The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection
at the Royal Botanical Gardens

Public Art Opportunity: Request for Expressions of Interest
Royal Botanical Gardens, Reflecting Pool

Deadline: Friday April 6, 2018
Budget: $70,000 CAD (maximum)

For more information:
Kim Selman
T: 905-548-0111  E: kim@cobaltconnects.ca
Requests for Expressions of Interest

The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection (DLISC) invites professional artists to submit Expressions of Interest to create a permanent public artwork to be installed in the Reflecting Pool located in the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG). The artwork will act as a signature feature to Hendrie Park, including the newly rejuvenated Rose Garden.

The budget for this project is $70,000 inclusive (CAD), including all tax, artist fees, fabrication, transportation, and installation of the artwork.

Please note - this is a Request for Expression of Interest. Artwork proposals are not requested at this time. A maximum of three artists will be short-listed to develop artwork concept proposals. Short-listed artists will be paid an honorarium of $1,000 (CAD).

Background: Royal Botanical Gardens

For over 80 years Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) has been an ecological jewel at the western tip of Lake Ontario. Conceived and founded through the tireless efforts of early conservationist Thomas Baker McQuesten, RBG lands were set aside to create the region’s first botanical garden. Patterned after Kew Gardens in England, RBG was created to serve as both a regional botanical tourism site and an environmental agency.

Designated as a national historical site, RBG is revered world-wide for its extensive 400 acres of display gardens. What makes RBG unique is that it also protects and stewards over 2300 acres of environmentally sensitive lands and diverse ecosystems that connect the Niagara escarpment to Lake Ontario. In acknowledgement of this crucial environmental role, Royal Botanical Gardens was granted a provincial mandate in 1941 for the development of four areas of focus: Conservation, Education, Horticulture and Science. In the 70 years that followed, RBG has established a national and international reputation as a living laboratory for science, a connecting point for children in their early embrace of nature, a leader in sustainable gardening and the standard-bearer for ecological restoration and plant preservation.

In the face of devastating environmental threats world-wide, RBG is more relevant now than ever before. Its established and evolving environmental programs provide straight-forward, workable solutions designed to maintain sustainable biodiversity in Canada, for the world.

Learn more about the RBG: www.rbg.ca
The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection was founded by philanthropist Dan Lawrie with the Royal Botanical Gardens in 2014. Through Mr. Lawrie’s generous support, the RBG is acquiring permanent outdoor sculptures for its Hendrie Park location. Since 2014, the collection has acquired / commissioned twelve sculptures from local and international artists.

The existing collection can be viewed at: http://www.rbg.ca/tisc.

DLISC is managed by Cobalt Connects, a Hamilton-based non-profit arts service organization that is the connecting element for creative communities. More information about Cobalt can be found at www.cobaltconnects.ca.

Artwork Location

The artwork will be installed in the Reflecting Pool(s) located in the Hendrie Park section of the Royal Botanical Gardens. Royal Botanical Gardens is located at the western tip of Lake Ontario. Four distinct formal gardens are contained with 1,100 hectares of nature reserve, nestled into the slopes of Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve. The ever-changing seasons, blooms, and natural phenomenon make each visit a new experience. Explore and enjoy the many historical outdoor plant collections, the indoor Mediterranean Garden, and 27 km of nature trails.

Hendrie Park features a variety of interesting landscape features including a Medicinal Garden and the Rose Garden, which is currently undergoing a major rejuvenation. The new Rose Garden will feature a spectacular display of roses and companion plants. At the heart of Hendrie Park is a pair a reflecting pools.

Reflecting Pools

The Reflecting Pools offer a number of locations in which the artwork may be installed. Shortlisted artists may propose artwork to be located in one or both of the pools. The artwork should complement the existing landscaping and architecture of the RBG grounds.

Pool A (South Pool)
- Measures 60’ (length) by 20’ (width)
- Approximately 30” deep
- Artwork may be anchored to concrete pads which forms the base of the pool, and/or the raised concrete pedestal display area in the centre of the pool
- Multiple whirlpool features throughout
Pool B (North Pool)
- Measures 50’ (length) by 20’ (width)
- Approximately 30” deep
- Artwork may be anchored to concrete pads which forms the base of the pool, and/or the raised concrete pedestal display area in the centre of the pool
- Multiple whirlpool features throughout

“Raised concrete pedestal display area” houses the plants growing in the centre of the pool as seen above.
Artwork Goals

A steering committee consisting of the donor, RBG staff and Cobalt Connects staff will review all applications and select the short-list (maximum 3) to move forward to develop artwork concept proposals.

The goals for The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection include:
- Inspire and provoke the imagination of RBG visitors of all ages through sculpture;
- Enhance the connection between art and nature;
- Increase and diversify the visitor base of the RBG and;
- Support the work of artists in Canada and abroad through significant commissions.

Specific goals for the Reflecting Pool project include:
- Complement the newly rejuvenated Rose Garden
- Celebrate local biodiversity (i.e. waterfowl, fish, insects, etc.)
- Create a sense of movement

Artwork Design Parameters

The artwork must adhere to the following design parameters:
- Fabricated using materials that are highly resistant to theft, vandalism and weathering
- Fabricated with materials that will not have a negative environmental impact on the site
- Fabricated with materials designed to handle the Canadian climate in a permanent outdoor setting – minimum 20 year lifespan
- Must not pose a risk to public safety (i.e. no sharp points, does not allow climbing, no slip hazards, etc.)
- Meets all Ontario building code standards (http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page7393.aspx);
- The selected artist will be required to submit drawings certified by a structural engineer licensed to operate in Ontario that specifies all required foundations and installation technique. The cost of this work is the responsibility of the artist and should be factored into the overall budget proposal for the artwork purchase.
- Embrace a 360-degree viewer perspective as the artworks can be viewed from multiple vantage points.
Eligibility

This competition is an International call, open to all professional artists. Artist collectives and/or artist-led teams are also encouraged to apply. The selected artist must be able to travel to Burlington, Ontario, Canada for a minimum of one visit to oversee the installation and launch of the artwork in June 2019.

