



FORT WAYNE, INDIANA LIGHT SCULPTURE PROJECT PROSPECTUS

Purpose: The City of Fort Wayne Public Art Commission is seeking qualifications from established artists, architecture firm lighting technicians, or design teams for a public art project located at 113 W Berry Street & 127 W Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. The goal is to commission a qualified artist/design team to fabricate and oversee the installation of a dynamic, potentially interactive, light sculpture within the 77 Steps alleyway space.



Background: *Off the Wall* was a follow-up to the successful *Porch Off Calhoun*, a pilot project installed in downtown Fort Wayne, which came from a recommendation in the 2019 Gehl – *Making Cities for People* study entitled ‘**Downtown Fort Wayne Public Realm Action Plan.**’ The Plan cites the successful 1984 public art implementation program in the alleyways of Melbourne Australia and highlights the two-block area programmed through the Fort Wayne Downtown Improvement District’s Art This Way Alley Activation Project.

The Public Realm Action Plan projects utilize public art as a tool for economic development and reclaim the city’s network of alleyways to realize the full potential of these auxiliary spaces. The alley networks are often disregarded as solely service corridors, lined with dumpsters, mechanical units, and fire-escapes, with just enough room for a vehicle to pass through, these spaces can be reclaimed and redefined in a way which complements the public and reclaims and redefines the urban fabric. In 2017, the Art This Way Program began to build micro-retail corridors, promote interactive experiences, create a cultural destination for visitors, and work to provide new outdoor event spaces, by using these spaces. The Public Realm Action Plan’s recommendations aim to build off of this success, with the intent to create a healthy urban environment throughout the city’s core.

The Fort Wayne Public Art Commission and private business partners began with the *Porch Off Calhoun*. The project utilized several mechanisms for activation: removing vehicular parking, providing seating, adding lights, installing public art, creating flexible spaces with the use of planters, and the creation of a much-needed mid-block crosswalk. A locally owned restaurant programmed events in the new pilot seating area each weekend from August to October 2019, Art This Way programmed a fundraising event in the Fall of 2019. Each event attracted more than 1,000 people to the location, reinforcing the model that public art acts as a tool for economic development and revitalizing underutilized public spaces.

The second recommendation in the Plan, which involved the installation of an overhead sculpture within the alleyway network, was implemented in 2019-2020. The purpose of this overhead sculpture was to breathe life into the auxiliary spaces by creating a destination and demonstrating the value, importance, and potential of the alleyway network and the significance they have to our built environment. A further purpose was to create a visible entry-point to the northern opening of the two-block area programmed through the Art This Way Alley Activation Project and the *Porch Off Calhoun*, beckoning pedestrians to flow into the art-filled space. In 2019 Kelty Tappy Design Inc. was commissioned to install a temporary (5-yr term) lighting sculpture in the alleyway between 113 W Berry Street & 127 W Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. The temporary sculpture was facilitated by the City of Fort Wayne, along with the Fort Wayne Downtown Improvement District’s Art This Way Program.

About the Fort Wayne Public Art Commission

The City of Fort Wayne Public Art Commission was formed to help bring quality artwork and placemaking to the City of Fort Wayne. The City, working with the Public Art Commission, encourages the temporary and permanent display of public artworks and memorial structures throughout the city. The City believes that a vital public art presence will help establish a unique identity, build community, create civic pride, generate economic impact and support exceptional art.

About Art This Way

Art This Way is a program of Downtown Fort Wayne. This program facilitates public art and public realm projects in the 99-block district of Downtown Fort Wayne.

Selection Process Overview: During the Request for Qualifications, RFQ Phase, PHASE I, a review panel will evaluate initial responses according to the criteria outlined in the RFQ application. Applicants whose proposed qualifications demonstrate, in the review panel's sole opinion, the qualifications that best fulfill the purposes of this RFQ will move to the finalist selection phase, PHASE II. In PHASE II Applicants will be hired to create a proposal concept for this site. Those proposals will undergo 77 Steps Selection Committee review. The selected Applicant in PHASE II will be contracted to implement their sculpture concept in Fort Wayne, IN in 2026. If a satisfactory project is not identified, the project may not proceed.

