



Civic Arts Program  
Office of Economic Development  
City Manager's Office

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS **Open Call for Artists** Bart Plaza Sound Installation



**Prospectus:** The City of Berkeley Civic Arts Program is partnering in a public/private partnership with the Berkeley Downtown Business Association to begin programming the new “Constitution” (BART) plaza with publicly accessible cultural projects. Civic Arts recognizes that the plaza will function as a city center and seeks to activate it with art. Through this RFQ, the Civic Arts Program will commission a series of sound/music composition artworks that will be programmed to be presented on eight new sound poles that are 21 feet high, erected on the Plaza. Up to 5 artists will be selected and each one will be commissioned for only one sound piece. These sound projects can be spoken word, electronic music, sound experiments, natural sounds, acoustic instrumentation, percussive projects, vocal projects and combinations of these elements. We are looking for fresh, relevant, forward thinking projects that will engage the public in surprising, inspiring and provocative ways. This is a multi-channel audio environment and applicants may wish to address an exploration of this versatile system.

The selected artists will coordinate with the technical staff of the Bart Plaza to proceed with programming the appropriate sound files for the audio equipment.

**Media:** Sound, sound experiments, electronic, acoustic music, spoken word, vocal experimentation. All genres of sound and music appropriate to a public environment will be considered.

### **Specifications and Limitations:**

Projects will be played over a yet unspecified period of time. Audio content will be played back on 8 discrete audio channels via an Alcorn McBride Audio Binloop 8 channel system. Audio will be heard on 8 Meyer Sound UPJ-1XP speakers. Audio content playback shall be prepared to be played back via digital media. An Alcorn McBride Vcore show playback controller is included in the system to

enable scheduling of content playback. Once the artist is selected coordination with the audio equipment installation consultant will be set-up.

**Eligibility:**

Open to professional practicing artists who reside in California. Artists must be U.S. citizens or have legal working status in the United States and be at least 18 years old.

**Application Deadline:**

**DEADLINE EXTENDED: Thursday, February 15, 2018 by 11:59 pm**. Entries must be uploaded to Submittable, including audio samples.

**How to Submit:**

Submit entries via Submittable at <https://cityofberkeleyoed.submittable.com>. All required application materials must be submitted by the deadline. For Submittable technical assistance please email [support@submittable.com](mailto:support@submittable.com).

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Application Requirements:

1. Audio **Samples**: Applicants must submit up to five examples of prior relevant sound works. Each sample should be a minimum of one minute in duration and not to exceed ten minutes. Submittable will accept the following formats of audio samples: MP3, MP4, WAV, AAC, AIFF, M4A, OGG, FLAC, and WMA.
2. Audio Sample Index: Please include a written index for the audio samples identifying the title of the sound composition, year produced, total duration for entire work, and brief description.
3. Letter of Interest: Maximum 3,000 character letter indicating interest in and potential approach to the project. The letter should provide a description of how your professional background relates to this art project. If applying as a team, include an explanation of your preference for working as a team.
4. A current resume, per applicant, not to exceed 3,000 characters that highlights professional accomplishments, particularly as relates to this art project. Applicants working as a team will also be limited to 4,000 characters total.
5. Three professional references, including phone and email contact information per applicant. Please do not include letters of reference.
6. If applying as a team, indicate the name and contact information of the team's representative.

**ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS**

All applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed for completeness, and screened by a selection panel that may include City staff, arts professionals appointed by staff, Civic Arts Commissioners, art consultants and community members. After reviewing and evaluating the applicants' qualifications, the selection panel will score and rank them in order to identify 10 project finalists.

The panel will use the following criteria to evaluate the applicants' qualifications:

- Artistic excellence, innovation and creativity as evidenced by past work and supporting materials.
- The relevance of the applicant's work to the scope and goals of the project.
- The applicant's professional experience.

The selected 10 project finalists will be invited to interview with the selection panel and for those who live out of the Bay Area interviews will be conducted by Skype. The panel will consider the finalists' project approach and concept and will select five artists or artist teams and two alternates for the project for recommendation to the Civic Arts Commission for approval. The 5 finalists will be awarded \$4,000 each to commission an 8 channel sound project.

