REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Siloam Springs Recycling & Public Art Opportunity

Sculpture / Environmental Art Installation

Deadline for SOQs: 5PM – January 7, 2027



City of Siloam Springs, Arkansas

Supported by a grant from the Benton County Solid Waste District

BACKGROUND

Siloam Springs is a growing community in Northwest Arkansas with a strong connection to its natural setting, outdoor recreation, and local history. The City is seeking an artist to create a public artwork that blends creativity, environmental awareness, education, history, action, and connection to the site.

This opportunity is supported by a grant from the Benton County Solid Waste District. Through a visible and engaging installation, the City hopes to show how recovered and recyclable materials can be given a meaningful second life while encouraging residents to think differently about waste and recycling.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project site is along the Dogwood Springs Walking Trail, just north of the intersection of North Washington and East Tahlequah Streets. Sager Creek bounds the west side of the site. The artwork will be located within the former Transfer Station site.

The site has a distinctive history and landform. The former Transfer Station sat atop the hill on the East side of the site. Waste was loaded into trucks below for hauling to the landfill. Today, the hill is a popular sledding destination. The walking trail runs along the base of the hill, and an informal parking area is also located nearby.

The historic “Seven Springs” is adjacent to the site, and the ruins of the historic “Hico Roller Mills,” built in 1880 can be found in the creek bed just upstream of this site.



Project Site – Outlined in red. Located north of the intersection of E Tahlequah St and N Washington St.





Project Site – Image above taken on Southeast corner of site looking north toward Sager Creek and Dogwood Springs Walking Trail at bottom of hill.

Image at Left taken from Dogwood Springs Walking Trail at northwest corner of project site looking southeast toward the hill and Simmons plant.

The artwork should be able to be easily viewed or interacted with from the Dogwood Springs Trail and should be visible from E Tahlequah Street

Artists may propose the exact location within the project footprint. However, the artwork must be visible to users of the Dogwood Springs Walking Trail and offer a meaningful opportunity for interaction with trail users from the trail. It must also be visible from E Tahlequah Street. The City encourages the artist to consider a design that references the site's past uses, perhaps by incorporating or reinterpreting themes, imagery, or materials associated with its history.

This site is also identified on the 2014 Downtown Connectivity Master Plan as a future park location. The artist should consider how or if the artwork could serve as an anchor or inspiration for a future park or could potentially be relocated within a future park.

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT SCOPE

The City invites qualifications from artists or artist-led teams to design, fabricate, and install an outdoor sculpture or other public art installation that incorporates recovered/recyclable materials and/or encourages recycling in Siloam Springs. The work may take a sculptural, functional, interpretive, or interactive approach, including the possibility of integrating art with park furnishings.

The project should create a new, creative use for materials that have historically had limited reuse opportunities. The City is particularly interested in work that is memorable, welcoming, and accessible to a broad range of ages and abilities, responds to the character and history of the site, and invites people to pause, look, interact, and talk.

The Art Selection Committee will review submissions and select finalists for a design phase. One artist or team will be recommended for commissioning, subject to City approval and acceptance of design-development deliverables.

PURPOSE

By raising awareness of the importance of recycling and increasing the public's knowledge of the materials that can be recycled through existing programs, the City hopes the project will contribute to an initial increase of at least 5% in recyclable material volume and tonnage above current program levels through increased awareness and engagement generated by the installation.

The City hopes the project will:

- Raise awareness about waste by showing how much waste a community produces or making environmental issues tangible and memorable.
- Encourage behavior change through interaction with the installation.
- Start conversations about recycling, waste, and environmental responsibility.

BUDGET

The total project budget is $35,000 and must cover all project costs, including the artist's design fee, materials, fabrication, engineering, transportation, installation, insurance, and any relevant permits, if required. Proposals should be developed with this total budget in mind. If the proposed artwork requires a concrete base or pad, the City of Siloam Springs will provide the materials and labor to form, pour, and finish the concrete at no cost to the artist, provided the work is coordinated with the City at least eight weeks in advance and the footprint of the pad does not exceed 100 square feet total.

SELECTION CRITERIA

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements, selection of finalists will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the letter of interest and work samples.
- Artistic quality, originality, and relevance of the applicant's prior work.
- Demonstrated ability of the artist or team to successfully design, fabricate, and install the project within the proposed budget and schedule.
- Experience with public art, outdoor sculpture, recycled/recovered materials, environmental art, or comparable projects.

Finalist design concepts should:

- Demonstrate artistic excellence and support the goals of the project.
- Meaningfully engage the community and make recycling or waste awareness memorable.
- Respond to the site's history, landscape, and Sager Creek
- Use materials and construction methods suitable for a public outdoor setting.
- Be safe, accessible where applicable, durable, and designed for an anticipated service life of 7–10 years with minimal maintenance.
- Consider weather, vandalism, environmental exposure, and long-term care.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
- Applicants must be experienced visual artists, or teams led by an experienced artist, with demonstrated ability to fabricate and complete work of a similar scale and complexity.
- Applicants should provide evidence of completed public art, outdoor sculpture, installation, or other relevant work. Experience using recovered/recyclable materials is encouraged.
- City of Siloam Springs staff and Art Selection Committee members are ineligible to apply.

SELECTION PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Art Selection Committee, established by the City of Siloam Springs, will review applications and select three artists or teams as finalists to develop design concepts for the site. Finalists or finalist teams will be paid a stipend of $750 and have approximately seven weeks to develop design concepts (including an initial site visit and meeting with key stakeholders). Finalists will present their concepts to the Art Selection Committee during an interview. One artist or team will be recommended for the project, contingent on approval by the City of Siloam Springs and acceptance of subsequent design-development deliverables.

SCHEDULE

November 20, 2026	RFQ published
January 7, 2026 - 5PM	Deadline for RFQ submissions
January 8, 2027	Committee review and selection of finalists
January 15, 2027	Execute Contract with finalists for design phase
February 3, 2027 (Tentative)	Finalist site visit / meeting with City representatives
March 10, 2027 (Tentative)	Interview with Art Selection Committee
March 17, 2027 (Tentative)	Announcement of selected artist
June 2027	Design-development phase completed
September 17, 2027	Fabrication and installation completed

REQUIRED SUBMISSION MATERIALS

DIGITAL FORMAT ONLY — Please provide the following in one PDF document:

- Contact information for the lead artist and each team member.
- Three references (contact information only) for recently completed projects.
- A one-page letter describing interest in the project and proposed approach; include a brief statement addressing the eligibility criteria.
- A one-page listing of work samples, including a brief description and budget for each project. Identify the team member(s) involved and describe their role.
- Biographical information or a resume for each team member.
- Work samples as described below.

WORK SAMPLES

Provide up to 10 digital images of recent and relevant projects. Each image file should not exceed 4 MB. Do not combine multiple images into a single image file. Save images as standard JPEG files and label each with the applicant's name and a sequential number corresponding to the work-sample list.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Submit all RFQ materials to: parks@siloamsprings.gov with the Subject Line: “Recycling Art RFQ”

All materials must be received by 5PM, January 7, 2027. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered.

Questions about the project or RFQ may be directed to: parks@siloamsprings.gov

ADDITIONAL PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

- The selected artwork must be designed for an anticipated service life of 7–10 years with minimal maintenance.
- The artist is responsible for accounting for engineering, transportation, installation, insurance, and permits within the $35,000 total project budget.
- The City may request reasonable revisions to the selected design before authorizing fabrication.
- The exact artwork location will be determined in coordination with the City within the identified project footprint.