Applicant Eligibility

- Applicant(s) must be willing to sign an indemnification agreement, a hold harmless waiver, and a photo release waiver;
- Applicant(s) must be prepared to provide proof of insurance;
- Applicant(s) must be 18 or older;
- Applicant(s) must be able to travel to Fort Wayne, IN in 2026;
- Applicant(s) must be able to provide tax documentation and be eligible to work in the USA in 2026;
- Applicant(s) must demonstrate experience in outdoor art and lighting installation(s);
- Applicant(s) must demonstrate experience in suspended art installation(s);
- Applicant(s) must be willing to participate in a dedication ceremony, interviews, and/or conduct demonstrations/presentations.

The City of Fort Wayne is an equal opportunity employer.

Statement of Work: The scope of work for the selected Applicant may generally include, but not limited to, the following:

PHASE I RFQ Applicant:

- Applicants should read this prospectus;
- Submit RFQ before the deadline (see project timeline below).

PHASE II finalists:

- Enter into proposal contract with City of Fort Wayne Public Art Commission.
- Provide a fully rendered, in color, design proposal for the site by the deadline.
- Prepare and present the design concept, timeline for installation, project budget, materials, and equipment needed; this may be done in-person or by virtual presentation.
- Applicants are encouraged to schedule a site visit, if possible, before submitting their proposal.
- Proposals should consider General Site Requirements and Site Challenges.

PHASE III finalist(s):

- Enter into contract with City of Fort Wayne Public Art Commission.
- Hire licensed contractors, as needed, to install the sculpture.
- Install the sculpture within the contractually stated timeline.
- Install the sculpture in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract. The selected Applicant will work collaboratively with the 77 Steps Selection Committee and City of Fort Wayne Public Art Commission to ensure that the sculpture is installed correctly and in a timely manner.
- Applicant(s) may be asked to present / demonstrate the project to multiple partners.
- Applicant(s) will attend a dedication ceremony at the sculpture site.

Project Timeline:*

JUNE 2025

AUGUST 31

SEPTEMBER 2025

OCTOBER 22, 2025

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2025

JUNE 2026

Phase I: RFQ release

Phase I: Deadline for RFQ submissions

Phase I: Review RFQs and make finalist selections. Phase II Finalists selected and notified; Finalists signed into proposal contract; *all applicants will be notified about the status of their application.*

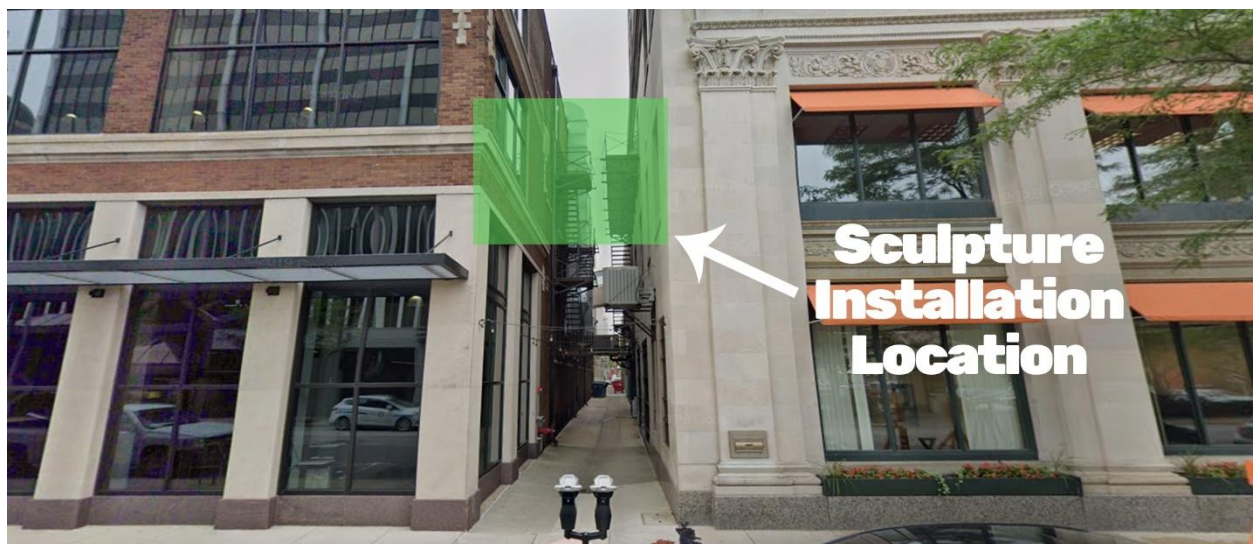
Phase II: Deadline for finalist(s) design proposals

