



*Embudo Valley Library and Community Center
Park Improvements*

Request for Qualifications For 4 small projects

Issue Date: 9/11/20

Submission Deadline: 5pm 10/2/20

Request To: Artists, Makers, Cultural Producers

Direct inquiries to:

Felicity Fonseca

Embudo Valley Library

felicity@embudovalleylibrary.org

505-579-9181

This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs,
and by the National Endowment for the Arts.



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AARP Community Challenge -

Grants to make communities more livable for people of all ages.



Contents

1.	OVERVIEW	3
1.1	Finalist Process for projects 3 and 4.	3
2.	EMBUDO VALLEY LIBRARY HISTORY AND BACKGROUND.....	3
3.	PROJECT BACKGROUND	4
4.	REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS DEFINITIONS	5
4.1	Inquiries	5
4.2	Closing Date.....	5
4.3	Late Responses.....	5
4.4	Qualifications Review Committee.....	5
4.5	Review and Selection.....	5
4.6	Invitation to View Site	5
4.7	Question and answer	5
4.8	Zoom Q &A	6
5.	EVALUATION CRITERIA	6
6.	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS.....	6
7.	CONFLICT OF INTEREST.....	6
8.	LIMITATIONS	6
9.	SITE PLAN.....	8

1. Overview

This RFQ solicits work to improve and enhance the park area at Embudo Valley Library. Works of art must be original, one-of-a-kind, and site-specific.

This request for qualifications is for local artists, makers, or technologists.

There are 4 projects:

Project 1: Create and Install two public benches. Benches will accommodate at least 4 people and be installed at 217A Highway 75, Dixon NM 87527. Bench designs may be based on community cultural assets, including the history of agriculture, fruit growing, and acequias. **Project must be complete by December 11, 2020. Budget: \$1,250 per bench.**

Project 2: Create and install two fully ADA accessible outdoor tables of a suitable size for at least 6 people. To be installed at 217A Highway 75, Dixon, NM 87527. Table designs may be based on community cultural assets, including the history of agriculture, fruit growing, and acequias. **Project must be complete by December 11, 2020. Budget: \$1,250 per outdoor table. This project funded by AAPR**

Project 3 and 4: Two projects to bring life and community engagement to the Embudo Valley Library grounds and park. Works of art to be created based on community cultural assets. Works of art can be play features for children and families. Producers will work with 2 or more community members through some manner of community engagement. Cultural assets and needs of the project include the heritage of agriculture, fruit growing, food traditions, acequias, play features, and seating. **Projects must be completed by April 30, 2021.** Projects may be presented in multiple manners, including physically on the property and/or presented in ways that can be shared during this public health crisis. Works of art should be interactive for community members, including children. **Budget: \$4,250 per project.**

1.1 Finalist Process for projects 3 and 4.

Finalists chosen for projects 3 and 4 will receive a \$150 stipend to prepare a concept idea proposal.

2. Embudo Valley Library history and background

Embudo Valley Library provides unduplicated service to our immediate community of 1,428 residents and to our broader service region of 8,500, in both Rio Arriba and Taos Counties. We provide public library service, public access computing, 24-7 wi-fi, literacy, cultural, educational, and recreational programs that bridge the technology gap for our rural, low-income community, support economic development, increase social equity, and deepen knowledge and appreciation of our community's history and culture.

The infrastructure and services provided through the library are life-changing for community members, families, and children. Our programs and services keep kids safe, support families, help children and adults build the skills to excel in our modern world, and help individuals access employment and services. We have transformed our downtown location into a

community hub that integrates library services of education, literacy, culture, technology, and small business supports, with the local mercantile, creating a site that supports community connection, cohesion, and local employment. The library continues to build capacity to bring needed resources to our rural community.

While Rio Arriba County is a rural county with vast natural and cultural assets, the county struggles economically. Rio Arriba County shows persistent poverty, meaning the County had more than 25% of its population living below poverty in 1990, 2000, and 2010. The 2013-2017 American Community Survey reports that 26.4% of Rio Arriba County residents live below the poverty level, as compared to 20.6% in the State of NM. Dixon is a 45-mile round trip to the nearest towns of Española and Taos. For this reason, Embudo Valley Library creates arts access for children, families, and residents who otherwise would have a long drive to reach arts services. The community of Dixon is 71% Hispanic, 27% Anglo/White, and 2% Native American.

3. Project background

The mission of the Embudo Valley Library and Community Center is to cultivate community well-being by providing educational, cultural, and recreational resources for children, youth, and adults. The library provides public library services, literacy and cultural programming, as well as public gathering spaces for meetings, events, and *resolana*. Technically, this Spanish word means the sunny side of the house. Spiritually *resolana* means the place where family, friends, and neighbors meet and greet, socialize together and learn from each other. The library is home to the village fiestas, a community radio station, a small orchard, and a cooperative grocery store.