### **Terms**

When you apply to this Call for Artists you agree to allow the City of Berkeley to use the audio and information submitted with this application for their review process. You also agree that the work submitted is your own and does not infringe anyone's copyright or ownership.

All information contained herein does not constitute either an expressed or implied contract. The provisions of the Call for Artists are subject to change. The Civic Arts Commission reserves the right to reject any entry submitted to this Call for Artists.

### **Awards:**

*\$4,000 will be awarded to each artist selected for the project for the development of a unique sound piece.*

### **Civic Arts Commission Guidelines**

Artwork is selected on its aesthetic merits and its ability to be heard through the audio equipment. Sound Art will be chosen with appropriate regard for the nature of the space and the audience. This exhibition space addresses the viewer directly on the public right of way. Art must exhibit consideration for viewers' sensitivities to violence, sexual expression and negative portrayals of diverse populations.

### **Contact Information for inquires and/or mail:**

The Civic Arts Program and Civic Arts Commission of the City of Berkeley to assist with this process [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/City\\_Manager/Civic\\_Arts/Civic\\_Arts\\_Homepage.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/City_Manager/Civic_Arts/Civic_Arts_Homepage.aspx) . Questions can be directed to Mary Ann Merker, Civic Arts Coordinator, 510 981-7533, [mmerker@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:mmerker@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

This is a Public Art Project of the City of Berkeley Civic Arts Commission.

#### **Estimated Timeline:**

***Entries due: Thursday, February 15, 2018***

*Notification: by Late March, 2018*

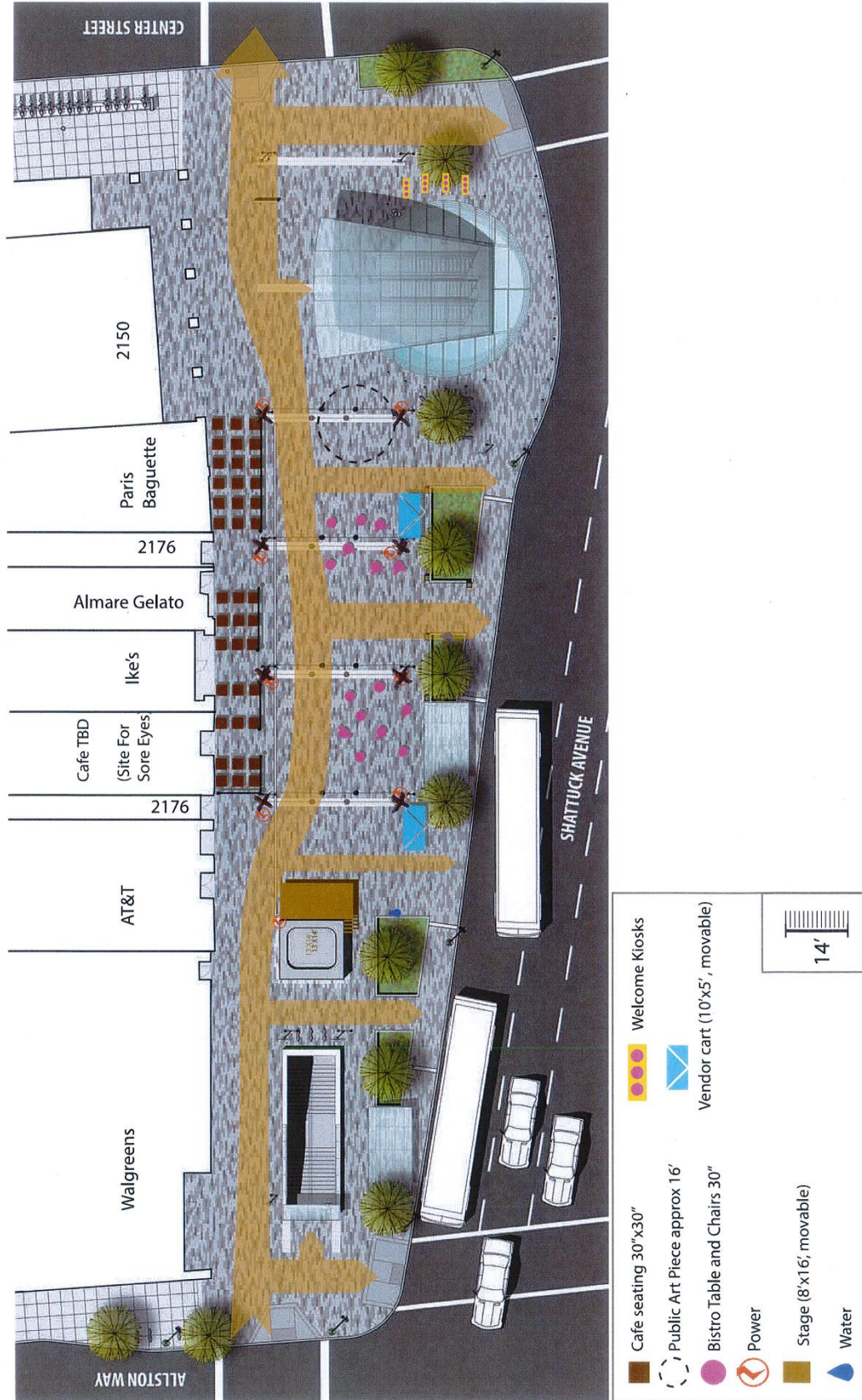
Call for Entries	December 21, 2017
Deadline for digital samples through Slideroom	February 15, 2018
Jury with selection panel	Late February, 2018
Interviews with Finalists	Mid-March, 2018
Notification of artists selected	Late March, 2018
Installation of selected work	First installation no earlier than May 2018*