Jury review of finalist(s) design proposals; Finalists present their proposal to the Selection Committee; Finalist selected; *All finalists will be notified about the status of their application.*

Phase III: Sculpture is installed.

**Dates may be changed; City of Fort Wayne Public Art Commission reserves the right to modify this schedule if necessary.*

Public Art Location: The project location is in the alleyway between 113 W Berry Street & 127 W Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Detailed site images and CAD drawings are available in the [77 Steps DropBox Link](#).



General Project Requirements:

See site images and CAD renderings of existing 77 Steps in DropBox:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/k7mglrvzhalid5461gvu/AN-](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/k7mglrvzhalid5461gvu/AN-cTvAG85E9Ig_8WNB5vRw?rlkey=inb8oe3lqkrko5pxlx0vku5ye&st=asp63hya&dl=0)

[cTvAG85E9Ig_8WNB5vRw?rlkey=inb8oe3lqkrko5pxlx0vku5ye&st=asp63hya&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/k7mglrvzhalid5461gvu/AN-cTvAG85E9Ig_8WNB5vRw?rlkey=inb8oe3lqkrko5pxlx0vku5ye&st=asp63hya&dl=0)

GENERAL DESIGN REQUIREMENTS	
❖	The sculpture design must be safe for public use;
❖	The sculpture design should consider the project timeline and budgetary constraints;
❖	The sculpture design must be able to withstand heavy gusts of wind [60mph / Beaufort Scale 10];
❖	All lighting components must be waterproof, U/V, and outdoor rated [IP65-rated or higher];
❖	All components must have an outdoor rating and be able to withstand the outdoor elements of Fort Wayne, Indiana;
❖	The design may make use of existing hardware [e.g. cables and electrical lines]; additional anchors may be placed, as necessary;
❖	The sculpture design should be suspended over the alleyway, and should not be able to be reached by pedestrians moving beneath the artwork;
❖	The project budget must account for engineer-approved drawings (Indiana);
❖	The design team must provide a warranty service contract or maintenance package as well as a maintenance manual; the cost(s) of any maintenance package is not part of the stated budget;
❖	Designs that account for user engagement, sensors or other experiential elements will be favored;
❖	Remote activation / management capacity is required;
❖	Sculpture should have a life expectancy of seven to ten (7-10) years;
❖	Alignment with the Fort Wayne Public Art Commission Master Plan is required.

Site Challenges:

GENERAL SITE CHALLENGES	
❖	Vandalism is possible in this space, so all components must be out of reach and durable;
❖	Access to interior temperature-controlled spaces is limited;
❖	The existing sculpture has been damaged by wind on multiple occasions, and it is a very windy alley [often 10-20mph winds or more];
❖	The existing fire escapes, wall units and other infrastructure within the alley cannot be removed or obstructed;
❖	The existing '77 Steps' steel headers on the north and south end of the alley will remain installed. This is the name of the alleyway space;
❖	There are city lighting standards, which can be found here in City code ;
❖	The existing anchors in the building have a set weight capacity;
❖	The walls of the alley may not be painted.

