



B- RFI for Design Concept Plan for Sculptural Assemblage

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - MARKET RESEARCH - SOURCES SOUGHT

General Information:

This Request for Information (RFI) is to gather information for planning purposes only and should not be construed as a solicitation or as an obligation on the part of the Government. The Government does not intend to pay for the preparation of any information submitted or for the Government's use of such information submitted in response to this RFI. Acknowledgement for the receipt of responses will not be made, nor will the respondents be notified of the Government's assessment of the information received. No basis for claims against the Government shall arise as a result of a response to the RFI or the Government's use of such information as either part of our evaluation process or in developing specifications for any subsequent announcement. Responses will be held in confidential manner.

This is a RFI notice to determine the availability of potential sources interested in a contract of some type to provide project management, exhibit planning, design and fabrication, installation of exhibits (outdoor), and related media for the Tuskegee Airman Museum as described in the body of this text. This requirement will consist of two (2) phases, with the RFI as Phase I. Three design concepts will be chosen by the Technical Team for proceeding to Phase II of this requirement which consists of a Purchase Order for the development of the proposed designs. These developed designs will then be evaluated on the stated terms in the Request for Proposal. The final stage of this requirement, which may or may not be awarded to the design entity, will be the fabrication and implementation of the final design.

No site visit will be held for this RFI, designs must be based solely on the attached drawings and information provided, the area to be available for design is located between Hanger 1 and Hanger 2 and to the north of Hanger 2 up to the property line of Moton field. It is highly recommended that the applicants visit the Tuskegee Airman Museum at Moton Field website to grasp a full understanding of the views portrayed at the Tuskegee Airman Museum, the website is <http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/exhibits/tuskegee/airmoton.htm> and <http://www.nps.gov/tuai/>. A capabilities statement is required as to the design concept, initial development, and fabrication that should not exceed 10 pages in length. An additional 20 pages are allowed for drawings of the conceptual design. Drawings can be submitted via a CD.

If you have any questions, comments, information or ideas regarding the technical details to this type of work, please contact Jessica Ely at (304) 535-6496 or Jessica_ely@nps.gov. Please submit complete packages by 14 July 2009 5pm EST.

This is a REQUEST FOR INFORMATION in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation 15.201. The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), National Park Service (NPS) is seeking a conceptual design for the Tuskegee Airman Museum located in Tuskegee, AL.

RFI for Design Concept Plan for Sculptural Assemblage for TUAI

Synopsis: This is a Request for Information (RFI). The National Park Service is requesting information concerning a design for a large scale sculptural assemblage depicting the activity on the airfield and surrounding the hangars at Moton Field during World War II. Moton Field, in Tuskegee, Alabama, was the

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site of primary flight training for the Tuskegee Airmen.

Background: On the eve of World War II, African Americans were prohibited from admission into the Army Air Corps, despite years of agitation by black leaders for greater opportunities for blacks in aviation. In 1939, in response to the political situation in Europe, Congress passed the Civilian Pilot Training Act which established a program to promote aviation training among young American civilians. This act authorized "the Air Corps to contract with civilian flying schools for the primary phase of its flight training curriculum," including schools designated for African-American pilots. The Civil Aeronautics Association (CAA) chose six black colleges to run Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) Programs. G. L. Washington, Director of the Department of Mechanical Industries at Tuskegee Institute, one of the six schools, established the CPT program by late 1939. In February 1941, the Army Air Corps awarded Tuskegee Institute the contract to provide primary flight training. Graduates of this course would then progress to basic flight training to be held at Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF), a new air base dedicated to the training of black aviators. TAAF received its first class of cadets in November 1941, a date which "marked the entry of African Americans into United States military aviation as pilots." Moton Field, at Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, was the location of the primary flight training program for the Tuskegee Airmen, the African-American Army Air Corps pilots who distinguished themselves in World War II.

The enabling legislation includes the following goals to be accomplished at Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site:

1. To inspire present and future generations to strive for excellence by understanding and appreciating the heroic legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, through interpretation and education, and the preservation of cultural resources at Moton Field, which was the site of primary flight training. 2. To commemorate and interpret: a. The impact of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II; b. The training process for the Tuskegee Airmen, including the roles played by Moton Field, other training facilities, and related sites; c. The African American struggle for greater participation in the United States Armed Forces and more significant roles in defending their country; d. The significance of successes of the Tuskegee Airmen in leading to desegregation of the United States Armed Forces shortly after World War II; and e. The impacts of Tuskegee Airmen accomplishments on subsequent civil rights advances of the 1950s and 1960s. 3. To recognize the strategic role of Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in training the airmen and commemorating them at this historic site.

The National Park Service's development plans for Moton Field include rehabilitation of Hangar One, the control tower, the warehouse/vehicle storage building, the locker building, and the Skyway Club; the stabilization of three sheds, ghosting in the framework of four missing historic buildings, and reconstructing Hangar Two. The work completed so far includes the rehabilitation of Hangar One which contains exhibits and audio-visual programs focusing on airmen training and equipment, and period furnishings including a Stearman PT-17 and a Piper Cub J-3. Hangar Two has been reconstructed and will house a visitor center/museum with exhibits and a film on the experiences of the Tuskegee Airmen after completing their training at Moton Field. The treatment of the exterior of the site is the subject of this RFI. The intent of the exterior environment is to convey to visitors the sense of "stepping back in time."