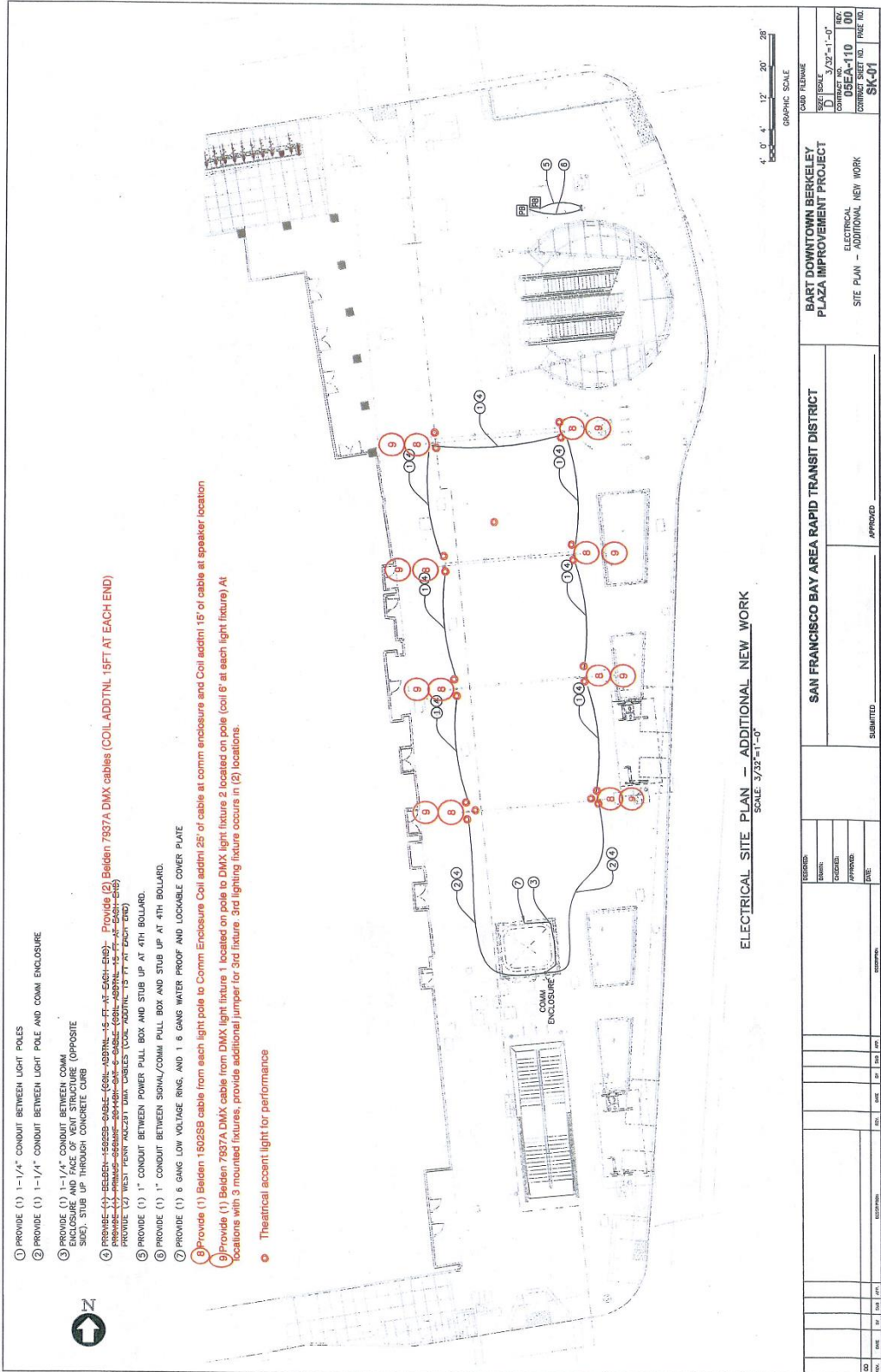
*(Exact dates may change and every effort will be to keep within the dates above)*

