



## **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: MAY 1, 2022**

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**

## **Marian Anderson Sculpture Commission**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Marian Anderson Sculpture Committee, composed of civic leaders, arts professionals and philanthropists from Philadelphia and the surrounding region are dedicated to the goal of commissioning a commemorative sculpture of Marian Anderson to be located adjacent to the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. This sculpture will mark the first named African American female's likeness to be honored in sculptural form in the City of Philadelphia.

The project goal is to commission one artist, or artist team, to create a representative figurative sculpture of Marian Anderson. Local/regional Philadelphia artists, as well as artists residing elsewhere in the United States, are invited to submit their qualifications (RFQ) for an opportunity to create a proposal.

If selected from the first round of RFQ, artists will receive a stipend, meet with the Sculpture Committee and selection team, and present their proposals for a sculpture (see timeline below). Artists of color and female artists are strongly encouraged to apply.

### **MARIAN ANDERSON**

"Marian Anderson is one of the most important historical figures of the 20th century because of her groundbreaking exceptional music artistry and her humanitarianism. Born in Philadelphia, PA on February 27th 1897, Marian Anderson would go on to be deemed one of the greatest Classical Voices of all time and the first African American to perform at the prestigious Metropolitan Opera in 1955. Marian Anderson's dynamic significance didn't just rest as an artist, for in the face of discrimination and racism, Marian Anderson would use her artistry for a most significant moment of performance in our nation's history at the Lincoln Memorial on April 9th 1939 to propel her to become an historic Ambassador and Diplomat representing the United States to the continent of Africa and Asia. Marian Anderson has indeed earned the title 'The Great Lady From Philadelphia'."

~ Jillian Patricia Pirtle, CEO of the National Marian Anderson Museum & Historical Society

## **THE SITE: THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC**

The Academy of Music, also known as American Academy of Music, is a concert hall and opera house located at 240 S. Broad Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Academy first opened its doors in 1857 and is modeled on Milan's famed La Scala. It is the oldest opera house in the United States still used for its original purpose. Its location is between Locust and Manning Streets in the Avenue of the Arts district of Center City.

The Academy of Music is the site determined for the installation of the Marian Anderson sculpture, to be located either on the entryway steps, or at another prominent exterior location. The Academy of Music is a significant site in the life of Marian Anderson, just blocks from her home at 763 South Martin Street, which is now the site of the National Marian Anderson Historical Society and Museum. Early on in Marian Anderson's development as a vocalist she was banned from walking through the front door of the Academy of Music even to take her music lessons in the venue's ballroom because of the color of her skin, she had to use the backdoor service entrance. Years later, she was able to walk through the front door with dignity and give concerts at the Academy of Music every year until her retirement.

## **ART COMMISSION OPPORTUNITY**

The Committee seeks to commission a figurative sculpture of Marian Anderson to be located on the exterior of The Academy of Music. The goals of the commission are to display a strong likeness of Marian Anderson, capture the powerful and gifted spirit of the contralto as well as her energy as a civil rights trailblazer and her dignity in the face of injustice.

The sculpture will be cast in bronze with the expectation that it will withstand the elements for over 50+ years. The artist must abide by the constraints of the space and limit of weight. More information will be provided to the short-list of artists selected to submit proposals.

## **ARTISTS ARE REQUIRED TO:**

- Submit a CV and a brief statement of interest
- Submit 6-8 images that best represent your previous work. Please include work that demonstrates your ability to produce high-quality figurative sculptural work in an outdoor environment.
- Artists' statement not to exceed one page and CV not to exceed more than 2 pages.
- Artists/ artists team may provide a website if applicable.
- Submit all materials to [marianandersonsculpture@gmail.com](mailto:marianandersonsculpture@gmail.com) via the file-sharing program dropbox ([www.dropbox.com](https://www.dropbox.com)). *If you do not already have a dropbox account, simply create a new one. It is free.*

## **RFQ TIMELINE**

- May 1, 2022- submit CV, images and statement
- May 17th RFQ Selection Meeting, 4-6 semi-finalists selected
- May 25- selected semi-finalists notified

## **PROPOSAL TIMELINE**

(For artists/ artist teams that have been selected from the RFQ round)

- June 2, 2022 Pre-proposal Meeting
- August 30th- Electronically submit proposal and visual support materials

- Mid September 2022- semi-finalists present proposals in person to the Marian Anderson Sculpture Commission Committee
- Late September- selected artist notified

**ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

The selected proposal for the commissioned sculpture will be determined on the basis of artistic merit, technical proficiency, and likeness to Marian Anderson. Long-term maintenance, durability, and public safety concerns will be major selection criteria. Artists will be required to comply with applicable rules, contracts, and procedures determined in advance. Artists of color and female artists are strongly encouraged to apply.

*The Marian Anderson Sculpture Selection Committee reserves the right to reject any and all of the proposals submitted.*

**Marian Anderson Task Force Selection Committee**

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