

Public Art Proposal

Creative Bike Rack Project

Attn: Dan Mahli
City of Fargo Department of Planning and Development
200 3rd Street North, Fargo, ND 58102
Re: Public Art RFP

Submitted by:

Brittany Sickler – Economic Development Specialist, SBA

1007 7th Ave N Apt B, Fargo ND 58102

and

Jeff Knight – Designer; instructor, Concordia College

23 7th St S #2S, Fargo ND 58102

Qualifications and capacity:

Jeff is an expert designer with an extensive history in project design, and has successfully completed other public art projects in the community. He currently teaches at Concordia, and has the desire to make where he lives a better and more interesting place. Brittany values being involved in the community, along with biking, and seeing interesting things walking through town. Two years ago she secured a \$5,000 grant through USAID in Guatemala to work with local artists and historians to create a cultural and environmental interpretive trail.

Project description:

The Creative Bike Rack Project would combine functional elements with beauty and inspired curiosity. Unique racks that reflect the area's culture and history would be designed and installed to not only be used by bikers, but also enjoyed by non-bikers (being visible to pedestrians and motorists). Their interesting forms and shapes will engage the public, sparking conversations and surprising experiences. Also, with an increase in bike lanes and the upcoming bike share program, it would be a timely and appropriate addition to support alternative transportation methods.

The City of Philadelphia held a design contest this past year for a similar project. Here is a quote from a member of their selection committee: "I was drawn to the more colorful and vibrant designs that would enliven the streetscape. These bike racks are works of art as well as functional. I refer to them as 'public art with a purpose.'"

Two proposed sites are around U.S. Bank Plaza block and in SoMa. However, we would prefer to work with the City to determine where the high bike-parking demand meets the most visibility.

The bike racks will conform to the city's regulations for size, footprint, anchoring, smooth edges, etc.

Timeline:

Collaboration would be sought with local stakeholders, such as: the bike community, artists/designers, metalworkers, and the residents of the determined location. Input would be gathered from September – November 2014. The final designs and plans would be finalized by February 2015. Installation would take place April – May 2015.

Budget:

The exact budget required is not known at this time. We would like to see the installation of 4-5 racks, with an estimate of \$1,000 total per rack. If costs are lowered, additional racks could be included.

Requirements:

The bike racks would need to be included in the city's maintenance schedule for repairs and general upkeep. The racks would be coated to protect from damages from the elements.

Here are examples of bike racks in other cities throughout the country:





More detailed proposal details can be obtained in the near future. Questions or comments can be shared with Brittany and Jeff at brittanysickler@gmail.com and jeffknightis@gmail.com.