

Request for Qualifications

Light-based Artwork for Boston's Chinatown

A public art and placemaking project from [the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy](#) in collaboration with [Chinatown Main Street](#)

Budget: \$40,000

Issued: April 5, 2019

Deadline to Apply: 11:59 pm, May 19, 2019

Apply Online: via [Form Assembly](#)



RoseKennedyGreenway.org



The Main Street Lantern Festival in 2017

Call Summary

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy ("The Conservancy") seeks an artist or artist team for the creation of a temporary, site-specific, placemaking artwork. This light-based public artwork will activate Chin Park ([recently renamed](#) from [Chinatown Park by the legislature](#)), part of the contemporary public park in the heart of Boston known as The Greenway. The artwork will be installed in early August 2020 for the Chinatown Main Street Lantern Festival in September and will remain on display potentially through the winter (on view for 3-6 months).

The primary objective of the project is to recognize and represent the thriving community of Boston's Chinatown through a artist-designed lit canopy. Through a participatory process, the artwork will celebrate the history and future of the Chinatown neighborhood and community. As an act of placemaking and placekeeping, the artwork will represent and honor Chinatown's rich cultural history and cross-generational residents, neighbors and friends. An artist(s) with a demonstrated capacity to work with community and/or of ingenuity in design are encouraged to apply. Experience with public art is encouraged but not required.

Sunday April 28, 1-2 PM Tour of Chinatown and Chin Park.

RSVP by April 26 to snovak@rosekennedygreenway.org

The Greenway and the Greenway Conservancy

The Greenway is the contemporary public park in the heart of Boston. The Greenway welcomes millions of visitors annually to gather, play, unwind, and explore. The Greenway Conservancy is the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway.

The Greenway is a premier destination to see contemporary works of art in downtown Boston. The public art vision is to bring innovative and contemporary art to Boston through free, temporary exhibitions, engaging people in meaningful experiences, interactions and dialogue with art and each other. The Greenway Conservancy provides artists unique opportunities to exhibit bold, new work that considers the possibilities of 21st century Boston.



Chinatown Main Street

Part of Main Street America, Chinatown Main Street works to make Boston's Chinatown a vital cultural and commercial center in New England. To help businesses and residents thrive and to draw visitors, Chinatown Main Street produces cultural events, such as the Mid-Autumn Lantern Festival, Lunar New Year Festival.

Project Description

The Conservancy works with numerous Chinatown partners annually to host frequent and vibrant cultural festivals for the Chinatown community in Chin Park. From [Films at the Gate](#) with the [Asian Community Development Corporation](#) (ACDC) to [World Tai Chi Day](#) with [Bow Sim Mark Tai Chi](#), from [Experience Chinatown](#) with the [Pao Art Center](#) and [Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center](#) (BCNC) to the [August Moon Festival](#) with the [Chinatown Consolidated Benevolent Association](#), The Greenway is thrilled to work with and support our partners and neighbors in Chinatown in the production of cultural events.

Annually, Chinatown Main Street installs lanterns which decorate the plaza for the Chinatown Main Street Lantern Festival, producing a vibrant illuminated space in downtown Boston for the public to engage with the space and each other. This canopy of lanterns brightens the space, providing a vibrant, culturally celebratory canopy over Chin Park's Plaza that stay installed for a few months, adding character and light to the park for other events and festivals as well (see *Appendix B*).

The Conservancy seeks to support and highlight Boston's Chinatown with a dynamic new temporary artwork, maintaining the community tradition of installing lanterns and invigorating the design through a contemporary arts process. Working with Chinatown Main Street alongside other cultural and neighborhood organizations such as the Pao Art Center, ACDC, and BCNC, The Conservancy will support an artist in creating a community based artwork.

The chosen artist(s) will engage Boston's Chinatown community in the design process, making a site specific, vibrant light-based artwork. A thoughtful, social practice approach is required to ensure this project reflects the values, stories, and future of Chinatown's community. The selection committee will prioritize artist(s) whose past work and process demonstrate a capacity to represent the Chinatown community in this work.

While traditionally lanterns hang overhead, artists will be supported in conceptual and contemporary approaches to this installation. Upon approval of the design, the artist(s) will oversee the fabrication and installation of the artwork. The artist(s) will work in collaboration with the Conservancy's Public Art team to ensure the appropriate on-time, on-budget production of this project. Depending on public perception of the work, the artist's vision and the durability of the artwork, the Conservancy and Chinatown Main Street may seek to re-install the artwork in subsequent iterations of this cultural festival, however this is not a requirement for a successful design.

