



# **PUBLIC ART/DESIGN OPPORTUNITY**

**Request For Qualifications No.179-11  
Arlington County Virginia**

Water Pollution Control Plant Fence Enhancements Project  
Four Mile Run



Arlington County, Virginia, invites artists and design professionals, as individuals or teams, to submit qualifications for the development and implementation of an integrated design concept, for the fence at the County's Water Pollution Control Plant. The fence is located along Four Mile Run and Eads Street and separates the Water Pollution Control Plant from the Four Mile Run and a bike/commuter trail. The selected artist/designer or team will create a public art installation/design enhancement for the fence, which will help to materialize the County's vision for the Four Mile Run area as a vibrant waterfront and recreational destination that links Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. The physical presence of the Water Pollution Control Plant in the area — the role and function it plays within the larger network of utilities that supply Arlington County — should be reflected in the proposed design, as well as an interpretive component encouraging visitors to reflect upon the issues that impact water conservation and use. As is feasible, the fence enhancement should include an alternative energy demonstration component.

The project site in the Four Mile Run restoration corridor is located just west of Route 1 and one block south of S. Glebe Road. The design enhancement will address the approximately 1600 linear feet of the Water Pollution Control Plant fence along Four Mile Run Drive and Eads Street and define the transition from the Plant to the bike trail and the Four Mile Run. The main outfall at the Plant, identified as a trail feature and the illustration of the work of the Plant, should get additional consideration in the proposed fence enhancement design.

**The application receipt deadline is Thursday, May 19, 2011, 5 P.M.**

### **Slideroom**

Applications are available through SlideRoom (<https://arlington.slideroom.com>), an on-line application system for calls for entry. There is no charge to artists for using SlideRoom. If you are a first time user of SlideRoom, please allow adequate time to learn the use of this system. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.

## Project Background and Information

Arlington County is a 26-square mile county within the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Originally part of the 10-mile square federal city as surveyed in 1791 and separated from the rest of the city by the Potomac River, the southwest quadrant was retro-ceded to Virginia in 1846 and renamed Arlington County in 1920. Arlington is comprised of thriving urban villages and strives to be a world-class urban community with a focus on smart growth. Arlington County is also home to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, the Pentagon, the Iwo Jima Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Four Mile Run flows through a narrow stream valley that extends nine miles from its mouth at the Potomac River to its uppermost tributaries, passing through four jurisdictions. Once a forgotten area dominated by utility lines and drainage structures, and a barrier between the City of Alexandria and Arlington County, Four Mile Run is re-imagined as a vibrant community for both municipalities. The Four Mile Run Master Plan (adopted 2006 <http://www.novaregion.org/masterplan>) and the Four Mile Run Design Guidelines (adopted 2009 <http://www.novaregion.org/index.aspx?NID=1010>) envision a transformation for the corridor.

A variety of activities and destinations within the restoration corridor of Four Mile Run will provide multiple reasons to visit the area, from natural features and outdoor recreation, to cultural and educational attractions. A variety of planned efforts, ranging from channel and habitat restoration to a variety of storm water management solutions and other environmental stewardship projects, will make Four Mile Run a model for green and innovative urban design. The Four Mile Run Tidal Restoration Demonstration Project, which is a joint effort by Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, has been planned as the first project in a series of projects associated with the rejuvenation and urban planning efforts for both communities and is located in the tidal reach of Four Mile Run. The Demonstration Project is supported by both local and federal funds.

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## Public Art in Four Mile Run

Arlington's Public Art Master Plan ([http://www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural\\_affairs/publicart.htm](http://www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural_affairs/publicart.htm)) and the Four Mile Run Design Guidelines envision a prominent role for public art and design features in the corridor. Arlington County seeks an artist/designer or team to work with the different stakeholders to envision, fabricate and install an integrated design/artwork or series of designs/artworks for the selected site. The Artist/designer or team will coordinate their work with Public Art staff but will also work closely with the client team (Arlington County Departments of Environmental Services, including the staff of the Water Pollution Control Plant, and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources.)

Other firms that are currently under contract for work in the Four Mile Run area as part of the Demonstration Project include: i) Rummel, Klepper and Kahl and AECOM, a design team tasked with the in-stream design work of the Demonstration Project; ii) D.I.R.T. studio, who was awarded an NEA Access to Excellence - Design grant to provide a design framework and specific trail enhancements for the Demonstration Project; and, iii) Arup/Grimshaw/Scape, who was the finalist team in a competition for a pedestrian-cyclist bridge design that is envisioned to connect the City of Alexandria with Arlington County; iv) Lee & Associates WPCP Landscape Enhancement plan. The selected artist/designer or team is expected to work within the design direction that has been established for this general location to date. Technical and regulatory details, including a sample of the newly constructed fence, as well as plans for the area, will be made available upon request.