*A professional artist is an individual who has specialized skills and/or training their artistic discipline (not necessarily in academic institutions), has a history of public presentation and is critically recognized as an artist.*

Budget

The budget for this project is $70,000 CAD (maximum, all inclusive). This is the total amount available for all related expenses of this public art project including (but not limited to): artist fees, materials, site preparation, technical consultation, fabrication, installation, insurance, equipment, permit fees, travel, etc.

Selection Process

A selection panel comprised of the donor, RBG staff and Cobalt Connects staff will review all applications based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications and professional experience of artist(s)
- Artistic merit of previous work (as expressed in digital images submitted)
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines, budgets
- Success in executing projects of a similar scale / complexity to the project outlined in this document.
- The artist(s)’ responsiveness to the site and approach to the project (as outlined in the Expression of Interest Statement submitted)
- Quality of references

Original Work: The artist must guarantee that the artwork is original and does not violate the copyright of any other person.

Two-Stage Process

This competition is a two-stage process. In Stage One, the selection panel will review the applications based on the Selection Criteria outlined in this document. The selection committee will choose a maximum of 3 artists to move forward to Stage Two (short-list).

The artists selected for Stage Two will be asked to develop a Concept Proposal for the artwork consisting of: artist statement, preliminary design drawings and draft budget. An honorarium of $1,000 will be paid upon completion of the Concept Proposal.
At the end of Stage Two, the selection panel will recommend the successful artist based on the merits of the Concept Proposal, technical feasibility and public feedback. The successful artist will then enter into a contract with The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection for the artwork creation and installation phase of the project.

Please note, The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection, Royal Botanical Gardens, and Cobalt Connects reserves the right to choose to not recommend any application, proposal or finalist and to terminate or re-advertise any project.

## Estimated Project Timeline (2018-19)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2018</td>
<td>Expression of Interest (EOI) released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6, 2018</td>
<td>EOI deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By April 20, 2018</td>
<td>Selection panel chooses short-list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2018</td>
<td>Short-listed artists’ submit final design</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22, 2018</td>
<td>Selection panel chooses winning proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-June, 2019</td>
<td>Artwork is installed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(tentative)</td>
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## Application Deadline and Receipt

All applications are due on or before **Friday April 6, 2018 at 4:00 PM**. Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be accepted.

All applicants will receive notice via email or mail that their application has been received. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that Cobalt Connects has received their application. If you do not receive verification within one week of submitting your application, please contact [kim@cobaltconnects.ca](mailto:kim@cobaltconnects.ca) or 905-548-0111.

**Loss or Damage:** While every precaution will be taken to prevent loss or damage, The International Sculpture Collection, Royal Botanical Gardens and Cobalt Connects shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused. **Please note, application materials will not be returned.**
How to Submit Your Application

Please send elements 1 – 6 as a single PDF file and element 6 (Artwork Samples) as separate JPEG files. **Submissions must be emailed.** Artists must submit the following in order to qualify for consideration:

1. **Application Form:** Page 9 of this document
2. **Curriculum Vitae:** 5 pages maximum
3. **Artist Statement and Bio:** 1 page maximum
4. **Expression of Interest Statement:** 2 pages maximum. Submit a brief statement outlining your interest in this project. Please include the following information:
   - Your approach to creating artwork for the public realm
   - How the goals of this project align with your artistic practice
   - How your specific skills and experience bring value to this project
5. **References:** name, address, phone number and email for 2 references who have been directly involved with your artistic practice and/or past public art projects.
6. **Image List:** A list of the Artwork Samples submitted (element 7). Please include: title of artwork, materials, dimensions, date and location of artwork (if applicable).
7. **Artwork Samples:** Maximum of 10 images of previous public artworks or artworks, which best illustrate a body of artwork that relates to the proposal. JPEG files only, we will not accept PowerPoint or tiff formats; minimum 150 dpi. Number each jpeg to correspond with the Image List.

**Submissions must be sent to:**
Kim Selman
Public Art Manager
kim@cobaltconnects.ca
Subject Line: DLISC Proposal
Application Form

Name ________________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________

City ____________________________ Province ______________________________

Postal Code ___________________ Country _________________________________

Phone (day) ___________________ Phone (evening) __________________________

Email ___________________________ Website _______________________________

☐ I would like to receive notice of future Calls For Artists and program updates. Please add me to the DLISC email list (optional)

The applicant is in agreement with the Eligibility and Selection Criteria, as outlined in this document:

Signature of applicant__________________________ Date _________________

Please send submission requirements listed above as one PDF file (except portfolio images, see page 8). No hard copies will be accepted. Applications will not be accepted by fax. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Send Submissions to:
Kim Selman
Public Art Manager
kim@cobaltconnects.ca
Subject Line: DLISC Proposal

Contact Us: 905-548-0111 or kim@cobaltconnects.ca