

Woodlands Development Group Call for Artists: Request for Qualifications

<p>Optional Preproposal Meeting: May 15, 2023 Online ZOOM meeting email info@woodlandswv.org to register.</p>	<p>Applicants are invited to an optional pre-proposal meeting to ask technical questions about the proposal.</p> <p>Sandy Bennett, Project Manager, Woodlands Development Group/Tygart Hotel and Katie Wolpert, Communications Director, Woodlands Development Group, will answer questions about qualification, portfolio submission, project concept and specifications/expectations.</p>
<p>Deadline for Proposals:</p>	<p>May 30, 2023</p>
<p>Submit Proposals to:</p>	<p>Katie Wolpert: katie@woodlandswv.org</p>
<p>Announcement of Awards:</p>	<p>June 6, 2023</p>

Description

Woodlands Development Group (Woodlands), is seeking professional artists to design and create original artwork for a Lost Towns of the Mon permanent art collection in the newly-rehabilitated Tygart Hotel in Elkins, WV. Final pieces will be related to the history, location, and both past and current conditions of one of the towns of Wildell, Spruce, Osceola/Sinks of Gandy, Evenwood, and Braucher. Artists may propose to develop art for multiple communities, however an artists will not be awarded more than one (1) town assignment and while artist preference will be considered, Woodlands cannot promise that an artist will receive funding for a specific town, if requested.

Background

Woodlands’ work in affordable housing and community development has focused on the small towns of Randolph, Barbour, and Tucker counties since 1995. We support our communities in their journeys to achieve their goals and become or remain healthy, viable, and sustainable communities for all residents. The Tygart Hotel project was undertaken at the behest of the Elkins/Randolph community and as a community organization we strive for the final product to reflect the rich cultural history and strong local flavor of communities in this area by engaging local artists to interpret the stories and history of a diverse set of five Ghost Towns in the footprint of the surrounding Monongahela National Forest. Please visit <http://woodlandswv.org> for more background information about Woodlands.

The Projects

The Lost Towns of the Mon is a two-part project designed to engage both local residents and visitors to inspire interest, exploration throughout the local area, and a deeper awareness of our cultural heritage. The Lost Towns project will explore the extent and definitions of diversity – socio economic, occupational, and cultural – that existed through past generations, and celebrate the rich artistic traditions that exist here today with direct connections to these lost communities. Through a combination of maps, photos, interpretation, and original art the projects will create an emotional connection to an almost forgotten past and promote a strategy for knowing, caring, and then learning from our past.

Project 1: The Lost Towns

For each of the designated ghost towns (Spruce, Evenwood, Sinks of Gandy/Osceola, Wildell, Braucher) an artist will research the history, explore the current conditions at the site, and interpret their discoveries and experiences into a single piece of art that creates an emotional connection between the viewer and the ghost of the town that once was. That artwork will be presented along with a topographic map, historic photos, and a brief interpretive piece in the Tygart Hotel.

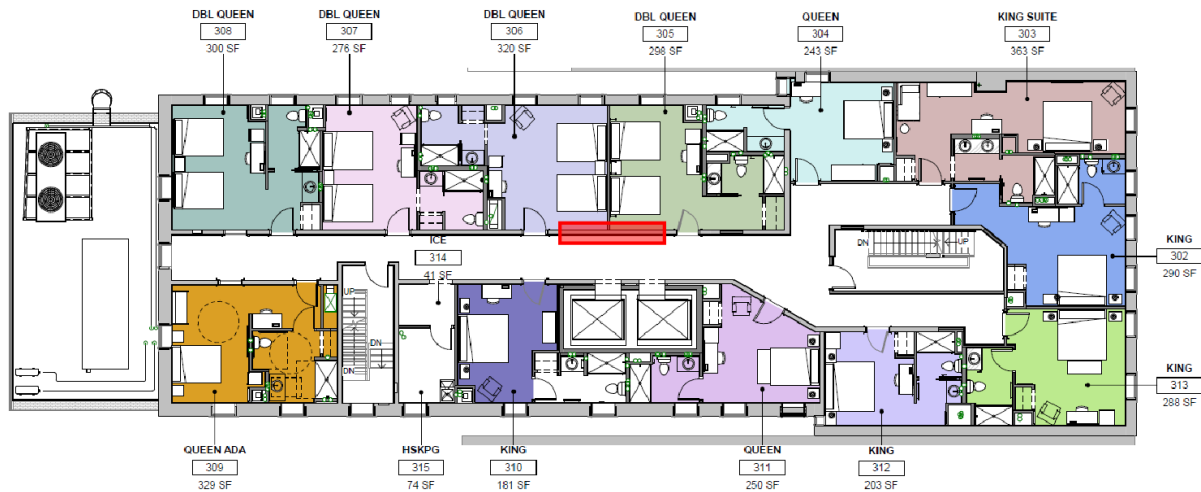
Project 2: Lost Towns/Lost Community

Artists will work with the same town as for Project 1 but within the larger framework of the other communities in the area. Project 2 will dive deeper into exploring how the unique towns were tied together throughout the Mon Forest Region. This exploration of historic community is a dedication to the community that exists today that brings us together to accomplish major goals. This project, proudly and prominently displayed in the lobby, lounge, and public spaces at the Tygart will be a love letter, in the form of visual art, to the communities that made us who we are today.

