

Request for Proposals Old Man of the Mountain Outdoor Sculpture(s) Franconia Notch, NH

Postmark Deadline: March 15, 2006

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund, in cooperation with the State of New Hampshire, invites professional artists to submit outdoor sculpture proposals for a memorial commission (or multiple commissions) to be sited on the north shore of Profile Lake in Franconia Notch State Park. The Old Man of the Mountain was a remarkable natural configuration of ledge and stone slabs on the side of Cannon Mountain that created a profile of a man's face so unusual and distinctive that it was adopted as the state symbol. Profile viewing sites were among the principal attractions of Franconia Notch State Park. The collapse of the Old Man on May 3, 2003 left a void in the collective psyche of the citizens of New Hampshire and in the attractiveness of the Park as a destination for visitors. This sculptural commission is one of several initiatives designed to appropriately commemorate the Old Man and assure that Franconia Notch State Park retains its preeminence as a scenic and recreational destination for visitors.

The Profile Lake site, just below the ledge where the Old Man looked out over the valley, is a place of great natural beauty. The lake reflects the mountainside above it, offering a perfect location for contemplation about how this random assemblage of stone occurred in such perfect form and why it so thoroughly captured the public imagination.

The placement of a sculpture (or sculptures) here is intended to provide a focus for those who wish to remember the Old Man and for those who never had the opportunity to see it. The sculpture (s) should facilitate a process of remembrance, introspection, and connection to the environment of which the Old Man was such an integral part. Both interpretive and representational pieces are appropriate. No designs for an installation or rebuilding on the Cannon cliff will be considered..

BACKGROUND

Franconia Notch State Park encompasses the land on either side of Interstate 93 for 8 miles as it passes through the White Mountains. It is the flagship of the New Hampshire State Park system and it includes the Flume, the Basin, Boise Rock, Lafayette Place Campground, and Cannon Mountain Ski Area and Aerial Tramway. An estimated 1.75 million people visit the attractions of the park each year.

The discovery of the Profile around 1805 spurred development of Franconia Notch as a desirable tourist destination, and after the Civil War, large hotels were built throughout New Hampshire's north country. Frank Abbott built and operated the Profile House, a Victorian era resort hotel, on 6,000 acres that he owned around Profile Lake, with proximity to the Old Man being the signature attraction. By the time the Profile House burned down in 1923, the era of the grand hotels was in decline, and Abbot saw greater profits in the logging business rather than rebuilding his hotel.

The idea of clear cutting this area of immense natural and scenic beauty caused a public outcry. Saving Franconia Notch became one of the foremost conservation causes in the country. The New Hampshire legislature appropriated half of Abbott's \$400,000 asking price, partnering with private donors who would contribute the rest. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) took the lead in organizing fund raising, assisted by the NH Federation of Women's Clubs, whose "buy a tree" campaign was a great success. Thousands of small donors helped the Forest Society (SPNHF) meet its goal, and in 1928 SPNHF completed purchase of Abbott's land. They eventually turned it over to the state in 1948, at which time Cannon Mountain ski area and aerial tramway were developed.

But the Old Man's protection and the Park's future were threatened again in the 1970s when the New Hampshire Department of Transportation announced plans to build a four lane extension of Interstate 93 through the Notch. Again,

the Forest Society, along with the Appalachian Mountain Club and others, led the way in protecting the notch, and worked to negotiate an exception to the rules for interstate highway development that allowed portions of the road to be narrower than the two-lane standard. This creative compromise minimized the impact on fragile natural areas and enhanced scenic vistas. The finished Franconia Notch Parkway project received national recognition for excellence in landscape design, and was heralded as a victory for both the Old Man and the state park system.

Both the Legacy Fund and the Division of Parks would like the Outdoor Sculpture project to maintain the high standards of design excellence and sensitivity to the spectacular natural setting that were hallmarks of the development of the Franconia Notch Parkway. Just as many small donations made the original purchase of the park's land possible, we expect many donations will help pay for the Sculpture installation. Through this project and the other initiatives of the Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund, Inc., we hope a new generation of citizens will develop a personal involvement in the protection and appreciation of Franconia Notch State Park.

DESIGN THEMES AND CONSIDERATIONS

The intent for this project is to have an artist create a sculpture that evokes the lost Old Man and provides visitors with a meaningful experience of his existence. The Selection Committee may select one piece to become the focal point of the Profile Lake site, or it may choose additional pieces if there are several designs of merit and they can be installed compatibly and produced within the funding constraints at hand.

The sculpture (s) must depict the physical form and/or spirit of the Old Man of the Mountain through representational or abstract imagery. The sculpture (s) must be made of material that can withstand the extreme weather conditions inherent to Franconia Notch. Environmentally sympathetic installation methods and appropriate physical scale of the sculptures will be favored in the selection process. Physical interaction between visitors and one or more components of the sculptural work will be permitted.

The sculpture(s) shall be original and one-of-a-kind; the design may not be reproduced beyond the scope of this project. If a cast is made, it shall become a part of the State of New Hampshire's archives.

