

**Call for Artists**  
**Request for Proposals (RFP)**  
**for Public Art Installation at Fire Island Pines Trailblazers Park**

**The Project**

The **Fire Island Pines Property Owners Association (FIPPOA)** is seeking an artist to create site-specific original artwork to honor LGBTQIA+ trailblazers (“Trailblazers”) in the newly designated “Trailblazers Park” (formerly Harbor Park). Trailblazers Park is the green space and plaza bordering the south and east sides of the Pines Harbor, including Brockman Plaza (the waiting and sitting area at the entrance to the passenger ferry). This call is for proposals from established and emerging artists to create the artwork for Trailblazers Park. **The deadline for receipt of proposals in response to this RFP is 5:00 p.m. EST, February 14, 2021.**

**Project Intent**

*As the historian Anne Laurence has noted, “The term ‘Hidden History’ is used when the history of a hitherto neglected group begins to appear: as, for example, in the case of black history, women’s history, lesbian and gay history...The phrase is not simply used to describe the group’s emergence into mainstream history: it also has an explicit message that these groups have lacked a history because society has been unwilling to see them as a separate group with particular rights. Groups hidden from history are hidden for three reasons. They are hidden because of prejudices against the group in the past, because of modern prejudices, and because of the absence of records.”*

Through public artwork, FIPPOA’s Honoring Trailblazers Task Force (the “Task Force”) is committed to honoring LGBTQIA+ hidden history, focusing on the diverse individuals who have marked paths for our community and broken barriers in our fight for acceptance and equality. This public artwork will celebrate the achievements of people who, through advocacy, action, example, or personal sacrifice have brought about positive change in the rights and recognition of the LGBTQIA+ community—and therefore have been true Trailblazers.

In that context, the artwork should:

- Enhance Trailblazers Park with a distinctive aesthetic experience that is highly visible and welcoming to all residents and visitors arriving at or walking through the Pines Harbor;
- Highlight the importance of the honored Trailblazers;
- Be original, appropriate for outdoor installation, able to withstand severe weather, vandalism, graffiti, etc., and be adequately and safely displayed and secured (see Project Specifications below);
- Consider site limitations;
- Create a signature presence; and
- Provide excitement and interest for the Fire Island Pines community.

**Project Specifications**

The artwork should consist of two pieces:

- The first is a permanent installation that honors 3 - 5 Trailblazers (“Permanent Honorees”).

In preparing a proposal, an artist should assume that among these Permanent Honorees will be Marsha P. Johnson, Edie Windsor and Larry Kramer.

- The second is an installation that honors a group of 10 or more Trailblazers each in 2021 and 2022 (“Rotating Honorees”).

The Permanent and Rotating Honorees will be chosen by the Task Force after soliciting input from the Fire Island Pines and Cherry Grove communities as well as other individuals and outside groups and stakeholders, keeping in mind the rich history and diversity of the LGBTQIA+ community, including people of color, transgender people, and genderqueer individuals.

The Task Force intends to inform the selected artist of the identity of the Permanent Honorees as well as the initial Rotating Honorees once the artist is selected.

The two pieces of artwork will be located in the Pines Harbor in the space next to Atlantic Walk which is currently occupied by a single bench (see Attachment A).

Both pieces of proposed artwork should be housed within, or otherwise be part of, markers which are no larger than 72” H x 3’ W x 72” L and should be harmonious in style with the current structures in the Pines Harbor. For example, the artwork may be two-dimensional so that it can be captured in a stanchion or have a three-dimensional aspect that can be encased within markers having the dimensions specified above.

Once selected, the chosen artist should provide draft concept designs based on the Task Force’s selection of (i) the Permanent Honorees, (ii) the Rotating Honorees for 2021 and (iii) the Rotating Honorees for 2022 by April 7, 2021. Following feedback from the Task Force, the artist should deliver the final design of both pieces of artwork by April 19, 2021.

The Task Force intends that the artwork be installed no later than May 31, 2021 in the designated space and agreed-upon structure.

### **Eligibility**

This call is open to established and emerging artists. The Task Force welcomes submissions from an individual artist or a team of artists.

A connection to or knowledge of LGBTQIA+ history and Fire Island Pines is preferred.

The artwork for this site must reflect the Project Intent and be consistent with the Project Specifications described above.

### **How to Submit a Proposal**

Artists interested in this project must prepare and submit the following using this [artist submission form](#):

- **Letter of Interest.** The letter should be no more than 200 words in length, explain the artist’s interest in the Project and describe the format of the proposed submission.
- **Proposed Artwork Concept.** The proposal should include conceptual design drawings, sketches, and/or maquettes sufficient to communicate the artist’s concept. It should also describe the specifications for the artwork related to materials, size, weight, installation

requirements and maintenance guidelines.

- **Artist's Statement.** This statement should be no longer than 200 words in length and describe the artist's style, as well as previous and current work.
- **Professional References.** The artist should provide three professional references who are familiar with the artist's work and working methods. Please provide their contact information.
- **Budget.** The artist should provide a budget, specifically including the estimated cost of construction and installation of the artwork. In this regard, please note that FIPPOA has allocated the maximum amount of \$4,000 for the initial construction and installation of the artwork (including the structures, if any, in which the artwork will be housed) and \$500 for each annual change of Rotating Honorees.

All work samples must be submitted in the following format:

- The artist must supply a minimum of eight digital images. The Task Force will only accept JPEG file formats. All JPEGs must be sized at 250 dpi, 5"x7". Respondents should number and title each JPEG and include a description sheet with corresponding numbers. The sheet should list the artist's name and the titles, dates, media, and dimensions of the proposed artwork.

Optional: An artist may include up to five selections of supporting materials such as reviews, news articles, web links and other related information.

Any questions about this RFP should be sent to [fippoatrailblazers@gmail.com](mailto:fippoatrailblazers@gmail.com) by January 24, 2021. Responses to all questions received by the Task Force will (i) be sent directly to any person who submitted a question and (ii) publicly posted on January 29, 2021 at [Honoring Trailblazers RFP Q&As](#).

**Proposals should be submitted using the artist submission form no later than 5:00pm on February 14, 2021.**

### **Criteria for Selection**

- A complete proposal that reflects Project Intent and Project Specifications as described in this RFP
- A body of work reflecting artistic excellence
- Connection to or knowledge of LGBTQIA+ history and Fire Island Pines.
- Experience creating artwork suitable for an outdoor environment

### **Artist Selection**

The Task Force will review the submissions and select an artist to create an original site-specific artwork by March 8, 2021. All respondents to this RFP will be notified once the Task Force has made its selection. As stated above, the Task Force welcomes submissions from an individual artist or a team of artists and reserves the right to choose one or more artists to complete different phases of the Project.

## **The Commission**

FIPPOA will pay a \$2,000 commission to the artist selected for this work.

FIPPOA is willing to:

- provide housing and reimburse the selected artist for reasonable transportation expenses to and from New York City for up to three site visits;
- promote the artist's work on Trailblazers Park on social media;
- use the artist's name in communications about the Project; and
- celebrate the Permanent Honorees and the 2021 Rotating Honorees, the opening of Trailblazers Park and the artist's work in an unveiling ceremony.

If you have any questions or need any additional information concerning this RFP, please contact the Task Force at [fippoatrailblazers@gmail.com](mailto:fippoatrailblazers@gmail.com).

Honoring Trailblazers Task Force

Gary Clinton and Doug Harris, Co-Chairs

Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, Crayton Robey, Matthew Tague, and Cathy Tanelli

## Attachment A – Site for Artwork

