

Request for Qualifications for community-engaged design collaborator/artist/creative person

Project Background

The St. Clair County Transit District (SCCTD) is teaming up with Citizens for Modern Transit and AARP in St. Louis to activate the space around a MetroBus stop at the Emerson Park MetroLink Station in East St. Louis. This joint initiative, known as the “*Transit Stop Transformation Project*,” will transform the area between the MetroBus area serving both Metro Transit and Madison County Transit buses and the entrance to MetroLink— into a fun, artistic space that encourages active play, cultivates community and increases transit use. This site is also served by the SCCTD Flyer.

A transit stop can serve as a transformational tool to reconnect a community, promote social equality, increase accessibility, position an area for growth, activate and beautify the public space, and enhance neighborhood safety. With the permission of Bi-State Development/Metro Transit as the property owner, SCCTD and its partners hope to initiate this project by December 2020. Opportunities within the 124 foot connecting area could include the shelters, the light poles, pavement and area for art.

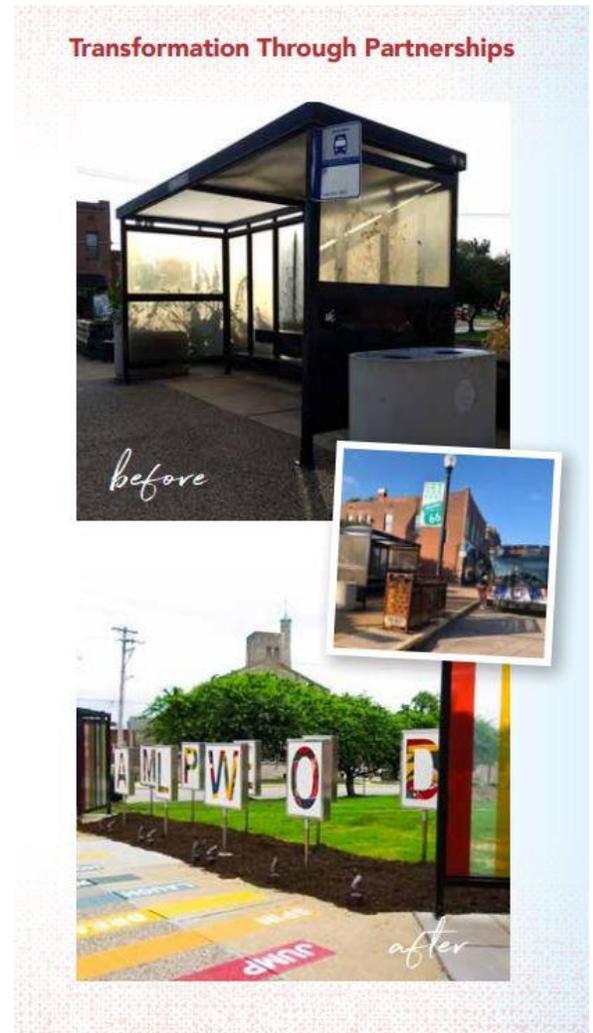
Recently this site has seen significant investment and development including newly renovated parking lots, LED lighting installations, development of Neighbors Grocery, and the future \$2.5 million investment in the area for the 911 Dispatch Center for the MetroLink Police Unit slated to open in 2022. This project would include a community engagement component, and the St. Clair County Transit District will be responsible for maintenance of the project moving forward.

Request for Qualifications

The project seeks qualifications for designers, artists, and inter-disciplinary teams to engage and work collaboratively with the residents and community stakeholders of East St. Louis and St. Clair County, IL for the design and development of a site specific Transit Transformation project.

The design collaborator will be a critical part of the project team. Key responsibilities include:

- Design Workshops



- Attending the first Design Kick Off meeting to listen to community needs, desired impacts, and site specific issues of the project (Due to COVID this may be a set of virtual meetings)
- Facilitate 2-3 follow up design meetings with community members to refine and finalize the design of the project.
- Support with the setup and documentation of each design workshop.
- Project Documentation
 - Develop renderings or similar representative images, drawings, collages, and/or models that clearly display the design and use of the proposal.
 - Document project drawings and details for contractors, fabricators, and city agencies for all necessary approvals.
 - Documentation may need revision based on community feedback, cost estimation, and other project-related changes.
- Project Approvals and Permitting
 - Coordinate the submittal and approval for all necessary permits and sign offs for the construction of the project
- Construction Management
 - Coordinate the on-site installation of the project to conform with documents.
- Project Coordination
 - Work collaboratively with Citizens for Modern Transit, AARP in St. Louis and the St. Clair County Transit District, of the project team to ensure a timely and efficient delivery of project.

A successful design collaborator(s) will have experience with:

- Community engagement
 - Develop fun activities that solicit effective input from residents and non-design trained stakeholders
 - Worked across a range of stakeholders from city officials to children and ability to communicate effectively and respectfully.
- Design Development
 - Ability to translate and create designs reflective of community input, guidance, and feedback, over the design, use, and impact of the proposed project.
 - The production of renderings and other materials that are representative of community design workshops.
 - Experience with fabricators and contractors to price, specify, and build project.
- City approvals and permitting:
 - Preparing all construction documents and materials needed to submit for city approvals and success obtaining all city approvals for the construction of permanent projects.

The design collaborator will have a deep understanding and commitment to equitable development, the impact and possibility of play, and the ability for creative interventions to produce long-term impact in neighborhoods.

Budget: \$15,000 for all services, including materials and printing, and all travel related to the scope of work.

Draft Schedule

What	Description	Date
Design Collaborator Selection		Early December
Design Workshop Kick off	Community design workshop with community stakeholders and organizations to brainstorm possible project ideas.	December/Early January
Design Workshop 2	1. Prepare possible design options directed by Kick-off meeting 2. Lead and facilitate community design meeting reviewing options and obtaining productive feedback	Late January/ Early February
Design Workshop 3	Present refined and final design of project.	End of February
Project Documentation	Preparation of construction documents and other materials needed for city approvals	March 2021
Submittal to city agencies for approval	Lead permitting process. Submit necessary drawings for approval. Coordinate with all public agencies for all sign-offs required.	March 2021
Collaborate with fabricators and contractors	Off-site fabrication and construction of custom items	April/May 2021
Project Installation	Install projects with engagement of volunteers where possible and professional installers as needed.	June/July 2021
Opening Celebration	Celebratory kick-off event.	July 2021

Please share with us:

1. What has been your experience leading a community-engaged creative process? Give one specific project example of successful engagement activities and community impact (250 words)
2. What are some challenges you've experienced with projects in public space? How were you able to problem-solve and address the challenge? (250 words)

Please submit:

- Cover letter
- Updated CV
- 1-2 project examples (150 word description and 5-10 images)
- 1-2 Community partner references

Responses are due by December 4, 2020 at 4 p.m. to kcella@cmt-stl.org with a hard copy submitted to CMT, 911 Washington, Ste. 200, St. Louis, MO 63101.

