



Black Lives Matter – Canada and Wildseed Centre for Art & Activism - Request for Proposals (“RFP”)

Issued Monday, October 18, 2021

Black Lives Matter – Canada and Wildseed Centre for Art & Activism are issuing Requests for Proposal (RFP) from Black artists or Black artist-led teams for a minimum of two (2) permanent public art commissions (“Services”). The first site for artwork is located inside the community hub - a two-story installation replacing the cherry blossom fixture pictured in Appendix A. The second site has yet to be decided, but could include a possible installation along the exterior of the building. Ultimately it will be collaboratively determined with Studio for Contemporary Architecture (SOCA), a Black-led architectural firm leading the scheduled renovation plans at the Wildseed Centre for Art & Activism.

1. Project Overview

1.1. A Historic Opportunity

While Black Lives Matter – Canada (BLM) has long been creating spaces to build the Black community, it is now creating a physical space that will provide a permanent presence for Black arts and activism in downtown Toronto, proximate to many significant Black spaces in Toronto’s present landscape and past history.

Earlier this year, BLM purchased 24 Cecil Street to provide a home for the Wildseed Centre for Art & Activism (Wildseed). Wildseed is a vessel that seeks to nurture Black radical creation in Toronto and beyond. Inspired by Octavia Butler’s evocative novel, this artist-run centre aims to be fertile ground for Black creativity and organizing.

The new space will help to further establish BLM as part of the historic legacy of Black activists in Toronto. Additionally, it will punctuate the present moment and create a microcosm of the future world that Black Liberation movements are working toward.

1.2. Property

24 Cecil Street is an architecturally significant turn of the century Victorian fixture in the historical Grange Park neighbourhood in downtown Toronto. This 10,440 square foot brick building includes a finished basement and three storeys. Originally constructed in the 1880s, it was rebuilt in 1980 and

extensively renovated in 2011. One of the proposed artwork locations is to replace a two-storey painting of a cherry blossom tree inside the building (reference photo can be found in Appendix A).

Situated on a corner lot, a generous green space wraps around the building and trees and shrubs provide a modest amount of privacy, creating an ideal space for outdoor gatherings. There are parking stalls to the rear of the building and the main entrance has been made accessible with a ramp.

1.3. The Vision

Wildseed was birthed by Black Lives Matter Canada, whose founders are artists and activists that hope to build an enduring space that could cultivate the most transformative ideas from a wide range of Black/Afroglobal communities based in Toronto. This includes weaving together a diversity of artistic expressions, countries of origin, cultures, disabilities, gender identities, languages, religions as well as sexual orientations into every aspect of the building. The vision for this space is to be a catalyst for dreaming up new possibilities and organizing toward radical change for Black people, and doing so by creating space to connect activists and artists to work collectively towards nurturing Black Life, building Black Power and creating conditions for Black Liberation.

2. Scope of Work

2.1. Description of Installation Areas

The successful proponent will collaborate and transform 24 Cecil Street into an artistic and multipurpose community and office space. Below is a summary of principal changes and suggested artistic components anticipated to meet the BLM-Wildseed vision.

Basement	Projected uses: Artists' studio spaces, community meals, children/youth programming, recording studio
First Floor	Projected uses: Community lounge space, meeting room, open access library, café, dance studio, two-storey mural, elevator renovations, accessible welcome desk
Second Floor	Projected uses: BLM-Wildseed office space, public co-working office, boardroom
Third Floor	Projected uses: presentation centre, rentable event space
Roof / Exterior	Projected uses: Potential to animate as a public green space for events.

2.2. Schedule

Work has already begun in September 2021, permit applications are being submitted in November 2021. The anticipated timeline is outlined below.

Activity	Estimated Timeline
Design	October 2021
Permits and Approvals	December 2021
Tenders	December 2021
Construction	January to May 2022

2.3. Required Services

The successful artist will be expected to provide a minimum of two (2) installation plans as an Artistic Consultant on this project, one of which includes replacing a two-storey painting indicated in Appendix A. Duties are expected to include responsibility for collaborating with architects and BLM-Wildseed to design permanent art fixtures for the building. Additionally, the Artistic Consultant is expected to lead, directly engage their installation team while finalizing the design and field review of the building and for issuing payment to its subconsultants.

The procurement approach has not yet been finalized; however, a construction manager will be engaged prior to tendering to review drawings. The successful proponent will be involved in the discussions of the procurement.

2.4. Scope of Services

The successful proponent shall appoint one main point of contact who will oversee all phases of work. The successful proponent must consult with BLM-Wildseed and/or its designate in all matters relating to site and design, project costs, materials, quality control, change orders, and other issues impacting the cost, schedule and quality of installations. BLM-Wildseed and/or its designate will retain final approval of all decisions including the selection of project consultants, and/or general contractor/trades.

The successful proponent will initially be engaged for the following deliverables outlined below. The description of design services is a minimum guide and is not exhaustive nor does it replace industry standards.

Phase 1 – Design & Approvals:

1. Work with BLM-Wildseed project team, including results from public

- engagement process, to assess design parameters.
- 2. Develop installation drafts for approval.

