

**CALL FOR ARTISTS
MAIN STREET REIMAGINED**

**Request for Celebrating Women Advancing Voting
Rights and Social Justice Artistic Node**

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I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

A. Project Summary

The City of Worcester is seeking qualifications from interested and qualified artists and designers for the creation of an arts installation celebrating women who have advanced voting rights and social justice in herstory. The work should be representative of, but not limited to Abby Kelley Foster, a woman with an indomitable spirit passionately answering what she felt was her “divine call” in the midst of the gender and racial cacophony of her time. The work may be a literal interpretation of Abby Kelley Foster or inspired by her words and actions. The work will be located near the historical site of the first National Woman’s Rights Convention, Brinley Hall, in Worcester, Massachusetts. The installation will add an until now neglected gender dimension to outdoor public art on Main Street and in the city as a whole.

This project serves as a component of the Main Street Reimagined initiative. The reconfigured Main Street will feature bicycle lanes, widened sidewalks, and new streetscape similar to other recently completed street upgrades in downtown Worcester, featuring street trees, street furnishings, concrete sidewalks with red brick pattern edge banding, and black decorative lighting fixtures and street furniture. The intent of Main Street Reimagined is to supplement the new streetscape with custom public art installations – including functional and decorative elements – to add interest to and activate the public space. Public art installations will reflect elements of Worcester’s history, culture and community in creative and interesting ways through the themes of creativity, innovation, and revolution. Up to four (4) artists will be selected to submitted proposals for final selection.

B. Scope of Work

The project seeks to incorporate decorative, iconic, and representative art in honor of the suffrage movement, social justice, and Abby Kelley Foster.

Proposers should submit one qualification package including:

- Brief Artist Statement to introduce who you are as an artist and some of the themes and ideas you explore in your artwork. Do not insert a resume or list of accomplishments here. (300 words maximum)
- Theme(s) that you would like to explore for this project. Tell us how your idea relates to the concept of social justice, a woman’s right to vote, the suffrage movement, and Worcester women(500 words maximum)
- Include a resume (3 page maximum).

- Include up to 10 images of previous work (may include a mix of JPEGs, websites, audio clips, and/or videos (60 seconds or less).
- Provide the name and contact information of two professional references: telephone, email address

C. Anticipated Project Timeline

Dates are subject to change at the discretion of City of Worcester.

October 2020	Submission of Qualifications
November 2020	Artist(s)/Team(s) selected
December 2020	Selected Artist(s)/Team(s) submit 1/3 design drawings
December 2020 – March 2021	Final artist/team selection made Fabrication
April 2021	Delivery (Exact Dates TBD)

D. Who Should Apply | Eligibility

This RFQ is open to all artists, artist teams, and design professionals with experience in public art and site responsive design. Professionals residing in or with studio space in the city of Worcester and the New England region are encouraged to apply.

II. ELEMENT DESCRIPTIONS AND DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

A. Element 1: Sculpture

Description

The 6 feet x 9 feet site is located on the east side of Main Street. The space is one of the nodes of Main Street Reimagined – a series of custom public art installations that will reflect elements of Worcester’s history, culture and community in creative and interesting ways through the themes of creativity, innovation and revolution. These nodes are a place-making effort that weaves together public art, green space, and storytelling to create destinations and memorable experiences. The theme for this particular node, Walnut Street, is Revolution that reflects the platform of the First National Woman’s Right Convention held in Worcester at Brinley Hall in 1850 – the fight for equality.

Suggested Themes

Suggested themes for the location are provided below, and interested artists may wish to consider the historical and/or architectural attributes of the site. Additional background information related to the following suggested themes is provided in Appendix A.

- Abby Kelley Foster – A pioneer and effective orator, Foster was a woman who defended her right to speak as she advocated for equality and the abolishment of slavery. She answered what she described as a “divine call” to speak on behalf of the enslaved at a time when women dared not speak in mixed gender gatherings, and while equality between the races was not an integral part of the Constitution nor social life. An agent for the American Anti-Slavery Society, the parent organization of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society she worked boldly, using speeches, letters, conversations, and newspaper articles to convince audiences throughout the Northeast, Northwest, and Mid-Atlantic, including her abolitionist associates, of the equality of the races and the right of women to speak and act publicly for the freedom of the enslaved.
- Women’s Rights Movement – Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits the federal and state governments from denying citizens the right to vote based on sex.
- Revolution - A sudden, radical, or complete change. A fundamental change in political organization. Activity or movement designed to effect fundamental changes in the socioeconomic situation. A fundamental change in the way of thinking about or visualizing something. Examples of Worcester’s history of revolution are provided in Appendix A.

Locations, Dimensions and Elements

The sculpture will be located near the corner of Main and Exchange Street



III. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested parties should submit the RFQ via e-mail to culture@worcesterma.gov

IV. SELECTION PROCESS

A review committee comprising art professionals and representatives from the City of Worcester will be responsible for evaluating the submitted qualifications. Qualifications will be evaluated on the basis of the comparative evaluation criteria listed here within.

Following the designation, pre-qualified artists will be contacted by the City with a request for proposals. The contract will then be awarded to the responsive and responsible artists submitting the most advantageous proposal, taking into consideration adherence to the design criteria outlined in the RFP, experience of the artist and/or the artist's team, the strength of the artist's references, the artist's vision for the proposed work, and the price proposal. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Qualifying Artists will:

- Demonstrate artistic excellence, innovation and originality as represented in past work and supporting materials.
- Demonstrate clarity and thematic creativity
- Demonstrate a history of experience (three years or more)
- Present feasibility of the work and ability of the artwork to be completed within the set timeline.
- Demonstrate interest in and understanding of the project.
- Utilize imagery or verbiage that is uplifting, inspiring, and/ or motivating.

A. Minimum Evaluation Criteria

Qualifications must be submitted in accordance with the Submission requirements detailed in Section III.

SELECTION PROCESS:

A selection panel will review qualifications based on the following criteria:

- Meet the definition of a work of art,
- Meet the goals for the project as defined in the Project Summary,
- Demonstrate excellence in aesthetic quality, workmanship, innovation, and creativity,
- Bring diversity to the City's public art collection,

- Uplift, inspire and motivate.
- Preference given to creatives who live or work in Worcester.