

## **Request for Qualifications: Tribute Wall**

Hollywood Transit Center, Portland, OR

November 9, 2017

TriMet invites local creatives and artists, broadly defined to include professionals and non-professionals alike, to submit qualifications to design and/or implement a text-based project on the ramp walls at the Hollywood Transit Center. The Tribute Wall honors those affected by the tragic event on the transit system this past May, including our community, whose response renounced hate and embraced healing. Multi-cultural teams are strongly encouraged to apply. The deadline to apply is November 29, 2017, 5:00 p.m. PST.

### **BACKGROUND**

On the afternoon of May 26, 2017, three riders on board a MAX train approaching Hollywood Transit Center were assaulted after they stood up to a man who was harassing two young women based on their race and religion. Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche and Ricky Best both died from their wounds and Micah Fletcher suffered life-threatening injuries. Others riders directly assisted the wounded in the aftermath or witnessed the terrible event as it unfolded.

The tragedy sparked an immediate, tremendous outpouring of love and support at the transit center. Thousands of people expressed their appreciation for the men who intervened and offered condolences to their families and friends, in addition to kind words of healing and encouragement for the young women. Drawings and messages in chalk, among other items, continued to appear at the site long afterwards, creating a moving and spontaneous temporary memorial.



### **PROJECT SITE**

#### **Hollywood/ NE 42nd Ave Transit Center**

With nearly 2,400 patrons on an average weekday, the Hollywood/NE 42nd Ave Transit Center is a busy hub for bus and MAX service. The transit center is located north of Interstate 84 and along the south edge of the Hollywood District. MAX Red, Blue and Green line trains are served by this transit center, as are bus lines 12, 66, 75, 77 and the independently operated Providence Hospital Shuttle.

A total of approximately 2,150 square feet (sf) of wall space is available for the project, consisting of:

- Pedestrian ramp (in above photo) ~ 1,300 sf, including interior walls
- Stairwell next to the ramp ~ 320 sf
- Back of pedestrian ramp facing the station platform ~ 530 sf.

The 238 foot-long pedestrian ramp, the primary site for the project, has six switchbacks and stepped walls, presenting a unique possibility for exploring the visual plane. This ramp is an essential means of access for some patrons, so close coordination with TriMet to accommodate periodic access or provide alternative access during the on-site work will be required.

It is recommended that those interested in applying visit the Hollywood Transit Center to understand the scale of the site. Architectural drawings will be made available to finalists. All walls will be pressure washed by TriMet in advance of on-site work.

### **PROJECT GOALS**

The goal of the Tribute Wall is to show gratitude for the courage of those who were targeted by and stood up to hatred, racism, xenophobia and violence; to show respect for those whose lives were lost, their families and for all who suffered; and to recognize the inspired response by our community. Toward that end, the project will largely consist of select phrases chosen by from the original makeshift memorial. The specific phrases will be chosen by the impacted individuals and families and provided to the finalists. The phrases can be interpreted and executed in any number of languages, typefaces, graphic styles, and scales.

This project will occur in conjunction with and in collaboration with the design of the Commemorative Plaque described below.

#### Commemorative Plaque

John Laursen of Press-22 has been selected to write, design and oversee fabrication of a large, full-color, porcelain enamel-on-steel plaque, with narrative text and photographs in memoriam of those who lost their lives and to more specifically commemorate the event. The plaque will be installed at the left end of the Tribute Wall, near the stairway. Artists for the Tribute Wall will work closely with Mr. Laursen to ensure a cohesive and responsive overall design.

### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

In April 2016, TriMet began to look at ways to improve the Hollywood Transit Center. A conceptual design effort is now underway that may result in redesigning and/or redeveloping the transit center in the coming years. During future renovation, the commemorative plaque would be incorporated into a permanent memorial, but it is likely the ramp walls would be destroyed to improve access.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

A wide-range of creative individuals and teams living in the Portland metropolitan area are eligible to apply, including but not limited to street artists, illustrators, muralists, typographers, sign painters, graphic designers, and others who are adept at mark making and materials. The selected artist(s) must

be able to complete the project by May 12, 2018. One artist must be the primary contact and contract designee for artist teams.

