

October 1, 2018

Request for Proposal

We are pleased to request that proposal submission to assist the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba (IFM) and its partners to create a shared vision for the Gimli harbour front area and a plan as to how Phase Two of Viking Park would fit into this vision. This plan will be expressed in design drawings of phase two of the park and the conceptual plans of the whole harbour area of Gimli. In order to develop and create a plan that will preserve the natural beauty of the area, while creating safe pathways in a location that contains a working harbour, and to allow us to better communicate the scope of the project, a brief background of the Viking Park follows.

Background:

In the summer of 2017 the IFM, together with its partners, the Betel Home Foundation and the R.M. of Gimli, opened a beautiful park around the famous Viking statue in Gimli. The park was created as a legacy project in celebration of the IFM's 125th anniversary, which had been celebrated a few years previously.

The IFM worked with its partners and conducted a series of community consultations in order to create an accessible and uniquely Icelandic experience that is unlike any other in Canada. Along with fabulous greenspace that offers breathtaking views of Lake Winnipeg, the park is filled with pathways that feature paving stones inscribed with commemorative messages from people who donated to create the park. There are also more significant donor recognition features such as benches and settlement markers that add to the celebration of Gimli's Icelandic heritage. The pathways take visitors through three different gardens filled with indigenous plants, grasses and flowers – the Troll Storm Garden, the Elf Garden, and the Breakwater Garden – all designed by HTFC Planning & Design.

Nearly \$1 million in private and foundation funding was raised to create the park. Shortly after it opened in August of 2017, in-person and social media consultations revealed that 92 per cent of the community (including Gimli residents, cottagers, tourists and visitors of Icelandic descent) indicated they were either very satisfied or satisfied with Viking Park and that they looked forward to a second phase of park development.

While a second phase had always been contemplated, it was made possible when the IFM learned it was successful in its grant application to the Building Canada Small Communities Fund (SCF) for a Phase Two of Viking Park. Specifically, the grant requirements are meant to:

“Build park surrounding Viking Statue include:

-accessible bike lanes and pathways which will include sidewalk paved with paving stones, landscaping (including shoreline planting to reduce erosion)

-beautification of area around statue, lighting, markers and dedication plaque

-extension of sidewalk, extension from park to connect with harbour area sidewalk

-provide a continuous accessible pathway from harbour to the park and into south end of town of Gimli.”

Given that the IFM now has the opportunity to expand the park the IFM would like to take this opportunity to consult with the key stakeholders in the harbour area to work together to create a safe and attractive space for the entire community to enjoy. Notably, the IFM does not own any property, but was enabled to create the Phase One of the park thanks to easements granted by the RM of Gimli and Betel Home Foundation. The IFM envisions it would continue to facilitate the space with agreements with our current partners as well as other stakeholders mentioned in the next section.

Scope of Project:

As anyone would imagine, the various stakeholders in the area each have specific interests they hope the project will fulfill. At times discussions among the stakeholders have been challenging, but each has agreed that working together to develop a shared plan for the area makes sense. In order to achieve success, it is critically important that a design for the area be developed only after each stakeholder group has been consulted and that their unique vision for the area has been taken into consideration.

The IFM recognizes there may be some challenges in this but believes it can be accomplished by a company that undertakes a respectful and interpretive process that will enable each group to see their vision for the area in the draft design. We anticipate this will mean the company that creates the design may need to come up with some innovative solutions. Once a design has been created that reflects a blended vision for the area, consultations with the broader community will take place.

The end goal of the project is to develop a conceptual plan that can be tendered in order to bring the plan into reality.

While further exploration may tweak the project scope, we are looking for a landscape architect that will:

- 1) Consult with the main stakeholders in the harbour area, being the IFM, the RM of Gimli, Betel Heritage and the Betel Home Foundation, the Gimli Harbour Authority, the Gimli Yacht Club and the Canada Coast Guard, how they feel a design could be created that will meet these goals but also works to further the greater community good;
- 2) Consult with the secondary stakeholders in the area, being the New Iceland Heritage Museum, the Lakeview Resort, the Gimli Art Club, other community groups and the broader community;
- 3) Develop draft plans that blend the visions of these diverse groups while meeting the criteria as set out in the Building Canada Small Communities Fund;
- 4) Provide these draft plans back to each stakeholder group to ensure their vision for the area has been captured and that their unique goals have been considered;
- 5) Hold a consultation with the larger community to present the draft plans and/or conceptual designs for feedback. We imagine these consultations would take place through community meetings, but that social media could also be utilized.

Conclusion

We would appreciate receiving an outline of how your firm would undertake this project, complete with a timeline, as well as a quote for your services not to exceed \$15,000. by October 29.

Please do not hesitate to contact Kristine Sigurdson at the Icelandic Festival office (cell: 204-894-0653) if you have questions or would like further clarification.

Grant Stefanson,
Kathi Thorarinson-Neal
Co-Chairs Viking Park