



102 West Division Street, 3rd Floor Suite
Syracuse, New York 13204
Phone: 315-472-2150

Call for Artists

Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Onondaga Environmental Institute's *Reviving Place* Project

Introduction

The Onondaga Environmental Institute (OEI) is seeking an artist to create an original artistic "map" that uses images and words to reflect participants' visions for the Onondaga Lake Watershed or one of the sub-watersheds. This community map will serve as an educational tool and help increase community pride in and stewardship of local places. One map will be created with a selected local school district in Onondaga County. This opportunity is open to artists in Central New York State with priority being given to those:

1. With an identifiable connection to the focus area
2. The capability to translate verbal and visual input from youth and adults
3. Availability the evenings of May 9th, 10th and 11th for a meeting in Syracuse; artist will only be needed one of those evenings, but the exact date has not been finalized as yet by the project team
4. Ability to complete the work no later than May 31, 2016

The application deadline is 4:00pm on Friday, April 15, 2016.

Tentative Administration Schedule

Date	Item
Wednesday, March 16, 2016	OEI distributes RFP
4:00 PM, Friday, April 15, 2016	Proposals due to OEI (via email and/or hardcopy delivery)
Friday, April 29, 2016	Respondent notification
May 9-11, 2016 (dates to be determined in consultation with community partners)	Attend community meeting and develop map thereafter
Tuesday, May 31, 2016	Completed artwork delivered to OEI staff

Commission

The artist will be compensated \$450 for a 2 ft x 3 ft artwork that is able to be framed/mounted and hung. In addition, the artist will be compensated \$25 per hour for attending the community meeting (see "Project Scope") with the intent of incorporating community input into the finished

piece. Total compensation is not to exceed \$550. Onondaga Environmental Institute will assume full ownership of the finished piece including full digital and reproduction rights.

Project Scope

The goal of this project is to create artistic “maps” that depict visions of local places through images and words. The primary reference material for this creative process will be input provided by community members, youth and adults. Maps will focus on capturing the spirit and priorities of community members rather than precise geography. For examples of maps developed by other communities, please see Attachment A. One map will be created with input from students and parents. One artist will be selected.

OEI will work with community partners to define the boundaries of the map and collect community input on what they value and envision for the Onondaga Lake Watershed. One of the ways that community input will be collected is through a community meeting. The selected artist will be required to attend the community meeting. Following the meeting, OEI will package all community input and provide it to the designated artist for use as reference. **The artist must complete his/her map 2-3 weeks after the community meeting.** Artist is responsible for purchasing his/her own materials. OEI will frame or mount each finished map.

Attendance at a community meeting in assigned focus area and provision of a completed map in accordance with outlined requirements in this RFP within a 2-3 week timeframe following the community meeting held in assigned focus area will satisfy this agreement’s management requirements.

Upon the completion of the map, OEI will partner with Onondaga Historical Association to curate a public exhibition. Copies of the map will be freely distributed throughout the community as an educational tool. The original map will ultimately be placed on permanent display in a public venue (library, community center, government office, school, etc).

Eligibility

The competition is open to artists living in Central New York (Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties). Only artists with reviewable portfolios are eligible to apply. The artist selection panel will consider artistic diversity as one factor in the selection process.

The commissioned artist will work with the Onondaga Environmental Institute to create an artwork consistent with community input. Ideal candidates will have experience working within public processes (in public settings); the capability to garner input from youth as well as adults while OEI leads the meeting; as well as proven artistic ability. The artwork for this project must reflect community input regarding their vision for the focus area.

The community input and creative process will take place on one evening to be determined between May 9 and 11, 2016. The artist must attend the community meeting in the focus area (schedule to be determined in consultation with community partners) and complete his/her

map 2-3 weeks after the community meeting is held in the given focus area. The finished piece must be 2 feet by 3 feet and able to be hung.

How to Apply

OEI has circulated this RFP via electronic mail to available communication networks (listservs, membership lists, etc) in the focus area with the guidance and assistance of project partners. Artists interested in this project must prepare and submit the following materials in hardcopy or electronically:

- Letter of Interest, no more than 2 pages in length, which explains your interest in the competition. Please include your name, contact information (including permanent address), a description of your relationship to the area, any experience you may have working on public projects and with garnering information from youth and adults, and the artistic media you are considering for this project. Also, please confirm that you are available to attend one meeting between May 9 and 11, 2016 yet to be determined. For email submissions, OEI will only accept .pdf or MSWord formats.
- Artist's Statement, no more than 200 words in length, describing your work. For email submissions, OEI will only accept .pdf or MSWord formats.
- Current Resume. For email submissions, OEI will only accept .pdf or MSWord formats.
- At least two professional references familiar with your work and working methods. The list must include complete addresses and telephone numbers. If possible, references should be familiar with public process work. For email submissions, OEI will only accept .pdf or MSWord formats.
- Work samples on CD or DVD of your work. All work samples must be submitted in the following format:
 - 8 to 12 digital images saved on one CD, DVD, or thumb drive. OEI will only accept JPEG or PDF file formats.
 - If the artist prefers, they may upload digital images to an accessible cloud storage site and provide credentials for accessing.
 - All digital images must be sized at 200 dpi minimum, no larger than 7" on a side.
 - You must number and title each digital image and include a description sheet with corresponding numbers. The sheet should list your name and the titles, dates, media, and dimensions of your work.
 - The artist should only include images relevant to the application.
- *Optional:* The artist may include up to three selections of support materials such as reviews, news articles, web links and other related information.

