

Call for Entries

A Sundial for The Arboretum at Penn State

The Pennsylvania State University intends to commission the design and installation of a sundial to be located in the H. O. Smith Botanic Gardens at The Arboretum at Penn State. We recently opened this facility and expect that it will become a favorite destination for the University community as well as the local population and visitors to the area. The proposed sundial will occupy a prominent site within the gardens.

The commissioned work, which is being funded by a private gift to the University, must combine the precision and functionality required for a scientific instrument with the artistic beauty demanded of an object located in this setting. The project is being funded in two stages: the first one with a commitment of \$25,000 will cover the design fee, selection process expenses, reimbursable expenses, a rendering of the approved design and an estimate of construction and installation cost to be provided by the selected design team. If the design is approved by the University Outdoor Public Art Committee and the Arboretum Design Committee, the project will move to the second stage with a commitment of not to exceed \$75,000 that will cover construction and installation of the project including all site development and landscaping.

ELIGIBILITY

This competition is open to all interested designers or design teams. The ideal designer or design team will have expertise in designing, fabricating and installing working, monumental sundials as well as a track record of public art experience and demonstrated ability to work with diverse groups.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The sundial can be of any working dial type, including large horizontal or vertical, large equatorial or armillary sphere, or sculpture with a solar time gnomon. It is absolutely essential that once constructed and installed, the sundial be accurate. Technologically sophisticated designs will be encouraged, as appropriate to a university with a strong program in astronomy and related sciences. The material and construction must be able to withstand the variety of weather conditions prevalent in Central Pennsylvania.

The piece is intended for a lawn area as shown in the attached site plan and photographs; size will not be a constraint, within reason. We expect that the chosen designer or design team will work with architects and landscape architects from Penn State's Office of Physical Plant on the development of the setting, the approach to, and the circulation around the sundial as part of a comprehensive solution.

SELECTION PROCESS

The University will use a two-phase selection process. First, a Selection Committee will review all entries and choose three finalists based on their understanding of our project, their prior relevant experience and their portfolio as demonstrated through their submission. Second, the Selection Committee will interview the three finalists and select one winner who will be commissioned to design the piece. At the interview, each finalist will be encouraged to bring additional materials that may help the Committee better understand the designer's ideas for our specific project.

The University will consider reimbursing reasonable travel expenses for the three finalists.

Two major criteria will influence the selection of the successful applicant: the imagination and artistry of the designer or design team to create a piece that meets the goals of the project as demonstrated by the submitted portfolio, and their understanding and knowledge of the science behind sundials. We have found the North American Sundial Society (www.sundials.org) to be an invaluable resource and encourage any artists interested in submitting for this project to consider availing themselves of their expertise.

The selection will be made on the basis of qualifications and demonstrated competence as explained above. The highest-rated candidate, after the interview, will be invited to negotiate the final scope of the work. If negotiations with the highest-rated candidate are not successful, the Committee reserves the right to negotiate with another qualified candidate. The decision of the Committee is final. The Selection Committee will be comprised of:

Kim Steiner, Director, The Arboretum at Penn State

Jan Muhlert, Director, Palmer museum of Art

Larry Ramsey, Head, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics

Scott Wing, Interim Head, Department of Architecture

Eliza Pennypacker, Professor of Landscape architecture

Mike Degenhart, Director, Planned Giving and Endowments

Barry Myers, CEO, AccuWeather

Mike Steinberg, Senior Vice-President, AccuWeather

Gordon Turow, Director, Campus Planning and Design

Dave Zehngut, University Architect

The selected designer must be willing to collaborate with this Committee.

PROPOSAL CONTENT/FORMAT

In order to be considered for this project, please submit 10 copies of the following:

- A CD with ten to twelve (10-12) digital images of recent relevant work.

An information packet containing the following:

- The attached one-page entry sheet as the cover to your submission
- A resume of not more than two double-sided pages, demonstrating relevant or pertinent experience, selected works in public and private collections, exhibitions, professional training, and commission experience. Also include information that demonstrates sufficient knowledge of the scientific principles involved in the functioning of sundials. If the submission is for a team, clearly indicate the roles to be performed by each individual; in this case an additional single sided page can be included.

- A brief description of your approach to this project and interpretation of the concept that you propose.
- A list specifying title, location, medium, date, budget, and size of works included on the CD.

BUDGET

The budget as identified above must cover all expenses including:

- Design of proposal(s) and sketch(s) or model(s) for presentation to the Selection Committee, including a professional quality rendering of the design to be displayed at the dedication of the H. O. Smith Botanic Gardens.
- All costs, including labor, materials and transportation, necessary for completion and installation of the sundial and surrounding site work.
- Taxes and Insurance, including Liability and any statutory required Worker's Compensation.
- All reimbursable costs.

CALENDAR

- 12/9/2009 Issue Call for Entries.
- 1/5/2010 Deadline for receipt of entry forms and CD with images.
- 1/12/2010 Committee announces Short List.
- 1/19/2010 Committee interviews finalists.
- 1/22/2010 Committee announces winner.
- 3/5/2010 Initial concepts are due.
- 3/19/2010 Committee approves final concept.
- 3/26/2010 Approval from University administration.
- 4/15/2010 Deliver concept rendering for dedication.
- 5/3/2010 Complete development of final design.
- 6/1/2010 Construction begins.
- 10/--/2010 Dedication

If you have any questions please call Dave Zehngut, University Architect at 814-863-3158.

ENTRY FORM: Deadline January 5, 2010

Mail to: Dave Zehngut

200 Physical Plant Building

University Park, PA 16802

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Description of proposed design _____

Estimated size of sundial _____

Estimated cost of sundial _____

Number of images submitted _____

Special installation requirements (if any)