The success of the aviation program at Tuskegee depended ultimately on the day-to-day interactions of many people working together towards a common goal. Military and civilian, African American and white, men and women, all learned to work together, trust each other, depend on each other, defend each other, and appreciate each other's sincere efforts to craft new working relationships, united in defense of the country they loved. On the tarmac at Moton Field these relationships will be depicted and interpreted.

Objective: The purpose of this RFI is to solicit imaginative and engaging concept plans for a sculptural assemblage to be designed for Moton Field. Please refer to the attached plan of the airfield for the proposed area to be included in the plan. What we are looking for: Successful concept plans will convey a sense of action and drama, and a feeling that important work is being done here. Concept plans should convey a sense of the cooperation that prevailed at the site-between military and civilian, men and women, black and white. The concept plans should show interactions between people and should convey the excitement and drama of life at the airfield. In addition to people, the assemblage should include the vehicles and airplanes that the staff and students used and maintained. The assemblage should convey a sense of the importance of the work accomplished there, both in terms of training pilots to win the war and in terms of breaking the color barrier in the military. The interiors of the hangars are very literal and concrete in their representations of life at the airfield. In contrast, the concept plan for the exterior areas should be more creative and evocative.

The concept plan should enable the visitor to visualize the scene at Moton Airfield at the height of training during WWII. People, planes, and vehicles should interact and give a sense of activity, cooperation, excitement, and drama. The concept plans should convey a sense of the importance of all the jobs done here-by the mechanics and the office staff as well as the pilots and the instructors. Some of the activities that could be interpreted through these sculptures include the following:

" Planes taking off and landing every few seconds;" Dozens of planes on the field (both PT-17s and PT-19s);" Pilots inspecting their airplanes prior to flying;" Instructors observing their students inspecting their planes and while taking their first solo flights;" Instructors and students preparing to take off;" Mechanics

working on the planes: changing oil, gassing them up, changing the tires, doing inspections;" Fuel trucks filling underground storage tanks;" The ambulance and crash truck heading out to pick up a pilot that crashed in a nearby field;" Civilian airfield staff arriving and departing in their cars;" Students arriving and leaving in their bus;" Staff and students going to and coming from the Skyway Club (a recreation building);" Secretarial staff flirting with students;" Military and civilians working together;" Staff and students going to and from the lunchroom;" Military vehicles gassing up at the gas pump;" Tuskegee students working on buildings.

The concept plan may include representations of specific people who worked at the airfield:

" G.L. Washington (General Manager, Moton Field);" President Frederick Douglas Patterson (President of Tuskegee Institute);" Charles Alfred "Chief" Anderson (head of training);" Maj. H.C. Magoon (ranking military officer at Tuskegee);" Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. (one of the first black officers to graduate from Tuskegee);" William Childs (Chief mechanic);" Carrie Campbell (gate guard);" Katie Williams (secretary);" Mildred Hanson (parachute rigger);" Mrs. Johnson (lunchroom operator);" Female mechanic.

The finished sculptures should require low or no maintenance, be durable, and be resistant to vandalism. The proposed design should be realistic and reasonable to produce.

Who can participate: Individual artists or groups of artists or design firms, educational Art Departments.

What submissions should include: No more than ten typewritten pages describing the concept plan with accompanying concept drawings, limited to 20. Please include contact information (name, organization, address, telephone number, and e-mail address) and a summary of your credentials, along with any pertinent business classifications (i.e. 8(a), SDVOSB, HBCU, etc.).

Review considerations:

Does the concept plan

" give the visitor the sense of "stepping back in time?" convey a sense of action and drama?" convey a sense of the importance of the work being done there?" interpret the various activities that occurred at the site?" interpret the relationships between the people who worked there?" interpret the cooperation between different groups of people who worked there (African American and white, military and civilian, men and women)?" interpret the significant role women played at the site?" convey the sense that Moton Field was a place of opportunity and challenge?" convey a sense of the confidence and camaraderie that developed within and between the people who worked and trained there?" convey the sense that at Moton Field African Americans were determined to use their skills and talents to prove that African Americans could fly, fight, lead, and work together as a cohesive unit?

Time for Completion: Concept plans due NLT July 14, 2009, 5pm EST.

Additional Info:

[Please click here to view more details.](#)

Contracting Office Address:

HFC - Acquisition Management National Park ServiceHarpers Ferry Center230 Zachary Taylor Street, P. O. Box 50 Harpers Ferry WV 25425

Place of Performance:

Moton Air Field, Tuskegee, AL
360832985
USA

Point of Contact(s):

Jessica L. Ely Contract Specialist 3045356496 jessica_ely@nps.gov;

[Point of Contact above, or if none listed, contact the IDEAS EC HELP DESK for assistance](#)