Phase 2 – Installation:

- 1. Create the necessary documentation to support the procurement of the installation delivery method previously approved by the team (in conjunction with the project team).
- 2. Assume any additional scope related to hiring subconsultants to support installation.
- 3. Deliver any necessary operational documents.

During this phase, a construction monitor may be retained to certify the value of the work in place which will require coordination with the lead architect.

3. RFP Process

3.1. Evaluation Criteria

	Maximum Points	Minimum Required Points
Part 1 – Project Team and Process	5.0	3.0
Part 2 – Project Vision and Approach	5.0	3.0
Part 3 – Portfolio and References	10.0	8.0
Part 4 – Budget Proposal	10.0	None
Total Score	30.0	

Proponents must achieve a minimum score of **14.0 points** of their submission for consideration in order to be considered for an intake interview with selected members of the project team.

3.2. Timetable

Issue RFP	Monday, October 18, 2021
Question Deadline	October 22, 2021
Issue Addendum (including Response to Questions)	Monday, October 25, 2021
Submission Deadline	Monday, November 1, 5:00 PM ET
Evaluation	November 1 to November 5

Award	By November 12, 2021
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4. Submission Requirements

4.1. Part 1 – Project Team and Process

This section should include an overview of your team which includes the items below.

Project Team

Identification of the role of each internal team member and sub-consultant (if any) and provide following for each member:

Process and Schedule

Provide a work plan for completing this work including timelines, commencement and completion dates.

Evaluation: Maximum value – 5 points

4.2. Part 2 – Project Vision and Approach

Project Vision

Provide an overview of your vision for the project considering open green space, and equitable and inclusive design. The vision statement should be a maximum of 750 words and should outline your understanding of the project and your approach to developing a public artwork within the setting of an artistic and multipurpose community and office space. Statements should incorporate their stylistic artistic intervention alongside each of the following categories:

Community Economic Development Commitment

BLM-Wildseed is committed to serving the needs of and providing opportunities for Black communities. The 24 Cecil project will provide many opportunities for hiring. Each respondent is asked to include how they will contribute to economic development and opportunities for Black communities.

Green Sustainability

BLM-Wildseed is committed to facilitating a meaningful connection to the land. Environmental stewardship is an important part of the vision for 24 Cecil Street. This includes engaging in sustainable design and operations that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas as well as create healthy, green spaces.

Accessibility

Disability justice is at the core of BLM-Wildseed's work. There is a commitment to design for differently-abled staff, community members and users and maximize accessibility throughout the building, where possible, so that all users can feel welcome, safe and dignified as they move throughout the space.

Evaluation: Maximum value – 5 points.

4.3. Part 3 – Portfolio and References

Provide examples for at least two (up to three) relevant projects completed within the last 5-10 years. Projects should include but not be limited to creating infrastructure for public art in livable spaces (i.e. elevators, parking lots, murals and/or framed art) and include photos, a description of work, and budget. For each project include the client name and a reference contact.

Evaluation: Maximum value – 10 points.

4.4. Part 4 – Budget Proposal

The estimated budget for this work is \$10,500. Please propose how you will use the budget, including a breakdown of your preparation costs as well as projected installation and material costs. Attach a list of the subconsultants/subcontractors you anticipate engaging and their fee estimates.

Note that there will be no mark ups for reimbursements for courier, delivery, travel or car allowances. In your proposal, include all estimates for these disbursements; any additional agreed disbursements will be reimbursed at cost.

Evaluation: Maximum value – 10 points.

5. Submission Form – Respondent Acknowledgements

5.1. Proponent Information

First Name, Last Name, Pronouns	
Phone	
Email	
Website (if applicable)	

5.2. Addenda

The proponent confirms receipt of all addenda. The proponent accepts they are responsible for reviewing addenda and making any necessary amendments to their proposal based on the addenda.

5.3. Confidentiality

All information provided by or obtained from Black Lives Matter – Canada or Wildseed Centre in any form in connection with the RFP either before or after the issuance of the RFP:

- (a) is the sole property of Black Lives Matter – Canada or Wildseed Centre and must be treated as confidential;
- (b) is not to be used for any purpose other than replying to the RFP and the performance of any subsequent Contract;
- (c) must not be disclosed without prior written authorization from Black Lives Matter – Canada or Wildseed Centre; and
- (d) shall be returned by the proponents immediately upon the request

5.4. Confirmations

I confirm that the items listed below have been completed and/or reviewed and included within our submission.

Submission Requirements	Initial to Acknowledge
Submission Form Proponent Acknowledgement	
Process & Portfolio	
Project Vision and Approach	
Budget Proposal	
References	

6. Submission Details

The total proposal should not exceed 15 pages in length. Send an electronic .pdf copy of your submission via e-mail only to the RFP Contact Person below prior to the deadline set out in Table 3.2.

RFP Contact Person:

Abigail Moriah
Project Manager
publicart@wildseedcentre.com

Email subject line: RFP: Public Art Commissions for BLM-Wildseed

Appendix A: Current Mural Installation at 24 Cecil Street

