

Request for Qualifications

Renovation of the International Children's Park

The Friends of International Children's Park are seeking the services of a Landscape Architect registered in the State of Washington to develop the design and cost estimate for the renovation of the International Children's Park.

Background and Description of the Project

Owned and maintained by Seattle Parks and Recreation, the International Children's Park is a .2-acre park located at 7th Avenue South and South Lane Street in the Chinatown-International District. The Friends of International Children's Park has received a 'Small and Simple' grant from the Department of Neighborhoods to hire a landscape architect to assist the neighborhood in developing a design for the park renovation.

The International Children's Park is one of three public parks developed in the 1970s in the Chinatown-International District as results of community activism for improving the blighted neighborhood. The park has provided a much-needed open space for recreation and gathering in a dense inner-city neighborhood. It features a Ying-yang inspired layout with sandpit, lawn, rock mound, play equipments, a shelters and benches. Unfortunately, in recent years, the park has suffered from lack of use by local residents despite the expressed desire for more open space in the neighborhood. Poor visibility into the park and lack of flexibility for programming are particular limiting factors for the park. Many of the program elements are also either damaged or out of date and lacking ADA access.

The Chinatown-International District is historic neighborhood with a growing residential population. The district also has many restaurants, stores, social service agencies, and cultural institutions, such as the Wing Luke Asian Museum, that bring a significant number of visitors to the area. The childcare program at the Denise Louise Education Center regularly uses the park for its outdoor activities for preschool children. A renovated park will provide much-needed recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors alike and especially for the growing number of families in the neighborhood.

In 2007, The Friends of International Children's Park received a Small and Simple grant from the Department to undertake initial community outreach and to identify and assess the needs and issues concerning the park. FICP partnered with the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington and the Wilderness Inner-city Leadership Development (WILD) program. A collaborative design studio at UW involving the youths of the WILD program produced a set of conceptual design alternatives, based on feedbacks from community workshops.

Specifically, two community meetings were held. The first one produced feedbacks from the community on preferences concerning activities and physical elements in the park. At the community workshop, community members expressed concerns about safety issues related to the park as well as desires for improved visibility and greenery and multigenerational uses so that the park can be enjoyed by both adults and youths, thereby enhancing the safety of the park. During the second meeting, residents and community members voted on their favorite design for the park. A complete report on the results of the studio is available at <http://courses.washington.edu/replay/>

In November 2008, Seattle voters passed the Proposition 2 – Parks and Green Space Levy. As a listed project in the Levy, the International Children's Park will receive \$500,000 for implementing the renovation project.

Process and Scope of Work

Current funds available total \$11,500 for completing the detailed schematic design and preparing a cost estimate. The design shall include actual dimensions of proposed elements as well as selection of materials and plants. All of the work for this phase is to be completed within this budget and within a five-month timeframe. There will be extensive community involvement to determine community preferences, which should result in a concrete, economically feasible plan and cost estimate for renovation of the site, approved by both the Steering Committee of the Friends of International Children's Park, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and the International Special Review Board.

We are particularly interested in a landscape architect who:

- Has experience working on designs that have a limited budget
- Is creative in the design of small urban space
- Has experience planning projects with volunteer groups
- Has experience in playground design or children's play area
- Has experience in sustainable and environmentally sensitive design
- Has working knowledge of park specifications for the City of Seattle
- Is familiar with ADA playground accessibility issues

The landscape architect will work with the Design Committee of volunteers from the Friends of International Children's Park to create the design. As a minimum, the landscape architect will be asked to address the following issues:

- Visibility of the park and maintenance of sightlines for public safety.
- Multi-generational uses so that families can enjoy the park together and so that adults can provide supervision as children play in the park.
- Accommodation of different user groups to enhance park utilization and improvement of public safety.
- Visual identity of the park that reflects the cultural background of the neighborhood.
- Upgrade of existing play equipments and park features.
- Flexibility for programming the park for a variety of community events.
- Maintaining popular and significant elements of the original design, including the dragon sculpture.
- Need to minimize maintenance costs
- Building on the work of the University of Washington studio in fall 2007, including community inputs, analysis, and conceptual design alternatives.

Public involvement is critical for this project. There will be two public meetings where design options are presented and community input is gathered. The Friends of International Children's Park will help set up, advertise, and manage these public meetings. The primary role of the landscape architect will be to prepare, present, and record design-related information at these meetings. The landscape architect is expected to, as guided by the Design Committee of the Friends of International Children's Park, incorporate feedback from these public meetings into design, as well as address the needs and concerns of Seattle Parks and Recreation and the International Special Review Board. Regular meetings with the Friends of International Children's Park and Seattle Parks and Recreation are anticipated. The landscape architect is also expected to present the design for review by the International Special Review Board. These and other details of work scope and process are described in the project schedule.

Proposed Schedule

We anticipate a public process composed of a number of elements within the following time frame, with limited flexibility:

Date	What
20 November 08	Begin accepting qualifications
19 December 08	Last day to receive qualifications
7 January 09	Steering Committee selects short list of firms
12-21 January 09	Question and answer meetings with short-listed firms
23 January 09	Steering Committee confers award
	Review of conceptual design and past analysis of community preferences and opportunities and constraints of site; incorporate feedbacks, vendors, and issues, into three conceptual designs;
17 February 09	Meeting with the Design Committee and preparation for parks review
	Informational briefing to International Special Review District Board
2 March 09	Parks review of conceptual designs and cost estimates and authorizes changes
16 March 09	Public meeting: present three conceptual designs and any outstanding issues, conduct survey for feedback
1 April 09	Incorporate feedback, tighten cost estimates, prepare preferred design alternative with the Design Committee
	Informational briefing to International Special Review District Board
8 April 09	Parks review of preferred design alternative and cost estimate
20 April 09	Public meeting: present preferred design alternative and cost estimate, gather feedback
May	Conduct design development and cost estimates based on the preferred alternatives with the Design Committee
29 May 09	Submit final approved drawings and cost estimates to Steering Committee
	Submit application for certificate of approval to International Special Review Board

Should you intend to respond and this schedule poses conflicts for your firm, please notify the Chair of the Friends of International Children's Park immediately.

Submittal Response

Submittals shall contain the following information:

- Cover letter describing the firm, number of years in business, and number of staff.
- Identification of key staff members who will be working on the project; their resumes and roles. Who will have contractual authority at the firm?
- A description of your initial impressions of our site, including its opportunities and constraints, and the conceptual design developed by the collaborative UW-WILD studio.
- Project descriptions for the three recent representative projects. For each of the projects shown, please provide references (names, phone numbers), as-built drawings (one set of each), photographs, construction costs, and resumes of the key staff identified as having a major role in each project.
- A description of your proposed approach to our project.
 - How might you work with the design committee and the community while completing the project on schedule and on budget?
 - How might you assist the Friends of International Children's Park in minimizing costs while incorporating highly desired features?

Response Due Date: December 19, 2008, 5pm

Please send 4 sets of your response to:

Mail or hand-deliver: Friends of International Children's Park
c/o Joyce Pisnanont
SCIDpda
409 Maynard Ave. So, Suite 200
PO Box 3302
Seattle, WA 98114

For more information, please contact: friendsoficp@gmail.com or (206) 838-8713