

City of Newburyport



Call for Artists!



Waterfront Ship Sculpture for Market Landing Park Expansion A Public Art Opportunity

Deadline for Artist Submissions

May 9, 2024 - 4:00 pm (EST)

The Project & Larger Context

The **City of Newburyport**, in cooperation with the newly formed **Public Art Committee (PAC)**, seeks to commission a signature artwork for prominent display in the newly expanded Market Landing Park Project located in downtown Newburyport. This Artist Solicitation constitutes a Request for Proposals (RFP) whereby prior qualifications of the artist, the proposed concept for this particular installation, and the proposed artist fee, can be evaluated for the purposes of making a final selection.

Market Landing Park is a flagship community space extending off the central waterfront boardwalk with expansive views of the Merrimack River. The park expansion, to be completed in late spring 2024, is the culmination of a decades-old community discussion about the future of this waterfront land. The new east and west park “wings” include a crucial shared use bike path connection across the central waterfront, which is expected to see heavy pedestrian and bicycle traffic once opened to the public. A new plaza area extends off the west end of this bike path and will include two historical interpretive panels focused on “Ship Building” and “Life on a Ship.” Park expansion plans, designed by Sasaki Associates and approved by the City Council, contemplated a **ship sculpture** at this focal point to accompany the adjacent interpretive panels, harkening back to the central waterfront’s rich maritime history. See Exhibits A, B and C for relevant plans, renderings and photos.

The Site

Market Landing Park is a roughly four (4) acre park located in a prominent and heavily used central waterfront location in historic downtown Newburyport. The Ship Sculpture would be located in a designated spot on the western side of this park, directly adjacent to the new shared use bike path. The sculpture will be positioned such that it will function as a kind of visual focal point for those traveling both east and west along the bike path. It will also likely serve as a future “landmark” for folks meeting or orienting themselves within the larger waterfront park. As such, the location provides a significant opportunity for the prospective artist’s concept to make a compelling impact on the general public – both local residents and tourists alike.

Space available for the Ship Sculpture is depicted in plans and renderings within **Exhibits A, B and C**:

- Maximum available “footprint”: 15’ x 15’ (*no maximum height*)
- Located centrally within a concrete unit paver area adjacent to the new bike path
 - *Included within this paver area are bike racks to the east and park benches to the west.*
 - *To the rear/south of this paver area is a low retaining wall made of large rough-hewn granite blocks which slopes down to a lawn area extending off the paver area. This lawn space provides additional flexibility for the final placement of the selected sculpture.*

The Ship Sculpture / Artist Scope of Work

Ideally the selected Ship Sculpture will convey the importance of ship building and/or maritime activities in Newburyport's past, which were concentrated in this downtown area along the Merrimack River. Nearby interpretive panels will address ship building and maritime context specifically, but ideally these elements will work in harmony to remind park visitors what the waterfront surrounding them once looked like. The sculpture may be a literal or abstract interpretation and expression, and is not limited to any particular style or materials. However, the sculpture must be made of durable materials that can withstand the passage of time with little routine maintenance. Environmental conditions at the site include potential flooding, harsh winter winds and corrosive salt water blown in from the nearby Merrimack River, which is tidally influenced. Additionally, while Market Landing Park is primarily used for passive recreation, artists should consider the tendency of all children to play, climb or explore their surroundings. As such, the sculpture installed should be safe and structurally sound, without necessarily becoming a playground feature.

Estimated Budget

The all-inclusive budget for this Ship Sculpture and public art project is not to exceed \$75,000. This includes all costs related to the completion of the project, including but not limited to design development, structural engineering, materials, fabrication, and installation of the artwork. This budget should also cover any nominal cost to obtain consultant guidance on structural soundness and/or proper anchoring for the new sculpture (*depending on its design and nature*).

All respondents must be able to enter into a written contract/agreement with the City for purchase of the proposed sculpture, if selected, prior to June 15, 2024. Details regarding progress and/or final payments will be addressed within this agreement, along with an agreed upon timeline for fabrication and delivery.

Project Manager & Contact

Project Manager: Andrew R. Port, Director of Planning & Development

Office of Planning & Development
City of Newburyport
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Phone: (978) 465-4400

Email: (*recommended*) aport@cityofnewburyport.com

Artist Selection Process

The City of Newburyport, in consultation with a newly formed Public Art Committee, will determine which artist submission is ultimately selected. Artists responding to this solicitation may receive follow-up questions from the Project Manager to aide in proposal review and final selection. Additionally, a follow-up interview may be requested of the highest ranked respondents. This interview may be either in person or via Zoom. The City is expected to make an award on or around May 24, 2024.