Project Budget: There is no fee for RFQ applicants to submit their qualifications in Phase I.

A review committee will select the Phase II Applicants from the RFQ applicants. Phase II finalist(s) will enter into a contract with City of Fort Wayne Public Art Commission, provide a signed Form W-9, and issue an initial stipend invoice for a design proposal fee. Phase II finalists will be paid \$1,500.00 to design a proposal.

The selected Phase III Applicant(s) will have a budget of \$100,000.00 for the sculpture. This amount will cover all costs associated with the project, inclusive of, but not limited to, design fee, materials, transportation, travel to and from the site, project documentation, contractors, associated project equipment rentals and purchases and the contingency to cover unexpected expenses and any other costs related to the sculpture not covered in the preceding list. Use of existing infrastructure will reduce costs. The applicant is responsible for obtaining insurance and providing proof of insurance. The Phase III finalist will be given a portion of the stipend amount upon signing their contract and providing any necessary documentation. The Phase III designer will be awarded the final sum of payment at the satisfactory completion of the project.

Costs associated with the removal of existing 77 Steps hardware to meet the needs of the new sculpture may not factor into the budget listed.

Funding for this project was made possible by the City of Fort Wayne Public Art Commission, and the City of Fort Wayne Public Art Commission will serve as the fiscal agent for the initiative.

Work Samples Submission Guidelines: Qualifications must be submitted electronically via the **JotForm link**. Applications that do not include the below mandatory information will be rejected without further consideration. Applications must be received on or before the due date and time specified in this solicitation.

RFQ JotForm Application must include the following:

- I. **Applicant Contact Information:** Please provide your name, mailing address, email address, phone number and city of residence
- II. **Professional Resume (2 Page Limit):** An outline of the primary Applicant's background and experience with examples of work done by the primary Applicant(s); and a list of other individuals who will assist in the completion of the project, detailing their training, and relevant work experience.
- III. **Three Previous Work Images:** three relevant, completed, work samples; please indicate: project's location, dimensions, medium(s), and completion date within the prompted area. Include one image of the rendering/sketch of the project in the design phase. Elaborate on how this experience relates to outdoor artwork installations and/or over-head/suspended installations. Please share the contact information for the project's Commissioning Body.
- IV. **A Brief Statement Describing What Your Team Might Create:** State in 1,000 words or less why you are interested in participating in this project; this statement will be read by the Selection Committee.

Evaluation: All responses received by the deadline will be evaluated by representatives of the 77 Selection Committee. The City of Fort Wayne Public Art Commission reserves the right, based on the scores of the qualifications, to create a short-listing of Applicants who have received the highest scores to interview or conduct demonstrations/presentations. Those chosen by the review panel will be invited to move forward as Phase II finalists.

Evaluation Factors for Request for Qualifications: The review panel will consider the following factors and weigh on which qualifications will be judged during this process: expressed understanding of project objectives in written statement, artistic quality of previous work, scale of previous work, and style of previous work. Artistic quality shall be demonstrated by the Applicant(s) work samples and experience in the production of public art.

Evaluation Factors for Proposals: Applicants whose proposed qualifications demonstrate they best fulfill the purposes of this RFQ, will be invited to enter into a contract with the City of Fort Wayne Public Art Commission and receive a stipend to develop a proposal for the project. The review panel will judge the Applicant(s) proposals based on the following factors: sculpture design, experiential components, public safety, quality of materials, feasibility of the budget, project's projected longevity, and written narrative. The selected finalist's designs will be shown to the Fort Wayne Public Art Commission and Property Owner(s) for final approval.

Deadline: Qualifications must be received by **JOTFORM APPLICATION** no later than **11:59 p.m. (EST), AUGUST 31, 2025**. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

JotForm Link: <https://form.jotform.com/250956950342158>