Art Location Description

Chin Park lies at the southern end of The Greenway. Providing an open plaza and playscape, the park serves community needs by providing open space for people to meet, play, and relax. The Chinatown community hosts cultural events and festivals throughout the year on the park's central plaza. The Chinatown Main Street Lantern Festival is one of the largest festivals in Chinatown, taking place on and off The Greenway, and is an important celebration of tradition and community vibrancy. *(See Appendix A for Site Plans, Appendix B for images of the festival, and prior iterations of the lantern installation).*

Artist Eligibility

- ☐ This project is open to artists or artists teams (of no more than two artists)
- ☐ Artist(s) from various cultures and ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to apply
- ☐ Artist(s) with community engagement experience, especially with communities of color and/or immigrant communities, are encouraged to apply
- ☐ Artist(s) with working experience in the public realm is strongly encouraged but not required
- ☐ Artist(s) must be legally able to work in the United States and readily available in the project timeline
- ☐ Artist(s) must be at least 18 years of age

Artist Responsibilities

- ☐ Artist(s) must be readily available during the expected timeline.
- ☐ Developing and refining artistic concepts and designs to work within the engineering, loading, and design constraints of the project, that comply with all City of Boston building codes and guidelines.
- ☐ Creating a structurally sound and efficient design, using durable materials, accounting for energy efficiency and maintenance. The design and funding of these elements are inclusive in the fee.
- ☐ Developing designs that are secure and tamperproof through hiring a Massachusetts licensed engineer.
- ☐ Participating in an ongoing design review and modification process administered by The Conservancy's Curator and Public Art Project Manager.
- ☐ Designing and executing community engagement opportunities in the artwork design phase.
- ☐ Fully overseeing and administering the fabrication, installation and deinstallation of the artwork, inclusive of any necessary equipment rental or infrastructure development in partnership with The Conservancy.

Compensation

Selected artist(s) will receive a comprehensive fee of \$40,000. This fee will cover all budgeted costs and expenses associated with fulfilling the Artist Responsibilities outlined below. A contract between the artist(s) and the Conservancy will define stages of compensation, exact fee, and payment schedule and scope of work. Please be aware that transportation and lodging costs outside the provided budget is not reimbursable.

Project Timeline

April 5, 2019	RFQ Released and Distributed
April 28 2019, 1-2PM	Optional tour of Chin Park & Chinatown <i>RSVP to snovak@rosekennedygreenway.org</i>
April 29, 2019 @ 4PM	Deadline for submission of questions regarding RFQ application
May 6, 2019	Posting of questions and answers on the Conservancy website
May 19, 2019 @ 11:59 PM	Deadline for artist submission
May/June 2019	Selection panel reviews submissions/Artist interviews
Early June 2019	Artist contracted
September 7, 2019	Chinatown Main Street Lantern Festival (artist attendance requested)
Summer 2019-Winter 2020	Proposed community engagement timeframe (artist scheduled)
October, 2019	Artist pre-concepts due
February, 2020	Final design and concepts due for review
August, 2020	Installation
September 26, 2020	Chinatown Main Street Lantern Festival
Nov 2020-March 2021	De-installation; timeline contingent on winter engineering

Application Process

All applications will be processed on [Form Assembly](#).

Only one application per artist or artist team. If applying as a team please select one representative.

Artists will be required to submit the following:

- ☐ **Contact Information;** such as name, address, phone, email address, website.
- ☐ **Artist Statement;** what guides you artistically, what mediums you work in and why/how you approach community based work in your practice (max 300 words).
- ☐ **Narrative Statement;** what you bring to the project, why you are driven towards community based work, how and why you are prepared to work with the Chinatown community (max 500 words).
- ☐ **Professional Resume/CV;** (max 2 pages per artist).
- ☐ **Examples of Past Work;** Up to 10 .jpg images of recent work that best reflects the skills of the artist(s) involved. Please make file names under your last name with the order you would like them to be viewed (i.e. name01.jpg; name02.jpg; ... name10.jpg). Each image must be a separate file - no collaged images. Explanatory text should be included on the image list. Videos or websites should be submitted in the optional support material.
- ☐ **Image Descriptions for Past Work;** the file name, artists name, title of work, date, materials, dimensions. Include any, if applicable, commissioning agency, location, and commission cost.
- ☐ **Optional additional support material;** news clippings, other relevant information on past projects.

Selection Process and Criteria

Once the application closes (May 19, 2019) all complete applications will be shared with an artist selection panel composed of representatives from the Chinatown community and the Greenway Public Art Advisory Group. The selection panel will review all proposals to select the artist(s). The final selection is expected to occur by early June 2019. All applicants will be notified of the decision by July, 2019, barring any alterations to the schedule listed above.

