



**THE CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY
OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**Call to Indigenous Scholars & Knowledge Keepers for
Land Run Monument Interpretation Project
Lower Bricktown Canal in Oklahoma City**

**Deadline for responses:
4:00pm Wednesday, FEBRUARY 3, 2021**



Indigenous Scholar or Knowledge Keeper sought for Land Run Monument Interpretation Project

The City of Oklahoma City has a unique Land Run Monument in its collection. The work depicts the 1889 Land Run and was conceived and created by internationally acclaimed Oklahoma artist Paul Moore. Paul Moore is a fifth generation Oklahoman whose great-grandfather participated in the 1889 Land Run. He is also a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The work is comprised of 45 one and a half life-sized bronze sculptures that span 365 feet across the lower Bricktown canal. The monument was completed in December 2019.

Most accounts about the Land Run of 1889 claim that 50,000 people rushed into the Unassigned Lands of Oklahoma Territory to stake their claim for free land. Over two million acres in Oklahoma, both farmland and town lots, had previously been measured out by the government. The vast crowd of hopeful settlers massed all along the border and all were armed with a flag to claim their stake of free land. There were farmers and scholars, rich and poor, Black, and White, soldiers and laborers and women riding side-saddle. At the sound of a cannon shot at noon, the anxious settlers surged forward in a tumultuous avalanche of wagons and horsemen all in one breathtaking instant. To this day, this first Land Run is remembered as the most dramatic moments of Oklahoma's history and many Oklahomans have been able to trace their ancestry back to an original participant.

The problem with this story is that it leaves out those who are indigenous to these lands that were forced out for westward expansion. The City of Oklahoma City's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs has a role as a Collection Manager for the City's public art collection. Staff and the community are aware that the Land Run Monument does not represent a complete history that includes the loss felt by Oklahoma's Indigenous people and the resulting invisibility that is also seen as extermination. The monument, presented in a high-traffic tourist area in such a grand and monumental way while telling only one side of the story, symbolizes a threat to indigenous people.

A committee has formed with the goal to make application to the Oklahoma Foundation for the Humanities (OH) for a spring 2021 planning grant. If awarded, the funding will be used to engage a scholar to develop a comprehensive narrative (the Work) about the events leading up to and including the Land Run. Oklahoma Humanities (OH) is an independent, non-profit organization that helps Oklahomans to learn about the human experience, understand new perspectives, and participate knowledgeably in civic life. As the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in Oklahoma, OH is called upon to make educational humanities-based programs possible by methods appropriate to the citizens of the state. OH funding supports reading groups, lectures, exhibits, and other public programs which enrich the lives of Oklahomans of all ages right in their own communities.

The Work will help Oklahoma City conceptually develop, design, procure and install an appropriate art marker for the Land Run Monument that explains the story of Indigenous people, forcibly relocated tribal nations and those who staked their claim through the Land Run. This phase is conceived as a planning and development phase only and the City of Oklahoma City will be responsible for identifying funding to implement the creation and installation of an art marker and other ways to educate and engage the public with this history. This is a complicated story and needs to be told from

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various perspectives. The committee's goals include development of information that is culturally relevant for Indigenous native people, Black descendants and well as those with European heritage.

Budget

To be determined by responses.

Requirements

The committee will consider qualifications from individuals or collectives who are 18 years of age and older. Humanities scholars must be involved in the planning and implementation of the program. OH funded projects should include dialogue between humanities scholars and public audiences. It is the role of the scholar to present, explain, or interpret ideas, beliefs, and other cultural contexts implicit in the program. Qualifications may include a master's degree or a Ph.D. in a humanities discipline. OH also recognizes Indigenous knowledge keepers as scholars. In special cases, a person who is widely recognized by their community but who doesn't meet academic requirements of a humanities scholar may serve as the humanities scholar. These circumstances are evaluated on a case-by-case basis with individuals who demonstrate a deep and scholarly understanding of the subject area.