If submitting application in hardcopy, send all materials in a 10"x13" envelope to the address below. Do not use staples, paperclips, folders, or report covers on any application materials. If submitting application by email, please send all materials to asamuels@oei2.org, with the subject heading: "Reviving Place Artist Application."

All materials must be received by the Onondaga Environmental Institute by 4 pm on Friday, April 15, 2016. For hand delivery, please call Amy Samuels at (315) 443-1757 to arrange a date and time prior to the aforementioned deadline.

PLEASE MAIL APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:

Onondaga Environmental Institute
102 West Division St, 3rd Floor
Syracuse, NY 13204

ATTN: Reviving Place

All hardcopy materials submitted will become the property of OEI. Respondents should not submit proprietary or confidential business information other than that which is critical to their proposals. Such information should be clearly identified. OEI will protect proprietary or confidential information to the extent possible under applicable laws.

Final Artist Selection:

Onondaga Environmental Institute and local partners will review the submissions and select an artist to create an original artwork according to the criteria below. The final commission of artwork will be awarded by Friday, April 29, 2016.

Artist Selection Criteria

- Relationship to the focus area
 - Priority will be given to artists who live, work, or have some other strong connection to the selected focus area.
- Ability to integrate community input and involvement, including that from youth and adults
 - Past experience in community-influenced art is strongly recommended
- A body of work reflecting artistic excellence

OEI is committed to reflecting the diversity and cultural richness of the selected focus areas in our selection process.

It is OEI's policy to make positive efforts to utilize minority and/or women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) in all solicitations. Quality proposals by New York State registered minority or women artists may be favored in the selection process.

DISCLAIMER: OEI reserves the right for any reason at its sole discretion to accept or reject any or all proposals received in response to this request, to negotiate with qualified respondents, to cancel in part or in its entirety this RFP and/or discontinue discussions with a particular respondent. OEI reserves the right to modify and issue addenda to terms and

conditions of this RFP. Upon receipt of proposals, OEI may request clarifications and additional information.

Additional Information:

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Amy Samuels via email at asamuels@oei2.org or phone at (315) 443-1757. Please do not contact other OEI employees regarding this request for proposals.

Response to this RFP certifies that respondent will make best efforts to conserve natural resources and protect the environment in carrying out the Project Scope.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under assistance agreement NE96282914-1 to Onondaga Environmental Institute. As the project will not go through the EPA's publications review process, it therefore may not necessarily reflect the views of the EPA and no official endorsement should be inferred.

Attachment A

Examples of Community Place Maps

What's a community place map?

Community place mapping is a process developed by Common Ground, a charity organization that has inspired hundreds of communities across the United Kingdom to rediscover their “local distinctiveness” and revitalize public pride in, concern for, and stewardship of local places. In the words of Common Ground, a community place map shows what people consider to be important in their environment, such as: “...wildlife, history, work, landmarks, buildings, people, festivals. It does not have to be precise or cartographically correct, but by illustrating locally distinctive activities and features, it helps you to focus on the everyday things that make your place significant to you and different from the next. It can include the elusive responses which cannot be measured or counted and also the invisible – the stories, dialect, names and fragments of everyone’s history. [A community place map offers] a way of communicating creatively and socially how rich everyday places are, and what importance seemingly ordinary things have to everyone. All kinds of people old and young, from varied cultural backgrounds, by sharing their ideas and knowledge, begin to cherish their locality more and often become involved directly in its care.”

To learn more about community place mapping, visit:

<http://commonground.org.uk/projects/parish-maps/>



Left: Village Millennium Map
Fernhurst, England
Reproduced by permission from
The Fernhurst Society
<http://www.fernhurstsociety.org.uk/largemap.html>

Below: Combe Martin Parish, England
Reproduced by permission from
Common Ground
commonground.org.uk/gallery/parish-maps/





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Aveton Gifford Parish, England
 Reproduced by permission from the
 Aveton Gifford Parish Project Group
 and Common Ground
<http://www.ag-project.co.uk/57/the-parish-map>
commonground.org.uk/gallery/parish-maps/

