a 6-month period. The selected proposal will be awarded $10,000 for the design, fabrication, installation, and removal for the proposed work. The tentative completion date for this project is July 2021. Both individual artists and artist collectives are encouraged to submit proposals. Please read below for more information and how to apply. Funding for the project is made possible by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) and the City of Dallas’ Office of Arts and Culture.

BACKGROUND

RE:Imagine Vacancy is a pilot program that is part of a larger revitalization effort by the OAC and Code to beautify empty lots in neighborhoods across the city. In the past, these vacant lots have been a source for legal dumping, making the green spaces unsafe and hazardous for the neighboring community. Through partnerships with local high school students, Dallas BridgeBuilders, and the Bonton Neighborhood Association, we hope to engage the community and create a place of natural beauty and art in the Bonton Neighborhood.

Gathering is a key theme that the neighborhood cares about, and more public spaces for gatherings are needed – generations of Bonton residents currently gather at the nearby William J Blair Jr Park on weekends to barbecue, show off their cars, and do car tricks.

In addition to the park, current Bonton residents hold great pride in the rebuilding of the local H.S Thompson Elementary, and the neighborhood has always had a passion for its schools and its history as a community. The neighborhood is very communal, and a strong “front porch culture” with gatherings currently done in empty lots, parking lots, or William J. Blair Jr. Park.
The following are links, from community members in Bonton, that they feel show different aspects of the neighborhood’s “vibe”:

- bcWorkshop video with a history of Bonton and the neighboring Ideal community: https://www.bcworkshop.org/bontonideal

Demographic Information

The City-owned lots at 6307 and 6309 Carlton Garrett Street in Bonton (Council District 7) were selected by the cross-departmental team for this pilot program. The demographics for this Census Block Group (011500-3) are: 22% seniors, 25% youth, 47% Hispanic, 43% Black, and the median household income is $31,000, or approximately 30% below the median household income in the City of Dallas.

SCOPE OF COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT

To re-imagine this landscape, we request proposals for a site-specific installation that creates a space that empowers the community while encouraging interaction within the site. Below are guidelines and requirements:

- Create a space for gathering that belongs to the local community and invokes feelings of some of the following words: gather, legacy, self-worth, celebration, music/jazz, life, joy, abundance
- Possibly refer to the history of farming in Bonton and sunflowers – an iconic image in many South Dallas neighborhoods, including Bonton
- Design should be uplifting, connective, inspiring, and colorful
- Artist(s) should authentically engage with the Bonton community by through hosting artist talks, workshops, and/or involving the community into the artist process
- Selected artist(s) must engage in 3 workshop sessions with a pre-selected group of High School students, taking them through your creative processes of design, fabrication, and installation
- Art installation must be temporary in nature, lasting at least 6-months, and accessible within the designated space. Artist is responsible for removing the piece after the display period is over.
- Interactive elements such as a sensory walk and/or play area are highly encouraged.
- Artwork must provide a positive cultural experience appropriate for children and adults in the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Artwork must be free of safety hazards, have no sharp edges, have no protrusions at a level that could be struck, not be easily climiable, and have no openings less than 3” or larger than 6” (i.e., nothing in which a child could get a body part caught)
How to Apply:

Submission Eligibility and Requirements:

Artists of all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Experience with temporary art or environmental art is preferred, although not required. Artists must live in the city of Dallas in order to be eligible for consideration. Submission can be made by visiting

- https://webportalapp.com/webform/reimaginevacancy

Artists will be prompted to answer questions regarding their experience and vision for RE:Imagine Vacancy, and to requested to submit preliminary color images or drawings of the proposed installation, showing placement and dimensions. Artists may also upload 3-5 images of previous works for examples, and submission of artist(s) CV will is also encouraged. All images must be clearly labeled with the name of the artist, title of the work, media, and dimensions. Questions should be directed to Gerardo.Robles@dallascityhall.com.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Application for any project advertised by the City of Dallas Community Arts Program constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined in this prospectus as well as recognition of ordinances and policies of the City of Dallas (including the Good Faith Effort and the Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise goals of the City Dallas).