Qualifications, Evaluation & Selection Criteria

While there is no minimum requirement for prior experience with similar installations, the artist's prior experience, expertise and successful completion of comparable art installations will be weighted accordingly when evaluating artist submissions in response to this solicitation.

The proposed artwork should (*to the greatest extent feasible*):

1. Meet the artistic aims, objectives and goals of the City:
 - a. Does the artwork create excitement and interest for the community?
 - b. Does the artwork convey an expression of, and connection to, Newburyport's rich maritime history (e.g. ship design and/or construction, life on a ship, maritime trade, etc.)?
 - c. Does the artwork honor and commemorate the rich history and cultural significance of downtown Newburyport and its central waterfront?
2. Meet the City's goals of diversity and accessibility:
 - a. Does the artwork reflect or advance the City's curatorial vision and policy of inclusivity?
 - b. Does the artwork advance lesser-told or lesser-known stories, non-traditional imagery, diverse perspectives, and/or minority voices?
3. Consider placement and siting:
 - a. What is the relationship of the work to the site? Is it appropriately scaled?
 - b. Will the work help to anchor and activate the site and enhance the surrounding area?
 - c. Will there be convenient public access to the artwork?
 - d. What are the utility requirements of the artwork?
4. Consider fabrication, handling and installation:
 - a. Are the projected costs accurate and realistic and fall within the City's budget, which is not to exceed \$75,000?
 - b. Have written estimates been obtained from qualified technical support and fabrication contractors?
 - c. Can the work easily be removed if necessary?

5. Consider maintenance requirements:
 - a. Is the work suitable for outdoor display?
 - b. Are the materials durable and will they last? Does the work have a limited lifespan due to built-in obsolescence or any inherent weakness?
 - c. What are the existing or projected maintenance requirements of the work? Are they excessive or cost prohibitive? Are any unusual or ongoing costs likely?
 - d. What are the artist's suggestions for protection of the work from vandalism?

6. Consider liability and safety:
 - a. Is any aspect of the work a potential safety hazard?
 - b. Will fencing or other types of security measures be required?

Application Form & Required Attachments

All artists responding to this solicitation must submit a completed copy of the **Application Form** contained in Exhibit E, along with a copy of the standard form **Certificate of Non-Collusion & Tax Compliance** contained in Exhibit D, and the following attachments:

1. **Letter of Interest** (*may be in the form of initial email submission*)
2. **Resume, Curriculum Vitae** or similar indication of prior experience and expertise
3. **References** (*may be listed within the initial email submission*)
4. **Illustration(s)** depicting the proposed Ship Sculpture (*at least one, but additional visuals are welcome*)

List of Exhibits

- Exhibit A:** Conceptual Renderings of Market Landing Park Expansion (*sculpture locus is noted*)
- Exhibit B:** Plan Excerpt locating Ship Sculpture within Market Landing Park
- Exhibit C:** Photograph depicting location of Ship Sculpture (*park still under construction*)
- Exhibit D:** Certificate of Non-Collusion & Tax Compliance (*required with all artist submissions*)
- Exhibit E:** Artist Application Form & Required Attachments
- Exhibit F:** Excerpt from Newburyport's Public Art Policy regarding Design & Development for Long-Term Public Art

Exhibit A

Conceptual Renderings of Market Landing Park Expansion

Sculpture locus is noted.



Approximate Location of Ship Sculpture



Approximate Location of Ship Sculpture



Approximate Location of Ship Sculpture
(to be placed within paver/plaza area)

