

Call to artists for Fallen Firefighters Memorial

Dec. 23, 2020 – On behalf of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Task Force, the City of St. Catharines is prequalifying artists and/or artist teams to develop and implement a design for a memorial honouring the men and women who have died in the line of duty as a result of their work as firefighters in the City of St. Catharines.

The City's task force, which is made up of citizens, the St. Catharines Professional Firefighters Association, Fire Services leadership and council representatives, is chaired by St. Catharines resident Barry Katzman.

"I want this space, which is an incredible space in size and location, to be a place where families can go to be contemplative and have generations remember and honour their relatives that have fallen," said Katzman. "I want it to be a testimony to the firefighter profession – a historic and noble profession and a brotherhood committed to saving lives and putting themselves in harms way."

The Fallen Firefighters Memorial Task Force was created by council in fall 2019 to look at options for the type and scope of the memorial, its location, design and funding. In August 2020, a location was chosen in downtown St. Catharines in a parkette at the corner of Carlisle and Race Street.

The memorial will honour members of the St. Catharines Fire Services who died in the line of duty, along with the volunteer firefighters who died while serving in various St. Catharines wards and townships prior to 1919 when the St. Catharines Professional Firefighters Association Local 485 was formed.

Interested artists and creative teams are invited to submit a response to the City's Request for Pre-Qualification. After this, a selection panel will shortlist and invite up to six finalists to participate in the conceptual design process.

Taking into strong consideration the public artwork's identified themes, the selected artist or creative team will work closely with the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Task Force and City of St. Catharines staff. Artists or creative teams may also take part in public engagement throughout the design, fabrication and installation process through events such as artist talks and the public unveiling.

"This public art project is a great opportunity for artists to potentially engage with the story of our community," said the City's Acting Supervisor of Cultural Services Kathleen Powell. "It is yet another way that St. Catharines is supporting and growing the arts."

For information and to apply, go to stcatharines.bidsandtenders.ca/Module/Tenders/en

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