

## OVERVIEW OF PHOTOGRAPHY PUBLIC ART PROJECT FOR NEW MESA CITY HALL

The City of Mesa is seeking a photographer through this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) interested in participating in an exciting effort to enhance the new City Hall building to be located at Mesa City Plaza, at the heart of downtown Mesa on the northwest corner of Main and Center Streets. Plans have been developed for a new City Hall building by Mesa firm, Adaptive Architects, with completion expected in fall 2024.

The intention for this public art project is to celebrate the beautiful Sonoran Desert landscape surrounding our vibrant city, including featuring a view of iconic Red Mountain that dominates the Mesa skyline to the northeast.

One photographer will be commissioned to produce a photograph for this opportunity. The photograph will be reproduced through perforations in a metal wall treatment system located in a highly visible, public location, within the new City Hall. Interested photographers will submit their qualifications in response to this RFQ for review by the selection committee, which will convene to review all submissions received in response to this RFQ and select one photographer and an alternate for this opportunity.

The selected photographer will provide a series of images from which the final image will be chosen and may be asked to provide more images until an image meeting the project needs is produced. After selection, the final image must be provided to the city in a high-resolution digital file suitable for printing in a large format. The budget for the project and the purchase of rights to use the selected image is \$5,000.00.

### CITY OF MESA

The City of Mesa is the third-largest city in Arizona and the 36th-largest city in the United States. The city is home to 504,258 people as of 2020 according to the Census Bureau, which makes it more populous than Minneapolis, St. Louis, or Miami. With its location at Mesa City Plaza, on the corner of Main St and Center St., across from a light rail station and Mesa Arts Center, the new City Hall will be a highly visible and heavily trafficked location in the heart of downtown. Downtown Mesa includes a unique mix of governmental, cultural, professional, commercial, entertainment, and residential activities and buildings. The area continues to attract high-quality professional jobs and residential density in a burgeoning downtown core that supports a combination of special events, festivals, and unique attractions. Notable attractions include cultural assets in addition to the Mesa Arts Center such as, the Arizona Museum of Natural History, the i.d.e.a. Museum, as well as Arizona State University's Sydney Poitier New American Film School and ASU's Media and Immersive eXperience Center. The public art for City Hall will be an exciting addition to the existing public art pieces in downtown consisting of bronzes, murals, and contemporary sculptures, including a Ralph Helmick piece at the Mesa City Plaza light rail station.

## GENERAL ARTIST REQUIREMENTS & SELECTION CRITERIA

Photographers with expertise in landscape photography are sought, and those with experience capturing the beauty and majesty of the Sonoran landscape are encouraged to apply. Applicants' qualifications will be reviewed based on the below evaluation criteria. Failure to include information for any of the evaluation criteria may result in disqualification from evaluation.

RFQ evaluation criteria:

- 60% Quality of photography samples
- 30% Photographer's experience with landscape photography as noted in bio/resume
- 10% Professional references related to public art

## ELIGIBILITY

This RFQ is open to photographers living in Arizona.

## PROJECT BUDGET

The selected photographer will enter into an artist services agreement with the City of Mesa. Following the execution of a services agreement with the City, which the photographer must sign after they are selected for the project, the photographer will receive 30% payment up front, 50% upon delivery of the photograph, and the remaining balance of 20% once the resulting perforated metal wall has been successfully fabricated, in accordance with the services agreement and signed off by the City.

## SELECTION PROCESS

The selection committee and City management will have final photographer selection approval. Once selected, the selected photographer will meet with the selection committee to discuss expectations, contract, and compensation for the project.

Proposed Schedule (subject to change):

- Call for Responses opens: March 13th, 2023
- Request for Qualifications Responses due: June 23rd, 2023
- Final decision and notification: July 7th, 2023
- Contract finalization, signatures: July 14th, 2023
- Concept meetings with photographer: Week of July 17th, 2023
- Photographs due: July 31st, 2023
- Installation: Fall 2024

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

All photographer qualifications must be submitted electronically via Dropbox by Monday, June 23rd, 2023, at 11:59 PM (Arizona time). Incomplete and late submissions will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered.

Please save your submission as a single PDF (LastName\_FirstInitial.pdf or TeamName.pdf) in the following order:

1. Cover sheet: providing photographer's name and contact information
2. Photographer biography/resume (Two page maximum) that includes experiences completing landscape photography.
3. Provide a statement describing why you want to be a part of this project and what you believe to be the hallmarks of a successful photograph reproduced at a large scale and/or through different types of reproduction technology.
4. Samples of previous work: Provide a minimum of seven (7) and maximum of twelve (12) work samples or links to images, as applicable, that you feel are representative of the type of image required for this project, with a one-page list and description of the sample photographs, including dates, locations, dimensions, and commissioning body, if applicable.
5. References: Provide a minimum of two (2) professional references related to photography work. Please include references' email and phone contact information.
6. OPTIONAL: Photographer may include social media handles, websites, video links, or other demonstrated work for additional support.

Submissions should be sent to this electronic mailbox:

Dropbox link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/6OzdV3Slz4EayRZluCLW>

Applicants are strongly encouraged to retain a complete copy of their submission for their records.

## OTHER DETAILS

Photographers will be required to show proof of insurance - worker's compensation (if applicable), commercial general liability and automobile - as outlined by the City prior to the execution of the artist services agreement. Image rights will be retained by the photographer with a non-exclusive use agreement granted to the City of Mesa for an unlimited term. The selected photographer who complete the project will receive marketing exposure in the form of the City's social media and a promotional campaign for the new City Hall.

Commissioned photographer must attend meetings with the selection committee to discuss the overall design and timetable for the finished product. Selected photographer will be required to attend the following if they take place:

- public meetings to share designs for the public art

- unveiling event for the completed project or open house, likely in fall 2024

Additionally, photographer may be listed on the city's website, which will highlight public artworks that can be found around the City.

#### QUESTIONS

Please contact Kevin Vaughan-Brubaker, Mesa Arts Center, 480-644-6540 or kevin.vaughan-brubaker@mesaaz.gov.

NOTE: As the project is funded by the City of Mesa, the City, independently or through the selection committee, reserves the right to reject any or all submissions or any part thereof; to cancel the RFQ at any time, without notice; to re-issue the RFQ; and to waive minor irregularities, defects, or omissions in a submission. All decisions on compliance, evaluation, terms, and conditions shall be made solely at the selection committee's discretion. Submission of photographer qualifications does not guarantee a contract with the City nor confer any right to an award. No agreement exists between any person and the city for any material or service until an agreement is executed between the City and the photographer.