The library is working on a long-term plan to turn the library grounds into a public park. The library conducted 3 focus groups with 17 community members in spring 2019, and a survey in Fall 2019 that received 223 responses from community members ages 5 to 85+. Library director Felicity Fonseca wrote her masters thesis on “Placekeeping and Equitable Development in the Embudo Valley. Research from the thesis supported the library park project, especially with a goal for the project to build equity and contribute to retaining the historic and cultural essence of the community. **The park survey and thesis results are summarized in two PowerPoints. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read these!** They can be found here, scroll down for both:

https://www.embudovalleylibrary.org/news?666d8063_page=1

Analysis of the survey results indicated that the park project can build on community cultural assets to elevate the historical and cultural identity of the village. The library aspires to use the public park project to practice placekeeping and equitable development. In this sense, placekeeping means keeping the cultural memories of the community alive by affirming our strong sense of place and holding onto the stories and lifeways of residents, protecting the spirit of Dixon, and bridging different cultures and traditions. Equitable development in this case means that we have formed a community advisory committee to include community members in decision making about the park project. Community priorities will help us shape project decisions and outcomes, and we are strategizing how the park project can create jobs and opportunities for locals.

The library has done substantial community and oral history work, you can see some of it here: <https://www.embudovalleylibrary.org/collections>.

Two aspects of this project are part of our strategic plan: providing our patrons/community with resources and expertise that help preserve, showcase, and nurture the living history and cultural traditions of the community; and improving our outdoor space with two projects completed in the next three years.

4. Request for Qualifications Definitions

Placekeeping means keeping the cultural memories of the community alive by affirming our strong sense of place and holding onto the stories and lifeways of residents, protecting the spirit of Dixon, and bridging different cultures and traditions.

Community cultural assets means the heritage of agriculture, fruit growing, food traditions, acequias.

4.1 Inquiries

All inquiries related to this RFQ are to be directed, in writing, to Felicity Fonseca, felicity@embudovalleylibrary.org. Information obtained from any other source is not official and should not be relied upon.

4.2 Closing Date

Electronic response must be received before 5pm on Friday October 2, 2020, at felicity@embudovalleylibrary.org. Responses should be clearly marked with the name and contact information of the respondent and the project or program title.

4.3 Late Responses

Late responses will only be accepted if an extension is provided 24 hours in advance.

4.4 Qualifications Review Committee

The qualifications review committee will be made up of local individuals, and will include one artist, one or more Embudo Valley Library board members and one Embudo Valley Library staff member. The review committee will make their recommendations to the Embudo Valley Library board, who will make the final awards.

4.5 Review and Selection

The qualifications review committee will check responses against the mandatory criteria. Responses not meeting all mandatory criteria will not be considered for review.

See the **evaluation criteria in number 5**.

4.6 Invitation to View Site

There will be a tour of the site on Tuesday September 22 at 10am.

4.7 Question and answer

Any questions and answers will be shared with all applicants via e-mail. Submit questions to felicity@embudovalleylibrary.org by 5pm on September 22, 2020.

4.8 Zoom Q &A

There will be an informational Question and Answer session via zoom on Thursday September 17 at 7pm.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZAKdO2uqz4sGNbhSEYfRev4gL_sxTcu_7k9

5. Evaluation Criteria

Respondents will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- A. Years of experience in the field
- B. Experience with the type of project specified in the RFQ
- C. Proven capacity to deliver the project requirements on time and on budget
- D. Sample art works
- E. Interest in working with the community of Dixon/Embudo
- F. Experience doing community engagement/working with community members on a public project.

6. Submission Requirements

- A. Statement of interest that includes your interest in working with this community
- B. Identify which project or projects you are applying for (project 1, project 2, or project 3/4)
- C. Resumé outlining your experience
- D. Three professional references
- E. A minimum of three and up to ten photos/examples of previous work

7. Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest exists wherever an individual could benefit directly or indirectly from access to information or from a decision over which they may have influence and also includes a perceived conflict where someone might reasonably perceive there to be such benefit and influence. A conflict of interest occurs when a staff member or consultant attempts to promote a private or personal interest that results in an interference with the objective exercise of their job responsibilities, or gains any advantage by virtue of his/her position with Embudo Valley Library. Conflicts of interest may be real, potential or perceived.

The respondent should disclose conflicts of interest, in writing, to the review committee who will consider the nature of the respondent's responsibilities and the degree of potential or apparent conflict in deciding the course of action that the respondent needs to take to remedy the conflict of interest.

8. Limitations

The selection committee may commission one artist for the project based on their application materials or they may select multiple artists. The review committee reserves the right to not accept any proposals.

9. Site Plan

