



International Coalition of
SITES of CONSCIENCE

From past to present,

memory to action

In Dialogue: A Community-Centered Public Art Project



Reflecting Tulsa’s Inter-Tribal Identity in Mvskoke Territory

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), in partnership with Pipestem Consulting, seeks four Indigenous, Tulsa-based artists or artist-led teams to:

- Participate in community-led dialogues about the inter-tribal Native experience in Tulsa, Mvskoke Territory and;
- Use learning from this participation to conceptualize and create designs for public art projects that re-center contemporary experiences and memories of Native peoples in Tulsa, Mvskoke Territory, against the backdrop of the history of this land.

All Tulsa-area indigenous artists, designers, and community members or teams of applicants at any stage in their careers, working in any discipline, are invited to submit applications of interest.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

“In Dialogue: A Community-Centered Public Art Project Reflecting Tulsa’s Inter-Tribal Identity in Mvskoke Territory,” an initiative by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience and partner Pipestem Consulting, will leverage the creative arts and community dialogue as the foundation for designs of powerful new artistic representations of Tulsa’s diverse Native community. The designs for proposed public art projects will memorialize indigenous history expressing contemporary Native peoples’ experiences as a step in addressing prevailing attitudes and invisibility and helping to reclaim the vital presence of Native peoples in this region.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Since its founding in 1999, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience has supported communities in connecting past and present to build more just and humane futures. Through powerful participatory programs that bring people together across difference, ICSC advocates for every community's right to preserve places where struggles for human rights and democracy have occurred, to talk openly about what happened there, and to harness the strengths of memory, heritage, arts and culture to build ethical societies that envision and shape a more just and humane future. Drawing on the experience of its more than 300 members in 65 countries, ICSC has supported hundreds of creative, locally driven initiatives, including in Colombia, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, and across the United States.

Brenda Pipestem brings expertise as a private consultant with Pipestem Consulting. She has worked with non-profit arts institutions and as an attorney, with extensive experience working in tribal courts.

Through the partnership between Pipestem Consulting and ICSC, this project will intentionally and inclusively work with the indigenous community in the Tulsa, Mvskoke Territory area to generate dialogue around public art that can contribute to building a more just future.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED TIMELINE:

Upon selection notification (June 30, 2021), the selected four artists/artist groups will:

- **JULY 2021:** Participate in three (virtual) facilitated community conversations that are designed to collect contemporary stories of place. In these conversations, community participants will discuss the power of place in social change processes in order to foster coalition-building across the range of local Native American tribes and between Native and non-Native communities. It is anticipated that artists will gain perspective and inspiration from these conversations to inform their project. Virtual conversation dates are currently set for July 14 and 17 (evenings) and July 19 (afternoon).
- **AUGUST 2021:** Participate in an in-person two-day research workshop led by ICSC to explore historic resources that can inform the design of prototypes and collectively reflect on perspectives gained in the community conversations. The workshop dates are August 16-17.
- **JULY 1 through SEPTEMBER 30, 2021:** Each artist or artist team designs plans for a public art project that will reflect Tulsa's Native Communities' history and could serve as a monument to their vibrant contemporary and future presence.
- **OCTOBER 2021:** Artists will participate in an event to discuss their work and the process they engaged in at an exhibition and accompanying public event.

ARTIST HONORARIUM:

Each of the four selected artist/artist groups will receive \$4,500 for this project.



APPLICANT CRITERIA:

Submitting artists/ artist group must:

- Be over 18-years of age;
- Be based in/and or reside in the State of Oklahoma (priority will be given to Tulsa-based artists);
- Identify as a citizen or member of an Indigenous Nation or tribe;
- Be able to commit to attending the following:
 - » Virtual community focus groups (July 14 and 17 [evenings] and July 19 [afternoon], 2021).
 - » Two-day Artist workshop (August 16-17, 2021). This event may be held virtually depending on Tulsa's pandemic restrictions.
 - » Public event to present the prototype public art installation or intervention in October (exact date TBD). This event may be held virtually depending on Tulsa's pandemic restrictions.
- **NOTE:** While applicants will submit samples of past artwork as part of this application, this is not a call for previously made artworks. This call is for artists who work in any medium, who have knowledge and connection with the local Native community, who are interested in participating in facilitated dialogue, and who are committed to incorporating community dialogues into the design of a public artwork/intervention.

HOW TO APPLY:

Submissions should be submitted through [THIS ONLINE FORM](#) and will include:

- Applicant contact info (name, telephone number, email address)
- Short bio of artist/artist group
- 3-5 samples of past artistic work that you feel are representative of your work.
Work samples can include:
 - » JPEG or PDF of representative works (should be approximately 8" x 10" at 144ppi or 1152 pixels x 1449 pixels). Name each JPG with your first initial, last name and image number (example: JSmith1.jpg JSmith2.jpg, JSmith3.jpg).
 - » Links to video and/or sound recordings (listed on a single PDF, with passwords, if necessary)
- A video (5 minutes maximum length) in which you discuss what informs your work and/or the story of the sample artworks you are submitting. This can include other artists and artworks that have inspired or contributed to the development of your work.

Please send all submissions to this [SUBMISSION FORM](#) by 11:59 EST on June 7, 2021.



SELECTION PROCESS & NOTIFICATION:

- Selections will be evaluated by a five-member jury including Sites of Conscience representatives and representatives of Tulsa's Native artist community. Work will be evaluated on the following:
 - » Artistic quality and ability to convey story or inspiration.
 - » Demonstrated interest in the conceptual approach as expressed above.
- Artists will be notified of the committee's decision by June 30, 2021.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Linda Norris, Senior Specialist, Methodology and Practice,
International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, lnorris@sitesofconscience.org, 607-287-8418.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- All decisions of the review panel are final.
- If you are accepted, by submitting your entry you give the project the right to publish images of your artwork for publicity purposes; we may ask select artists to provide higher-resolution images for publicity purposes.
- This project is solely designed to facilitate intentional indigenous community dialogue and to inform the artists in their creation of designs/prototypes for public art installations and artistic interventions.