

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

### **Kate & Peter Amrusko Memorial Project**

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is seeking proposals to develop designs for a new children's outdoor learning and activity space in Frick Park built in honor of Kate and Peter Amrusko. We encourage proposals from interdisciplinary teams led by landscape architects working with artists or craftspeople.

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy was founded in December 1996 by a group of citizens concerned with the deteriorating conditions of Pittsburgh's parks. Since then, the Parks Conservancy has raised more than \$45 million toward park improvements. Our mission is to improve quality of life for the people of Pittsburgh by restoring the park system to excellence in partnership with the City. Our vision is of a sustainable park system whose landscapes, facilities and programming set world standards of excellence.

#### **PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

In April 2009 Kate and Peter Amrusko, ages 6 and 4, were tragically killed in a car accident. Their mother decided that she would like to create a nature-based learning space in Frick Park that reflected her children's love for the natural world. The Parks Conservancy was approached by the Kate and Peter Amrusko Memorial Fund in late 2009 and asked to spearhead the initiative, which will include managing the project from design through construction. Throughout the project, the Parks Conservancy and the selected design team will be required to work in close collaboration with the City of Pittsburgh, as well as the Amrusko family, community members, park users, and young children.

Kate and Peter's memorial project is meant to be a place for children to learn about the environment through playful activity. The design should be geared towards children, but also be engaging to people of all ages. It should reflect the spirit of Kate and Peter Amrusko.

The site is located in Frick Park along Henrietta Street near the intersection of Milton Street (see attached map). It is less than one acre and includes both open and wooded portions. It is currently used as a play area by neighborhood children and students at the adjacent Environmental Charter School at Frick Park.

Once completed, the project will be the first of 13 outdoor learning spaces to be developed in Frick Park over the next several years. The learning spaces as a whole will be part of the environmental learning campus to be used by educators from the Environmental Center at Frick Park, as well as school groups and community members.

The entire campus, including Kate & Peter's memorial project, will reflect the mission for a new Environmental Center at Frick Park: *Education through Restoration*. As a theme and mission, *Education through Restoration* is active (programming is outside and hands-on) and purposeful (programming actually helps to restore the park). Ultimately, the Environmental Center

campus will include a new state of the art building near Beechwood Boulevard that will include indoor and outdoor classrooms. The Center will offer expanded urban environmental education programming for school groups, campers, and families, and will be the hub for the Parks Conservancy's volunteer activities and community outreach programs. The Environmental Center project is a collaborative effort of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and the City of Pittsburgh.

## **PROJECT VISION**

The primary vision for the theme for Kate and Peter's memorial project is that of a tree house, which both children wished for before their deaths. The selected design team will be encouraged to creatively interpret the notion of a tree house through innovative art and design ideas.

The design process must be collaborative in nature and include significant contributions from the children's mother, other close family members and friends, children, local community members, and educational experts. The Parks Conservancy will help facilitate these interactions, but the design team must be prepared to engage closely with various stakeholders and incorporate the ideas generated as much as is feasible and appropriate for the site, project mission, and budget.

The final design and construction should:

- Encourage imaginative activity in young children;
- Offer children the opportunity to engage with nature and create imaginative landscapes of their own;
- Be inclusive and accessible for children of all abilities;
- Use suitable materials for a park that is a complex ecosystem, historic landscape, and community property;
- Respect and respond to the local environment;
- Respect the needs of neighboring home owners;
- Take into account a significant war memorial adjacent to the project site;
- Reflect a balance between humans and the rest of the natural world in a manner that is at once playful and inspiring;
- Be made entirely or predominantly from natural, locally harvested materials;
- Be designed with an eye towards long term maintenance needs;
- Include a designated space for temporary art installations. [The first proposed art piece is an energy-generating piece of play equipment to be manufactured by ReplayMyPlay ([www.replaymyplay.com](http://www.replaymyplay.com)).]

## **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

The project team will provide services and deliverables as described below.