Submittals will include

- A letter of interest which includes names and contact information of team members
- A concise one-page resume for each team member
- At least one representative work by each team member in pdf format
- An estimate of cost for services
- Contact information for two references

RESPONSES TO THIS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS MUST BE TIMELY SENT TO BE RECEIVED BY robbiel.kienzle@okc.gov BEFORE 4 PM ON February 3, 2021.

Schedule of events

The following schedule is proposed for this Call to Scholars. All times and dates are tentative; the City reserves the right, as deemed necessary, at its sole discretion, to adjust this schedule by written notice to all artists who have timely responded.

Call to Scholars (RFQ) Announced.....January 19, 2021
Deadline for Submissions 4:00:00pm Wednesday, February 3, 2021
Selection Committee meetingby February 15, 2021
Virtual interviews and selectionby February 28, 2021
Application to OH for grant March thru April 2021

At least 90 days must be allowed between final OH application deadline and date of presentation.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee may include but is not limited to:

- Three Members of Oklahoma-Based Tribal Nations
- One Arts Commissioner
- One City Manager's Office representative
- One Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs representative

The Committee will evaluate all RFQ responses and choose finalist(s) for a virtual interview. If selected, the finalist will be proposed in the OH grant application. Final contract will not be made unless the grant application is awarded.

Selection criteria

Submissions will be evaluated to determine whether the scholar(s) involved possess the experience, creativity, and technical skills required for this project. Criteria include:

1. Connection to Oklahoma Indigenous community and thorough knowledge of removal and Land Run events with an emphasis on history through an Indigenous lens.
2. Excellence, originality, and ability to produce a consistent body of work, as evidenced by past work and other supporting materials
3. Evidence of experience with projects of a similar scale and scope
4. Appropriateness of scholar's approach and style to the project and funder's intent and requirements
5. Availability to work within project time frames, and to be available for project meetings
6. Cost for services in relation to the scope contemplated for this project
7. Good work habits: ability to meet deadlines, experience with budgeting, good communication skills, good problem-solving abilities—as supported by references

Other submission information

The City reserves the right to amend or withdraw this Call to Indigenous Scholars & Knowledge Keepers at any time and for any or no reason. Receipt of submissions by The City or submission of an entry to The City or selection for purposes of submitting a grant application or negotiating a contract confers no rights to any scholar nor obligates The City in any manner. The City reserves the right at its sole discretion and for any reason, to reject all submissions and to solicit additional or different submission entries at any time. The City incurs no obligation regarding this Call to Indigenous Scholars & Knowledge Keepers, or any contract resulting there from.

Costs of developing a submission in response to this Call to Indigenous Scholars & Knowledge Keepers are solely the responsibility of the responder. The City shall not provide reimbursement for such costs. The City shall not be liable for any preparation costs for any reason. Submission of an entry shall constitute acceptance of the terms, conditions, criteria, requirements and evaluations set forth in this Call to Indigenous Scholars & Knowledge Keepers and operates as an offer and a waiver of any and all objections to the contents of this Call to Indigenous Scholars & Knowledge Keepers.

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All submissions properly submitted shall be received and reviewed by The City and the committee. The City reserves the right to reject any entry deemed to be non-responsive for failure to comply fully with the terms of the Call to Indigenous Scholars & Knowledge Keepers. However, The City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request clarifications, corrections, or additional information, and to waive Irregularities in execution or delivery of the entry provided it is in the best interest of The City.

Instructions

Email your:

- Letter of interest which includes names and contact information of team members
- A concise one-page resume for each team member
- At least one representative work by each team member in pdf format
- An estimate of cost for services
- Contact information for two references

To Robbie Kienzle, Arts Liaison & Program Planner : robbiel.kienzle@okc.gov

Deadline

On or by 4:00 p.m. February 3, 2021.

Questions

Contact Robbie Kienzle at 405/297-1740 or 405/664-2363 or robbiel.kienzle@okc.gov