The artist will work with Chinatown community organizations and the Conservancy to connect with the Chinatown community in the development of conceptual themes for this work. The artist will work in an iterative design process, utilizing community input along with structural and design input sought engineers and the Conservancy. The artist will work with members of the Conservancy staff in coordinating the installation and deinstallation of the artwork, as well as the restoration of the site upon completion of the project.

Selection Criteria

- ☐ **Artist Merit/Originality:** creativity and uniqueness of artistic thought and approach; does the artist have a unique or appropriate cultural, geographic or artistic perspective?
- ☐ **Capacity/Feasibility:** demonstrates capacity to carry out this project as planned; artists proven track record / ability to complete the work on time and within budget; has the artist created similar work?
- ☐ **Community Vitality:** demonstrated experience of meaningful engagement with community members and partners; have prior projects involved participation, and/or built relationships?
- ☐ **Placemaking/Placekeeping:** demonstrated understanding of the community and setting, including history, identity, geography and cultures; has previous work engaged communities and settings?
- ☐ **Collaboration:** The artist has experience working in communities with diverse populations; Does the artist have experience in projects that bring people together or create gathering spaces?

Sources for Additional Information

All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the [Chinatown Master Plan 2010](#), [the Chinatown Master Plan 2000](#), and [Chinatown: A Toolkit for Community Empowerment](#) in order to gain a better understanding of the recent and robust history of community development and grassroots activism in Chinatown. Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with [public art installations on The Greenway](#), as well.

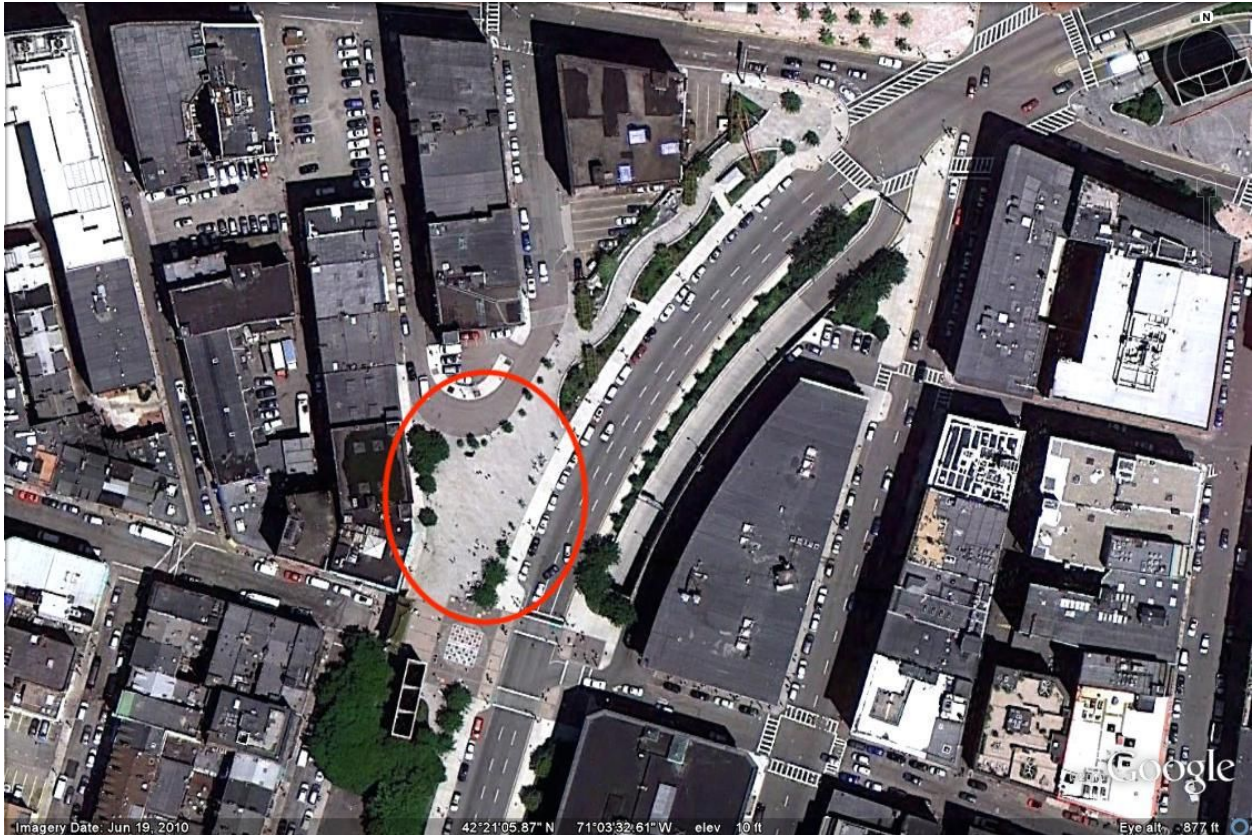
Inquiries

Please direct all questions to Sheila Novak, Public Art Project Manager at the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy at snovak@rosekennedygreenway.org No calls please.