## Scope of Work

The goal of this project is the development and implementation of a compelling, innovative design concept which will serve as a unifying element for four current projects within the Four Mile Run area, while creating distinct enhancements for the fence of the Water Pollution Control Plant. The four projects are: the parks & transportation system including bike and pedestrian trails (existing and proposed); the Water Pollution Control Plant fence replacement and landscaping initiative; the Arlington landing area for the future pedestrian-cyclist bridge; and, the restoration of the tidal portion of the stream corridor where design work is currently at the 60% level.

Located in the heart of the restoration corridor, the Water Pollution Control Plant currently processes approximately 26 million gallons of water per day from the approximately 213,300 residents and 209,200 employees who work in Arlington County. The Water Pollution Control Plant was originally put into service in 1933 with a capacity to process five million gallons of water. A major, multi-year construction process to expand the capacity of the plant to 40 million gallons per day and incorporate state-of-the-art, advanced wastewater treatment controls is nearing completion.

The primary focus of this design concept will be the enhancement of the newly constructed fence that separates the bike trail and S. Eads Street from the Water Pollution Control Plant. The area available for design enhancements is predominantly the approximately 1600 linear feet of fence. Maximum vertical loading is 20 lbs/linear foot. Maximum Overturning Moment is 646 foot-lbs/linear foot. Additional design elements not located on the fence itself may be considered.

The secondary focus will be marking the main outfall at the Water Pollution Control Plant in the overall design concept for the fence enhancements. Current average daily flow at the main outfall is approximately 26 mgd (million gallons per day).

The design concept for the fence should respond to the vision for the restoration corridor and accompanying environmental stewardship goals set forth in the Four Mile Run Master Plan, the direction outlined in the Design Guidelines, and the goals of each of the above mentioned projects.

In addition, the design concepts for the fence should:

- Reflect the function of the Plant;
- Raise awareness of the Four Mile Run Watershed, its water quality, wildlife habitat and biodiversity;
- Create a learning environment and incorporate specific locations along the fence for informal environmental education for people of all ages;
- Create distinct destinations along the fence with unique forms and innovative materials to serve as a magnet for the local neighborhoods

The fence enhancement should not impede the Water Pollution Control Plant daily operations, but instead help explain the work of the facility. Materials for the fence enhancements should be easy to maintain and the use of recyclable and reusable materials is encouraged.

## Budget

Project Budget, including artist design fee, materials, fabrication, installation, travel and expenses is \$320,000.00.

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## Eligibility

Professional artists and design professionals are invited to apply as individuals or teams. Applicants must have collaborative, project team experience working with other artists and design professionals (engineers, architects, environmental and urban planners, landscape architects) on architectural scale projects.

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## Selection Process and Criteria

After the application deadline the Arlington County Public Art staff will screen applicants to establish a qualified candidate pool to be considered for this commission based upon the following criteria:

- Artistic merit as evidenced by digital representation of past work.
- Appropriateness of the artist's medium, style and previous professional experience as they relate to the art/design goals and opportunities in this project.
- Experience with projects of similar scale and scope, including a demonstrated ability to successfully collaborate with public agencies, engage in a successful public review process, and work well with diverse community groups.
- The ability of the artist to successfully complete the proposed artwork within the project timeline (as applicable)

These pre-qualified artists will be presented to an Art Advisory Panel which will be convened to make the artist/designer selection and recommendation for award of contract. Voting members of the Panel will include representatives of the community, artist/design professionals, and project team members. Additional Four Mile Run Agency Coordination Group (ACG) members may serve as non-voting members. The ACG is a multi-disciplined team representing Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, The Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the two co-chairs of the citizen Joint Task Force. The ACG guides the planning and implementation of restoration and design projects along the lower Four Mile Run Corridor. The final design will be shared with the FMR Agency Coordinating Group so that comments may be incorporated if deemed appropriate, prior to final approval by the Art Advisory Panel.

The Panel's proceedings will be limited to voting and non-voting members of the Panel, in order to ensure confidentiality of the selection process and open discussion of the merits of applicants pursuant to County purchasing procedures.

The Panel will screen applicant submission materials and shortlist qualified applicants who will be invited for interviews. Project-specific proposals will not be required at the interview stage, although applicants should be prepared to discuss initial ideas and approaches to the project in broad conceptual terms. It is possible that following the interviews, selected applicants will be paid an honorarium to produce a concept proposal.

Following the interview/proposal stage, a single artist/team will be issued a design and fabrication contract. The selected artist/team will be required to present a final design proposal and/ or maquette to the Art Advisory Panel, the Public Art Committee of Arlington County and the Arts Commission of Arlington County for review and approval, prior to fabrication.