TO SUBMIT A PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL

Artists must submit one copy of the following materials:

- Two-dimensional graphic representation of sculpture on illustration board (minimum size 9" x 12"; maximum size 18" x 24"). If drawing paper is used, it must be mounted on foam core. Any two-dimensional medium is allowed.
- Brief artist statement (not to exceed one page) explaining the artist's concept
- Resume
- Up to 10 slides / digital images of existing work
- Slide / Digital Image Identification Sheet and Image List (forms enclosed)

DESIGN FEES

No design fees will be paid for the first round of proposals (preliminary phase). Finalists selected for further design development will be paid \$1500.

ELIGIBLE ARTISTS

Any artist is eligible to submit a proposal. Professional artists who are residents of New Hampshire shall be given special consideration, but one or more commissions may be awarded to regional, national, or international artists. Artists who have made prior submissions of design ideas are required to re-submit their designs according to the requirements of this RFP.

MAINTENANCE & DURABILITY

All work must be durable and maintenance-free. All work shall be sturdy and easy to maintain and pose no immediate hazard or potential danger to the public. The effect of Franconia Notch's extreme weather conditions on the proposed sculpture materials will be one of many determining factors in the selection process.

SPECIAL NOTE

All submitting artists are encouraged to visit the proposed site before preparing a proposal. The Profile Lake Old Man viewing site, where the sculpture is intended to go, may be reached on foot from the south end of the Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway parking lot, Exit 34B off Interstate 93.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be judged on the basis of adherence to the design themes, artistic merit, durability, suitability of materials, and cost to produce.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

All preliminary proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of members of the Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund and members of the NH Arts community. This group will convene in April, 2006 to review all entries and select one or more finalists to develop complete proposals. Before a contract is signed, a discussion/negotiation phase will take place between the chosen finalist(s) and the selection committee to align expectations for complete proposals, models, and project budgets.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Proposals must be postmarked March 15, 2006 or delivered to the State Arts Council by 4:15 pm on that date (see address and contact info below). Office hours are Monday - Friday 8:15am - 4:15pm. The office is closed all state and most federal holidays. Late proposals will not be accepted. Proposals may not be transmitted by facsimile. We cannot be responsible for applications lost in transit. Errors and omissions may affect the panel's evaluation of your proposal.

NOTIFICATION

All proposing artists will be notified by April 30, 2006. Committee comments, critiques, and ratings on proposals will not be included in the notification letters, nor be available to proposing artists following notification. Artists may be asked to present their plans to the committee before this date. The committees reserve the right to make a decision that is in the best interest of the project and to adjust the process as needed. Finalists will be announced on May 3, 2006, at the annual Profile Awards Banquet at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord.

FINALIST SELECTION AND DESIGN DEVELOPMENT FEES

The intention of this RFP is to select finalists for the project who will then be paid a \$1,500 fee to develop their designs and create a three-dimensional model. These models may be used to aid the OMMLF in raising money to pay for the selected sculptural work. Please note: the Old Man Legacy Fund will sign a contract with an artist only when the necessary funds are in hand. There is no promise of an artist contract if the Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund fails to raise the necessary funds.

Those artists whose design concept is selected for finalist consideration will be expected to develop a full budget to include expenses for materials; artist(s) fees; studio rental; electricity; telephone; travel costs (suggested rate = .455 cents per mile). They will be expected to include a small contingency percentage; insurance while work is under construction and during transportation, and delivery and any other expenses directly related to this project. Other elements of the project, such as bases for sculptures, may be negotiated as the design development process evolves. Services of a qualified landscape architect may be provided.

Final proposals will be due by October 31, 2006, with project completion and installation by July 31, 2007.

RETURN OF PROPOSALS

Proposals submitted with a self-addressed and stamped return envelope will be sent back to artists immediately following the Committee's decision. Proposals without return envelopes will be retained for 30 days after the selections have been made. The Committee cannot be held responsible for any materials left after 30 days.

TIMELINE

- Request for Proposals Announced February 17, 2006
- **Sculpture Proposals Due** **March 15, 2006**
- Preliminary Selection Notification April 30, 2006
- Preliminary Selection Announcement May 3, 2006
- Final Proposals Due (qualifying finalists only) October 31, 2006
- Sculpture Installation Complete July 31, 2007

CONTACT INFO FOR ARTISTS QUESTIONS AND PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Profile Award Proposal
2 ½ Beacon Street – 2nd Floor
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-0790
jmento@nharts.state.nh.us

Slide / Digital Image Identification Sheet

Old Man of the Mountain Outdoor Sculpture Park

1. ARTIST DATA

Name Place of Birth Date of Birth

Mailing Address City/Town State ZIP

Address City/Town State ZIP
(if different from Mailing address)

Telephone *(day)* FAX Telephone *(evening)*

E-mail Website

3. REQUIRED APPLICATION INFORMATION

- Two-dimensional graphic representation proposal(s)
- Brief Artist Statement explaining the artist's concept (not to exceed one page).
- Up to 10 properly marked images of existing work
- Complete Slide Identification Sheet
- Resume
- Self-addressed stamped envelope for return of proposal materials, if desired. Please be sure to add proper amount of postage.

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ARTIST NAME: _____

4. SLIDE / IMAGE LIST - NO MORE THAN 10 IMAGES, INCLUDING DETAILS.

Slide #	Title	Date of Completion	Size H" x W" x D"	Medium
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL SLIDES!
We cannot be held responsible for the loss of original materials.

Keep those for your own files and send duplicates.

Please label slides according to this diagram.

Name	Top (#)
Address	
City, State, Zip	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	
Title	