



TEL 206.296.7580  
TTY 711

101 PREFONTAINE PL S  
SEATTLE WA 98104

[WWW.4CULTURE.ORG](http://WWW.4CULTURE.ORG)

## CALL TO Historic Interpreters, Storytellers, Exhibit Designers, and Documentarians

### SEATTLE TRANSIT TUNNEL: INNOVATIVE HISTORIC INTERPRETATION

We want to fund the research and documentation of a significant moment in Seattle's cultural history: artist design team collaboration that resulted in the 5-station downtown transit tunnel.

**PROJECT BUDGET:** \$150,000

[Budget is inclusive of fee, travel, and content creation.  
Washington State Sales/Use Tax may apply.]

**ELIGIBILITY:** OPEN TO PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUALS AND TEAMS RESIDING IN THE PACIFIC NW REGION: BC, CA, ID, MT, OR, WA

This call is open to a wide range of professionals capable of presenting historic information in an exciting, innovative, and engaging format.

**APPLICATION:** SUBMISSION OF AN [ONLINE APPLICATION](#) IS REQUIRED FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

**DEADLINE:** 4:00 PM PST ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2018

PLEASE APPLY IN ADVANCE OF THE DEADLINE. WE ARE HERE TO HELP WITH ANY TROUBLESHOOTING. CONTACT BRENNAN JERNIGAN AT [BRENNAN.JERNIGAN@4CULTURE.ORG](mailto:BRENNAN.JERNIGAN@4CULTURE.ORG) OR 206-263-1587 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

### OPPORTUNITY

4Culture and King County Metro Transit Division want to commission an innovative public experience to tell the story of community, collaboration, and public art in the Seattle Downtown Transit Tunnel. The form of interpretation can be wide-ranging and may take the form of exhibition display, publication, film or video documentary, interactive website, or any combination of these possibilities.

The \$150,000 budget established by 4Culture is intended to develop the interpretive content and a proposal for how the content can be shared with the public. In the case of a documentary or publication, "content" may also include actual production costs. This historic interpretation is intended to be shared with the public. The selected individual or team will be under contract to 4Culture to oversee the content's conceptual framework and creation. The selected individual or team will be expected to work collaboratively with 4Culture and its partner(s) to develop a proposal for display of the interpretive feature into a publicly accessible location or platform depending on the content focus and media.

## BACKGROUND

“Interjecting imagination into public transportation goes beyond glitter.”  
-- New York Times, October 4, 1990

The five-station development of the Seattle Transit Tunnel marked a significant moment in the history of public art in the region. Lead artists working closely with tunnel engineers and station designers resulted in one of the earliest and most comprehensive examples of what has come to be known as design team collaboration. Several of the lead artists including Alice Adams, Sonja Ishii, Jack Mackie, and Vicki Scuri, leveraged the tunnel experience to establish national careers as pioneers of the collaborative working style.

The tunnel is still cited as a model for successful integration of artists' concepts and artwork into transportation infrastructure. Its innovative working methodologies, ambitious commitment to early and meaningful involvement by artists, and supportive contracting and construction procedures laid the groundwork for the current integration of art by King County Metro, Sound Transit and Seattle Streetcar.

Cities change, and although change is inevitable, preservation and interpretation of the region's history must co-exist with that transformation. Convention Place Station will soon become the Washington State Convention Center Addition. Located in Seattle's downtown core at the intersection of several distinct, urban, and rapidly evolving neighborhoods, the Addition project will transform 3+ city blocks into a state-of-the-art convention space and mixed-use development. The WSCC Addition will result in exhibition space, meeting rooms, and a ballroom to augment current convention capacity. The design prioritizes connection with the surrounding neighborhoods, open and engaging public spaces, and a unique experience that embodies Seattle's special qualities.

Sadly, most of the highly integrated existing artwork at Convention Place Station will be demolished with the site renovation. As part of the de-accession process, 4Culture and WSCC agreed to preserve the history of the site and the artwork and that is the impetus for issuing this commission opportunity and reflecting on this aspect of Seattle's unique cultural community. Even though actual preservation of the artwork is not possible, the work and the forward thinking collaborations that made it extraordinary can be experienced in some form through this creative interpretation opportunity.