1. Concept and schematic designs and construction cost estimates
  - a. The consulting team will work with the Parks Conservancy and advisory group members to develop a concept design for the memorial. Deliverables will include:
    - i. Renderings of the concept design for Kate and Peter’s memorial project;
    - ii. Site plan of the concept design.
  - b. The consulting team will develop detailed schematic designs. Deliverables will include:
    - i. Detailed schematic drawings including site plans and sections;
    - ii. Cost estimates for construction.
2. Design development and construction documents
  - a. The consulting team will develop construction documents and recommendations for maintenance. Deliverables will include:
    - i. Detailed construction drawings;
    - ii. Detailed budget for all aspects of construction;
    - iii. Protocols for short and long-term maintenance developed in collaboration with the Parks Conservancy and the City Department of Public Works.
3. The consulting team will work with the Parks Conservancy during the design process to gather input from multiple stakeholders including:
  - a. The Amrusko family;
  - b. Children;
  - c. Community members;
  - d. Park users;
  - e. City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works.
4. The consulting team will work with the Parks Conservancy during the formal review process with municipal agencies including, but not limited to:
  - a. City Planning Department Design Review Committee;
  - b. Planning Commission;
  - c. City Council;
  - d. Historic Review Commission;
  - e. Art Commission.

All materials developed through this project will be the property of Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and shared with the City of Pittsburgh.

#### **CLIENT-PROVIDED MATERIALS**

The Parks Conservancy will provide the selected team with the following:

- Site survey with 1-foot contours;
- Aerial photograph of site;
- Master plan for Frick Park;
- Photographs of historic design precedents/materials of Frick Park.

## PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

One printed copy of the proposal and one pdf copy (sent via email) must be submitted to:

Marijke Hecht  
Director of Education  
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy  
2000 Technology Drive, Suite 300  
Pittsburgh, PA 15209  
[mhecht@pittsburghparks.org](mailto:mhecht@pittsburghparks.org)

**All submissions must be received by 3pm on Friday April 23, 2010.** Postmarks are not sufficient. Email submittal must use “Kate & Peter’s Memorial Project RFP” in the subject line.

Please avoid the use of excess materials, such as binders, covers, CDs, etc.

**All questions must be submitted in writing via email** to Marijke Hecht at [mhecht@pittsburghparks.org](mailto:mhecht@pittsburghparks.org) **by the close of business Wednesday April 14, 2010.** A list of all questions and the response to each will be posted on our website no later than Monday April 19, 2010. Go to <http://www.pittsburghparks.org/naturespace>.

The proposal must include the following information:

1. Cover Letter

The cover letter shall state the consultant’s name(s) and contact information. It should clearly identify the primary contact person for the project. It should also identify that the attached document is a submission for the Kate & Peter’s Memorial Project RFP.

2. Approach to Scope of Services

The consultant will prepare a proposed scope of services, detailing the work tasks and deliverables and indicating how the project team will approach the work outlined in the Scope of Services. The scope of services provided in this RFP serves as a guide and may be improved upon by the consultant.

3. Timeline

A detailed timeline for each of the project tasks and for the overall project must be provided.

4. Budget

A detailed cost estimate for each of the tasks defined in the scope of services must be provided. Costs should be clearly broken out by task. Project cost estimates should include:

- Direct expenses;
- Hourly rates for principals, project managers, other professionals and sub-consultants;
- Hours anticipated for each task.

#### 5. Current and Planned Project Obligations

Consultant(s) should provide a list of current major projects and the status and contract term of those projects.

#### 6. Qualifications

Responses to the RFP must include the full range of skills and experience necessary to perform the work that is outlined in the Scope of Services. The consulting team should have demonstrated capabilities in many of the following disciplines:

- Landscape architecture;
- Design of children's natural play spaces;
- Ecologically sustainable design;
- Design of educational environments;
- Design process with diverse stakeholders;
- Design using local materials;
- Fabrication as appropriate;
- Construction administration.

To best express their qualifications for the project, the consultant should provide:

- A one to two page narrative describing all involved consultants and explaining the team's approach to the project;
- The resumes of the key personnel assigned to this project and the specific duties of each, including any sub-consultants;
- The anticipated roles of all personnel assigned to this project;
- Three examples of recent work that is similar in nature;
- At least three references with contact information regarding recent relevant work -- consultant(s) should specify role(s) in each of these projects and the type of work performed.

#### 7. M/W/DBE Documentation (if applicable).

#### 8. Copy of professional liability insurance coverage for Project Team leader.

## **REVIEWING AND RANKING**

Submissions may be made by individual firms qualified in all required aspects of the project. However, interdisciplinary teams are highly encouraged. All responses will be reviewed and evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Experience and excellence in the design of similar projects;
- Commitment to educational environments;
- Commitment to sustainable practices and green design principles.
- Demonstrated capacity to work with multiple public and private stakeholders;
- Client satisfaction.

Based on this evaluation, applicants may be invited to attend an interview with the Selection Committee.

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy reserves the right to reject any and all submissions. The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy may, through subsequent contract amendments, extend and/or expand the duration or scope of work for the successful firm.