## Schedule

May 19, 2011 . . . . . Deadline for Submission of Qualifications  
July 15, 2011 . . . . . Notification/Interviews with selected candidates  
September 15, 2011 . . . . . Award of contract  
November 2011 . . . . . Design Proposal  
Fall 2012 . . . . . Installation

Services required by this RFQ should be available by September 2011.

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## How to Apply

Applications are available through SlideRoom (<https://arlington.slideroom.com>), an on-line application system for calls for entry. There is no charge to artists for using SlideRoom. If you are a first time user of SlideRoom, please allow adequate time to learn the use of this system. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline. To view the application for this project, go to <https://arlington.slideroom.com> to register a username and password, navigate to Public Art and search for RFQ 179-11. The application submission must include all of the information and materials described below. All materials can only be submitted through Slide Room.

1. Statement of interest. Describe on one page (5000 characters, including spaces, maximum) your interest in the project and how you approach new projects. Submitting a specific proposal is not required at this time and will not be reviewed by the committee.
2. Résumé that outlines your professional accomplishments (maximum three pages). A team must include résumés for each of its members, with each résumé being no longer than three pages.
3. Images of past work. Artists/teams must submit twelve to fifteen images of past work, including details. Do not include label information in the JPEG image. One image per JPEG is preferred. However, if you need to convey a project’s complexity using multiple images, please make an effort to have no more than three views per JPEG composite. A team must include examples of existing collaborative work. Only twelve to fifteen images may be submitted to represent an entire team.
4. Three professional references, including name, affiliated organization (if appropriate), email address, and phone number and relationship to each reference.

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## Submission Deadline

The application receipt deadline is 5 P.M., May 19, 2011

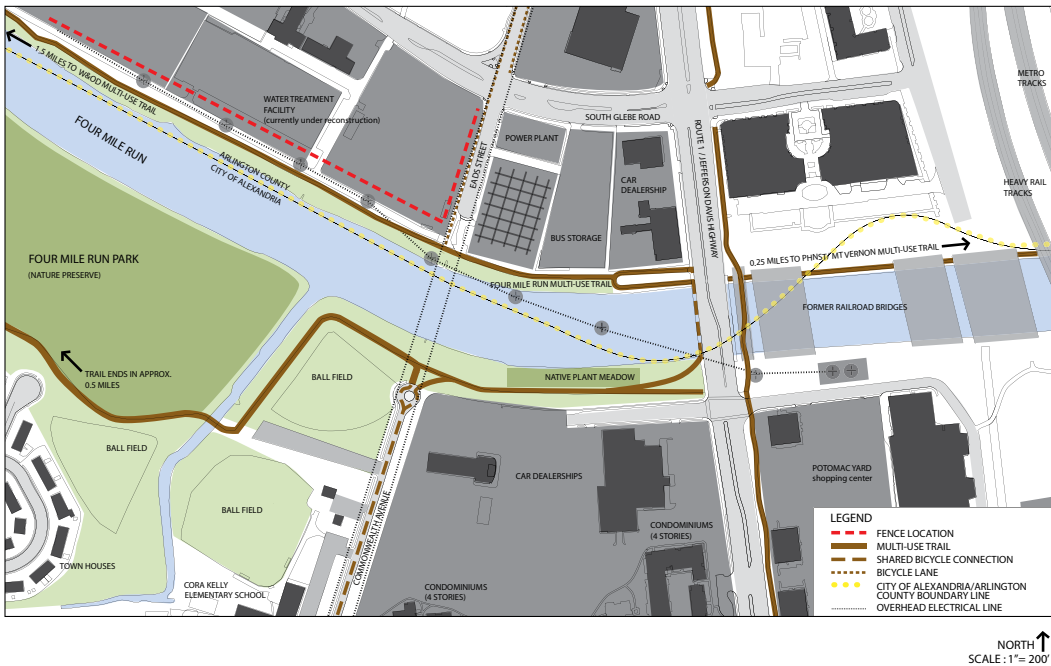
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## Notification

Arlington County will acknowledge receipt of submissions and send invitations for interviews/proposal stage or notification of non-selection by July 15, 2011.

## Questions?

Questions may be submitted in writing to Welmoed Laanstra, Public Art Projects Curator at [Wlaanstra@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Wlaanstra@arlingtonva.us) or fax number 703-228-3328. A copy of any questions submitted must be forwarded to the office of the Purchasing Agent at [rwarren@arlingtonva.us](mailto:rwarren@arlingtonva.us) or fax number 703-228-3409



Arlington Cultural Affairs Public Art Program

Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

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Arlington Cultural Affairs uses the power of the arts to transform lives, build community, and help make Arlington a great place to live, work and visit.