

Open Call for Artists/Artisans Public Art Project: Decorative Birdhouses Lake Thoreau Pool Renovations

PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

Accompanying the full facility reconstruction of the Lake Thoreau pool (anticipated opening for the 2023 pool season) Reston Association (RA) has identified the opportunity to activate a newly planned pollinator garden with public art through this call for five decorative birdhouse design/build proposals. Under the advisory of the local birding community, birdhouses will be non-functional due to the proximity of the structures within the installation. However, one design may be selected as a functional birdhouse and situated in a nearby area conducive to safe nesting for native bird species.

Open to everyone, artists, artisans and creatives of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to apply to this grassroots beautification project. Facilitated in partnership with Public Art Reston, RA will fund and maintain the birdhouses for a permanent public art installation. The artistically designed birdhouses will add visual distinction and a playful element to an L-shaped pollinator garden adjacent to the pool parking lot for pool patrons and passersby to enjoy year-round.

ELIGIBILITY

- All are welcome to apply
- Group submissions accepted
- Participants under 18 must have an adult sponsor for their proposal

IMPORTANT DATES

- **March 11, 2022** – Solicitation Call Posted by Public Art Reston (9:00am EST)
- **April 7, 2022** – Deadline for Questions (5:00 PM EST)
- **April 14, 2022** – Responses to Questions Provided
- **May 26, 2022** - Design Proposals Due (5:00 PM EST)
- **June-July 2022** - Art Selection/Public Art Committee Meetings
- **August-October 2022** - Constructability Reviews (RA DRB)/Coordination with Sitework
- **October-December 2022** - Project Fabrication & Installation (Primary)
- **January-March 2023** - Project Fabrication & Installation (Alternate)
- **Summer 2023** - Community Ribbon Cutting & Pool Opening (Anticipated)

PROJECT PARAMETERS

- **Materials:** chosen to withstand the elements and vandalism
 - Acceptable materials: wood, metal, and upcycled/recycled materials encouraged. A functional birdbox must be made of ¾" treated wood (refer to note C below)
 - Unacceptable materials: Ceramic, glass and other potentially fragile components
- **Size:** range not to exceed 22 x 22 x 22-inches
- **Mounting Information:** 5-poles total, each 3-inches in diameter with 12-inch x 12-inch base mounting plate at top of pole – (2)-poles at 8-feet in height, (2)-poles at 10-feet in height, (1)-pole at 12-feet in height, and (1)-pole at 16-feet in height. These heights may be subject to change.
- **Color:** selected to enhance or contrast with the natural environment
- **Appearance:** visually interesting, artistic designs encouraged
- **Required components:** Note that this is only for a functional birdhouse. Refer to note C below. 1½" round bird access opening, and a side, screw-close access panel for monitoring and cleaning
- **Budget:** successful proposals will be funded up to \$250 per individual house

NOTES

- **Note A:** Entries may be for all five houses as a series or one individual house
- **Note B:** Upon selection, authors of selected works are expected to collaborate with RA and Project Engineers related to constructability and appropriate materials. Further, authors are expected to deliver a finished product ready for installation during the primary fabrication and installation dates noted below.
- **Note C:** With the relative proximity and height of five birdhouses, only one of the boxes may be made functional for native cavity-nesting birds such as Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. This structure could be installed at a nearby location conducive to safe nesting. It is also possible that other native cavity-nesters such as Carolina Chickadees, Carolina Wrens, or House Wrens may occupy the box. The other four boxes will be decorative but non-functional without access holes for birds. The box designated as functional must also be made of natural, untreated ¾" wood and will have a predator guard affixed to the pole. It will be monitored regularly by volunteers to prevent non-native House Sparrows from using it.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Submit design in dimensioned drawings and/or photos (can include examples of previous work) and brief explanatory narrative
- Submissions are limited to (2) 11x17 inch PDF format pages, with maximum combined file size of 12-megabytes
- Written description including visual examples of materials and detailed dimensions
 - File format: .PDF (Please label each file with last name_first name_LTBirdhouse.
 - **Example:** Doe_Jane_LTBirdhouse)

QUESTIONS and SUBMISSION ADDRESS

- Contact: Phoebe Avery | phoebeavery@publicartreston.org