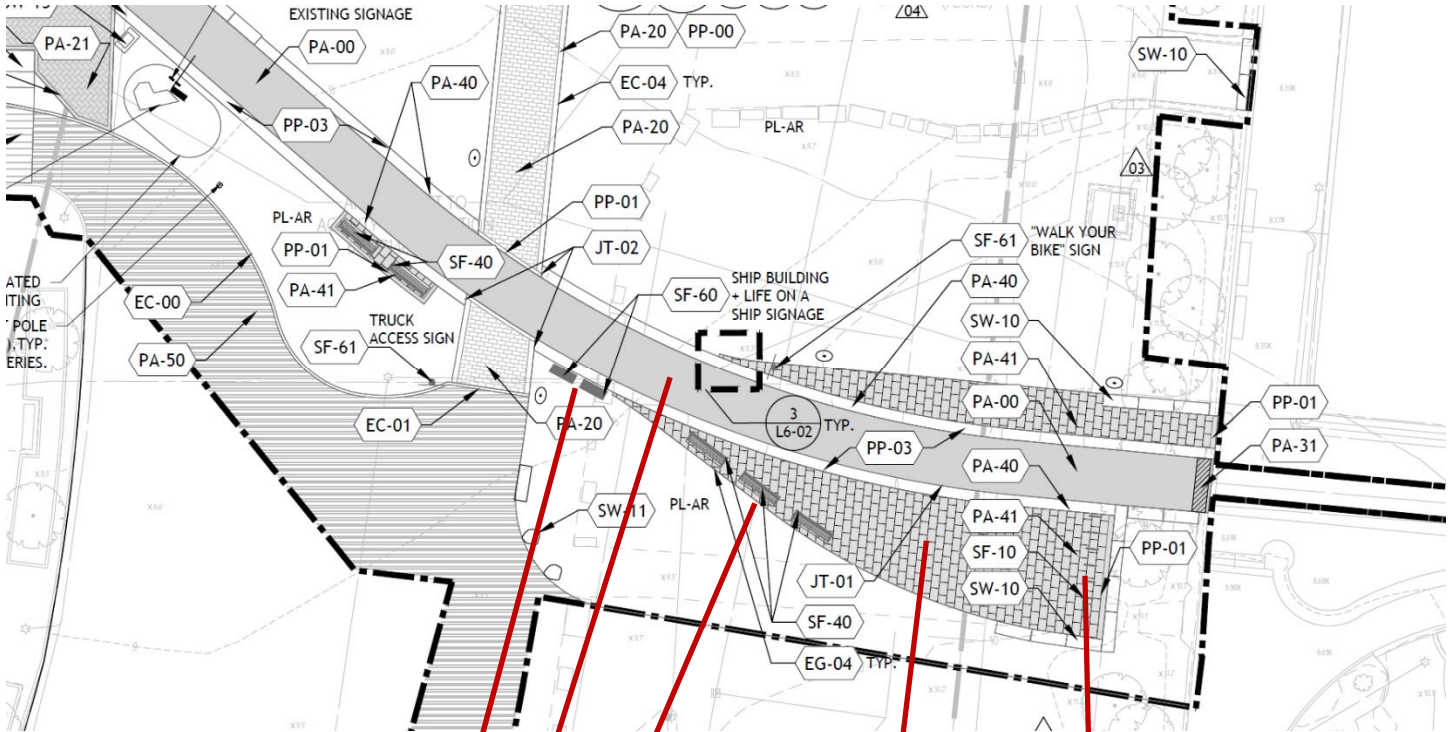


Approximate Location of Ship Sculpture
(to be placed within paver/plaza area)

Exhibit B

Plan Excerpt Locating Ship Sculpture within Market Landing Park

Sculpture locus is noted.



Interpretive Panels
(Ship Building & Life On A Ship)

Bike Racks

New Bike Path

3 Park Benches

Approximate Location of Ship Sculpture

Exhibit C

Photograph depicting location of Ship Sculpture

Park expansion is still under construction.
Sculpture locus is noted.



New Bike Path

Approximate Location of Ship Sculpture

Exhibit D

CERTIFICATE OF NON-COLLUSION and TAX COMPLIANCE

Complete this page by signing in the space below, and return a scanned or digitally signed copy via email.

As required under Chapter 233 and 701 of the Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1983 and Chapter 30B as Mass. General Laws, when returning the City's solicitation documents, certification must be made to the following by signing in the space indicated below. Failure to offer such signature may result in rejection of the proposal.

1. "The undersigned certifies under the penalties of perjury that this bid or proposal has been made and submitted in good faith and without collusion or fraud with any other person. As used in this certification, the word person shall mean any natural person, business, partnership, corporation, union, committee, club or other organization, entity, or group or individuals" and also;
2. "Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 62C, §49A, I certify under the penalties of perjury that I, the undersigned proposer, have complied with all laws of the Commonwealth relating to taxes, reporting of employees and contracts, and withholding and remitting child support.