Appendix A: Site and Installation Considerations

The selected artist art and applicants on request will be provided the Conservancy's Best Practices and Recommendations for public art installations document. For general information, please review the Greenway Conservancy [Park Use Guidelines](#).

The existing design of the space, such as existing trees, benches, walkways, and infrastructure, may not be moved or disturbed. The artist(s) may propose additional structural elements to support a large installation as well as seeking approval for the use of existing infrastructure. Any additional structural elements must be approved by the Greenway Conservancy to ensure the plaza's programmatic and aesthetic needs are met.



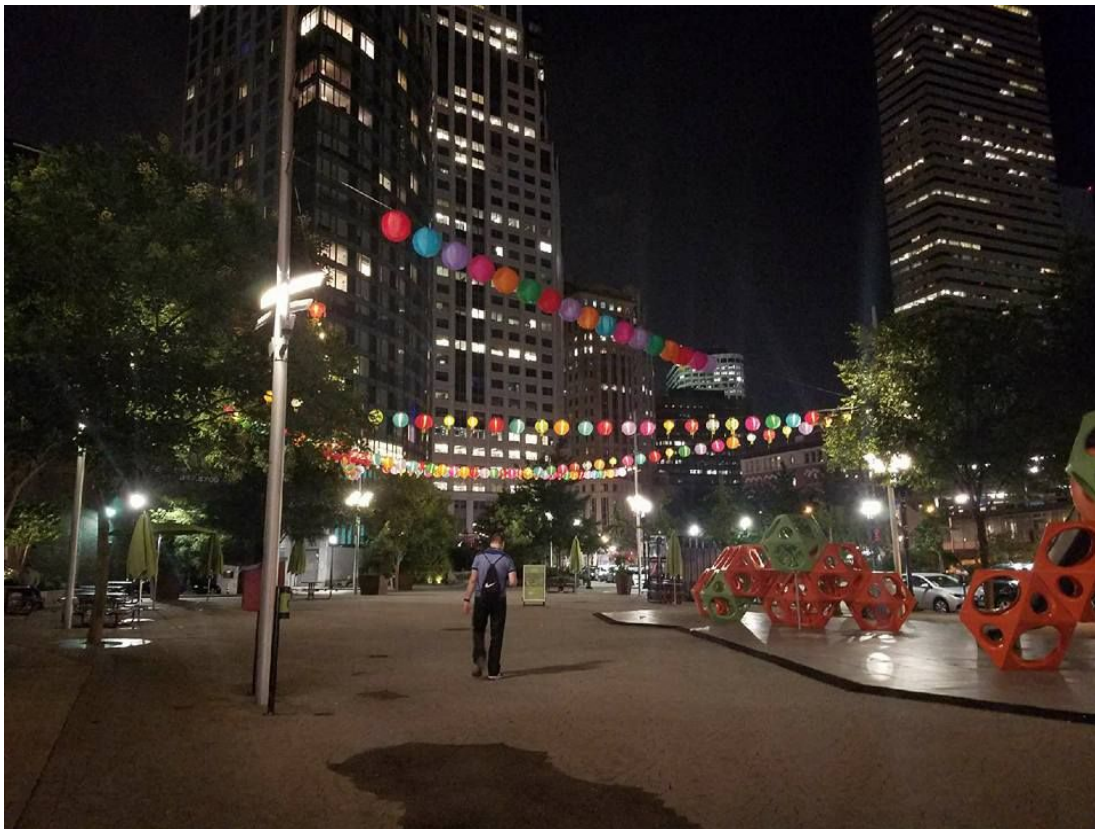
Aerial view of the plaza in Chin Park; The artwork will cover the entire plaza.



The plaza's existing infrastructure includes trees, Play Cubes playground equipment, and other park amenities.



Lanterns installed by Chinatown Main Street in 2017



A view of the lanterns, plaza and infrastructure in Chinatown Park

Appendix B: Festival Imagery

To help artists who have never attended festivals on The Greenway, we have attached images of the Chinatown Main Street Mid-Autumn Lantern festival to illustrate the scope and scale of such celebrations.



Performances at the Chinatown Main Street Lantern Festival



Performances at the Chinatown Main Street Lantern Festival



The installation of lanterns in Chinatown Park in 2018



Chinatown Main Street Lantern Festival in 2017



The plaza, shot from above



DATE:	
SCALE:	1" = 50'
PARCEL:	23d
PROJECT:	