TriMet is committed to engaging diverse communities and expanding the range of artistic and cultural expression represented in the region. Multicultural teams, especially those offering mentorship and artists of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Advisory Committee will review submissions and evaluate artists based on:

- Statement of interest
- Aesthetic integrity of submitted past work
- Demonstrated ability to complete the work on time and on budget.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

The Advisory Committee will review artists' applications and choose up to three artists or teams to collaborate on and create concept proposals for the project for which finalists will receive \$1,500. The committee is not required to commission an individual from among the submitting artists and reserves the right to solicit proposals from artists who do not submit, if appropriate.

Following the selection of finalists and at the beginning of the proposal design phase, finalists will attend an orientation with TriMet staff and the graphic designer for the Commemorative Plaque to review the site design. In January 2018, artists or teams will present their conceptual design proposal including a color rendering, a written description, and a draft budget for the proposed Tribute Wall in person to the Advisory Committee. The committee will then select the artists/teams for the project.

### **BUDGET / SCOPE OF WORK**

The budget for the commission is \$70,000, consisting of a \$10,500 design fee (inclusive of concept proposal fee) with \$59,500 available for execution of the mural. The budget covers all project expenses including artist fees, materials, labor, contingency, anti-graffiti coating and insurance. The selected artists/teams will be under contract with TriMet. Artist(s) must agree to a waiver of any rights covered in the Federal Visual Artist Rights Act that would interfere with the performance of all rights under the Art Easement agreement required between the TriMet and the Regional Arts and Culture Council.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The application must include the following materials combined into **one PDF in the following order**:

- **Page 1:** Statement of interest. Explain why this project is of interest to you; describe your initial aesthetic and material approach to the project; individuals should address their ability to collaborate with others; team applications should include the roles of individual members and how you anticipate working together.
- **Pages 2-6:** Up to 10 images of visual work (2 images per page ONLY) with the following information for each visual: title, year produced, budget, and a brief description.

- **Additional pages:** 1-page résumé or bio for each artist or artist team member that outlines relevant accomplishments or experience and includes two professional references per résumé that includes name, affiliated organization, email address and phone number.

**To apply, you must first register to use TriMet's free file drop system at <https://filedrop.trimet.org>. Applications must be sent to [PublicArt@trimet.org](mailto:PublicArt@trimet.org) via the file drop system by 5:00 p.m. November 29, 2017. Late applications will not be reviewed.**

#### **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Applications due	5pm PST, November 29, 2017
Artist selection	December 5
Project orientation	December 11
Concept design due	January 24, 2018
Final design due	February 21 (or March)
Project completion	May 12
Dedication	May 26, 2018

*The schedule is subject to change.*

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mohamed Alyajouri, Muslim Educational Trust Outreach Committee  
Meagan Atiyeh, Oregon Arts Commission  
Randy Blazak, Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crime  
Eugenie Fontana, Regional Arts and Culture Council  
Sabina Haque, Social Practice Artist  
Victor Maldonado, Pacific Northwest College of Art  
Valerie Otani (Chair), Hillsboro Public Art Program  
April Slabosheski, Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education

#### **QUESTIONS?**

Translation services? To receive information about this opportunity or submit an application in a language other than English. Please contact Jason Williams at [williamj@trimet.org](mailto:williamj@trimet.org) or (503) 962-2150.

For other questions, please contact Michelle Traver, TriMet Public Art Administrator at [traverm@trimet.org](mailto:traverm@trimet.org) or (503) 962-2159.

#### **CIVIL RIGHTS AND NONDISCRIMINATION**

TriMet respects the civil rights of all the people we serve. We operate our programs without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability, in accordance with applicable law.