***\*Individual artist's schedule will be considered***

For more information about the BART Plaza Renovation project, including construction schedule and station access during construction, please visit: <https://www.bart.gov/about/projects/dbp>

1.1 Downtown Berkeley BART Activation Map





- 1) PROVIDE (1) 1-1/2" CONDUIT BETWEEN LIGHT POLES
- 2) PROVIDE (1) 1-1/4" CONDUIT BETWEEN LIGHT POLE AND COMM ENCLOSURE
- 3) PROVIDE (1) 1-1/4" CONDUIT BETWEEN COMM ENCLOSURE AND FACE OF VENT STRUCTURE (OPPOSITE SIDE), STUB UP THROUGH CONCRETE CURB
- 4) PROVIDE (4) BEIDEN 150255B DMX CABLES (COLL-ADDTNL 15 FT AT EACH END) PROVIDE (2) BEIDEN 7937A DMX CABLES (COLL-ADDTNL 18 FT AT EACH END)
- 5) PROVIDE (1) 1" CONDUIT BETWEEN POWER PULL BOX AND STUB UP AT 4TH BOLLARD.
- 6) PROVIDE (1) 1" CONDUIT BETWEEN SIGNAL/COMM PULL BOX AND STUB UP AT 4TH BOLLARD.
- 7) PROVIDE (1) 5 GANG LOW VOLTAGE RING, AND 1 6 GANG WATER PROOF AND LOCKABLE COVER PLATE
- 8) Provide (1) Beiden 150255B cable from each light pole to Comm Enclosure. Coil addn 25' of cable at comm enclosure and Coil addn 15' of cable at speaker location
- 9) Provide (1) Beiden 7937A DMX cable from DMX light fixture 1 located on pole to DMX light fixture 2 located on pole (coil 6' at each light fixture) At locations with 3 mounted fixtures, provide additional jumper for 3rd fixture. 3rd lighting fixture occurs in (2) locations.
  - o Theatrical accent light for performance



ELECTRICAL SITE PLAN — ADDITIONAL NEW WORK  
SCALE: 3/32"=1'-0"

<b>BART DOWNTOWN BERKELEY PLAZA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT</b> ELECTRICAL SITE PLAN — ADDITIONAL NEW WORK		DRAWING NO. 05E-A-110 CONTRACT SHEET NO. 100 DATE 10/01/10 <b>SK-01</b>	
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT		SUBMITTED _____ APPROVED _____	
REVISIONS NO. DATE BY	DESIGNER CHECKED CALCULATED APPROVED DATE	PROJECT NO. _____ SHEET NO. _____ OF _____ CONTRACT NO. _____	