This proposal is submitted by:

Signature: _____

Full Name (*print legibly*): _____

Address:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Employer/Tax I.D.# _____

DATE:

Exhibit E

Application Form & Submission Requirements

Please submit a completed copy of this form, along with the required attachments as follows:

Email Address: aport@cityofnewburyport.com
Subject Line: Artist Submission - Waterfront Ship Sculpture

Artist Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Project Description, including title, dimensions, etc.
(attach photos or drawings of the proposed artwork):

Primary Materials to be used in the proposed sculpture:

Installation details, including foundation or base design, and equipment required to install and/or remove the artwork:

Preferred orientation of the Sculpture relative to the adjacent bike path? *(if any):*

Is the proposed sculpture interactive? If so, please clarify how:

Is uplighting or any other form of lighting or power proposed with this installation?
If so, please clarify any design intention, details or installation assumptions:

Are there any routine care and maintenance requirements for the proposed sculpture?
If so, please clarify:

Number of Sculpture Visuals/Illustrations Provided: _____
(at least one but additional visuals or renderings are encouraged)

Project Schedule, including fabrication timeframe, installation date & estimated delivery date *(if/upon successful award hereunder)*:

To be delivered to City _____ months from initial Artist award.

Estimated Cost: _____

Insurance value: _____

Required Attachments

1. **Letter of Interest** *(may be in the form of initial email submission)*
2. **Resume, Curriculum Vitae** or similar indication of prior experience and expertise
3. **References** *(may be listed within the initial email submission)*
4. **Illustration(s)** depicting the proposed Ship Sculpture *(at least one)*

Exhibit F

Excerpt from Newburyport's Public Art Policy II.B.5

1. **Design and Development for Long-term Public Art:** Long-term artworks are intended to be installed for five years or more. We encourage applicants considering long-term commissions to think about how the artwork will be experienced in the present moment, as well as the future.

The applicant will work with the PAC to develop a schedule that reflects any capital construction schedule associated with the project, Artist's contract milestones, other Board or Commission approvals, PAC reviews, a working budget, and Artist deliverables for each project phase. The PAC reviews and votes on the applicant's design at a public meeting and may allow public comment or ask for additional information. This public review ensures transparency in the commissioning process. During the presentation of the design at a public meeting, the PAC needs to understand the following:

 - *Visualizations:* Drawings, maquettes, renderings, or other plans and renditions of the artwork as it will appear when installed, appropriately scaled, and accurately depicting materials, colors, lighting effects, interpretive text, plaque, and/or signage text.
 - *Public Engagement:* The applicant should describe or summarize their community engagement, showing effort to connect with and involve Newburyport's residents, and should keep in mind accessibility.
 - *Fabrication Plans:* The Fabrication Plan must detail all materials and methods used in the creation of the artwork. The applicant will work with the PAC and City partner agencies to determine design deliverables requirements. Fabrication must substantially conform to the Fabrication Plan, and any significant changes may require amended approvals from the PAC to be voted on at a public meeting.
 - *Maintenance Recommendations:* The applicant must provide a written document of the Artist's maintenance recommendations for all proposed materials, and an estimated schedule for routine maintenance and preservation of the artwork.
 - *Installation Plans:* When the artwork is associated with a capital project, installation should be incorporated into the capital construction timeline to avoid additional costs and disruptions to the finished site. Detailed installation plans may include but are not limited to site preparation, equipment requirements, and site restoration, when applicable. The applicant must coordinate the installation of the artwork with the site owner and update the PAC and any pertinent City partner agencies and their contractors. The applicant is responsible for securing any permits or approvals that are required by other City agencies. This may include approval from the Parks Commission or DPS, depending on the project site, how the project affects access to the public right of way, or if the installation of the project requires any temporary street closures. If the artwork installation diverges significantly from the Installation Plan, the PAC may require amended approvals to be voted on at a public meeting.
 - *Plaques and Signage:* The proponent and Artist should include images showing how they will include or otherwise display their name, the title of the artwork, the year it was installed, and the medium.
 - *Description of Artwork:* The applicant must provide a narrative description of the Artwork for the City to use as a source for descriptions of the project on the City's website, public-facing arts database, and other approved uses, including a final summary of the artwork materials, dimensions, and any collaborations or subcontractors who worked on the project.
2. **Final Acceptance:** The applicant shall submit the following within 30 calendar days of completing the installation:
 - Documentation that the artwork was installed in conformance with the Installation Plan.
 - A minimum of five (5) high resolution digital files in JPG format of the installed, finished artwork.
3. **Review and Vote:** At the next public meeting after installation, the PAC will review and vote to accept the artwork into the collection via accessioning.