Project Sites, Specifications, and Awards:

Project 1 Sites	Location	Minimum Dimensions	Town	Anticipated Award*
Tygart 2 nd Floor	Elevator Lobby	36"x48"	Wildell	\$750-2000
Tygart 3 rd Floor	Elevator Lobby	36"x48"	Spruce	\$750-2000
Tygart 4 th Floor	Elevator Lobby	36"x48"	Evenwood	\$750-2000
Tygart 5 th Floor	Elevator Lobby	36"x48"	Braucher	\$750-2000
Tygart 6 th Floor	Elevator Lobby	36"x48"	Osceola/Sinks of Gandy	\$750-2000

*Total funding is still being determined



*Red Box indicates approximate location of Lost Towns displays on Guest Floors. Art must be fabricated in such a manner that allows it to be hung from the wall, without protruding further than 6" into the hallway. Artists are responsible for the packing and delivery of all final pieces. Woodlands is responsible for any necessary framing, security hangers, and other display costs.

Project 2 Sites	Location	Approximate Dimensions	Town	Anticipated Award*
Tygart Lobby, by fireplace + conference room	Tygart 1 st & 2 nd floor	36"x24"	Wildell	\$750-2000
Tygart Lobby, by restaurant entrance + conference room	Tygart 1 st & 2 nd floor	36"x48"	Osceola/Sinks of Gandy	\$750-2000
Tygart Lobby, by basement stairs + conference room	Tygart 1 st & 2 nd floor	36"x48"	Evenwood	\$750-2000
Tygart Lobby, side of elevator bay + conference room	Tygart 1 st & 2 nd floor	36"x48"	Braucher	\$750-2000
Tygart Lobby, bathroom lobby + conference room	Tygart 1 st & 2 nd floor	36"x48"	Spruce	\$750-2000

*Total funding is still being determined

Artist Eligibility

The project is open to all professional artists, ages 16+. Artists from Randolph, Tucker, and Barbour county and/or the broader West Virginia community are strongly encouraged to submit proposals. Artists may propose to develop artwork for a specific town/floor; however a specific choice is not required, we can not guarantee that you will be matched with that town, and any one artist will not be awarded more than one town.

Scope of Services

- **Project Meetings:** Artists are expected to attend one initial project meeting with project partners including the project architect, project manager, and local historians. The meetings will ideally be held in person to discuss the final specifications, tour the project space, assign specific towns, and kick off the research phase.
- **Design Refinement:** Based on partner input, artists will refine their original concept and propose media choices and general art specifications for approval by Woodlands.
- **Artwork Fabrication and Installation:** Artist is responsible for fabricating artwork in their own studio/art-making space. Artist will deliver the final and completed works to the project manager at the project site. Woodlands' project team will install the final pieces. Artists may be required to meet with the architect and/or construction manager at least once to confirm the best method of delivery and installation.
- **Opening:** Artists are to be available to attend ribbon cutting and/or art opening activities to speak about inspiration and answer any community questions.

Artist Considerations

- Artwork must be fabricated from durable, low-maintenance material that can withstand a public environment with passersby carrying luggage, push carts, and other incidental activity in a narrow hallway.
- The work is commissioned for permanent installation and therefore should last for at least 30 years.
- The work should incorporate context of the local community, with sensitivity to the history, traditions, and iconography that uplift the pride of the community.
- The work should adhere to requisite ADA and safety regulations.
- The work should be engaging and enjoyable to individuals of all ages and backgrounds.
- Since our installations are located in a very active environment (a functioning hotel), it is crucial that your proposal consists of materials and/or coatings that are durable.
- If the artwork is installed at human height level, your work should be able to withstand touching and be extremely durable and easily cleaned. These details can be fleshed out in final design but should be accounted for in your proposal.

Schedule:

Pre-proposal Meeting	May 15, 2023
RFQs due	May 30, 2023
Award Announcements	June 6, 2023
Initial Project Meeting	June 16, 2023
Design Refinement Meeting	By July 14, 2023*
Final Artwork Due	September 15, 2023
Ribbon Cutting/Art Opening	November 1, 2023*
	*indicates approximate date

Proposal Requirements

The following information must be included in the proposal: **(Submit as one PDF)**

1. Cover letter
2. Artist's biography/resume
3. Project approach: A one-page document that
 - a. shows the artist's understanding of Woodlands' goal to represent the local communities through the lens of our lost towns
 - b. describes the artist's plan to address the community's identity, cultural vibrancy, and diversity in the art
 - c. demonstrate the artist's ability to meet required deadlines and to transport the final works to the project site
 - d. provides a detailed work schedule
4. Lists of completed major projects
5. Portfolio to include relevant project experience completed after January 1, 2017. Artists are responsible for including at least 10 portfolio pieces. If including fewer than 10 pieces please

include an explanation. Please include the title, medium, dimensions, and location of each piece of art.

6. Proposed use of award to include:
 - a. Research and community engagement
 - b. Mock-up production
 - c. Artwork fabrication
 - d. Supplies and materials
 - e. Delivery of artwork
 - f. Other associated costs
7. References: Artist shall provide a minimum of three references including current and former clients for whom the artist performed similar work in the last five years. Include each entity's name, phone number, and email address as well as first and last name of the contact person.

Selection Process

A selection committee comprised of Woodlands staff and board, local historians, and Tygart Hotel project team members (including but not limited to Taylor Hospitality representative and representative from the interior design/architect team) will determine awards based on the following criteria:

Proposal Elements	Points Available
Qualifications of the artists related to this RFQ	40
Proposed project approach	40
Ability of artist to meet required deadlines	10
Demonstrated understanding of the purpose of this project	10
Total possible points	100