At this time of remarkable, cumulative change in Seattle's built environment, it's more important than ever to thoughtfully consider past achievements and to share the stories of those achievements. The public artwork in the Transit Tunnel is more than mere decoration. The art anchors the transit system – a series of five stations and five distinct and evolving neighborhoods – to the history and people of this place. The stations tell a story for this generation, and for generations to come.

## RESEARCH THE CLIENT

Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Downtown\\_Seattle\\_Transit\\_Tunnel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Downtown_Seattle_Transit_Tunnel)

Puget Sound Transportation Projects

<http://www.pugetsoundtransportation.com/dstt/index.php>

Transit Tunnel Map

<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/maps/pdf/downtown-seattle-tunnel-map.pdf>

Convention Place Station Map

<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/tunnel/pdf/ConvPlaceMap.pdf>

## **TIMELINE FOR SELECTION**

Application Deadline	4:00 PST, Monday, February 12, 2018
Panel to Select Finalists	Friday, February 23, 2018
Finalist Notification	Monday, February 26, 2018
Finalist Orientation	Thursday, March 8, 2018*
Finalist Interviews	Friday, March 9, 2018*

\*Applicants should be available in this timeframe in order to participate in an orientation and interview if selected as a finalist. Out-of-town finalists will be reimbursed for travel and lodging expenses to attend the interview and orientation in Seattle, Washington. If applying as a team, the allowance for travel may not fully reimburse all team members.

The panel reserves the right to make no selection from the submitted applications or finalist interviews.

## **PROJECT TIMELINE**

Contract Issued	April 1, 2018
Content Conceptual Development	April 2018 – September 2018
Content Design Development	November 2018 – December 2019

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

A five-person selection panel will review the applications, select finalists for orientation and interviews, and recommend one finalist/finalist team for the commission. The panelists reflect a broad range of the field: exhibit designers (especially those with history or heritage exhibition design expertise), heritage specialists, historians, and artists. Panel members have been selected for their understanding of the link between place-making, preservation, urbanism, and public art.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Finalists will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- Quality and strength of past work as demonstrated in submitted application materials;
- Interest and specialized experience in research and documentation of historical data in a variety of media;
- Demonstrated ability to translate historical research into compelling, publicly oriented experience;
- High level of critical thinking and conceptual ability;
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively and work collaboratively.

## ELIGIBILITY

This project is open to professional individuals and teams residing in the Pacific Northwest region: BC, CA, ID, MT, OR, and WA.

## APPLICATION MATERIALS + INSTRUCTIONS

**APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS VIA [ONLINE APPLICATION](#).**

We encourage you to start your application early. We are here to help with any troubleshooting. Please contact Brennan Jernigan at 206-263-1587 or [brennan.jernigan@4culture.org](mailto:brennan.jernigan@4culture.org).

**PROFILE** —Artist contact information.

**RESUME** —Two-page (maximum) current professional résumé. Teams should include two-page resumes for all members as one document. Keep the formatting as simple as possible. Only PDF files will be accepted.

**STATEMENT OF INTEREST** —Write a statement (500 words or less) explaining why you are interested in working on this project and how you would approach this commission opportunity considering your past work. If there are multiple collaborators as part of your team, please explain how you work together. Consider the selection criteria as it relates to this opportunity. Applicants are NOT asked to submit a proposal as part of the application.

**SUPPLEMENTAL WRITING SAMPLE (OPTIONAL)** — You may submit an optional PDF document of written material that illustrates your qualifications for this opportunity. All written material should be combined into a single PDF, no more than 2MB in size and **no more than 2,000 words** of total content, and uploaded as a Supplemental Document in the application. This document may include selections from exhibition briefs, project narratives, or other documents that show how you organize the impacts, outcomes, and content of an exhibition or project, or it may include samples of interpretive copy that show your writing style (such as label copy, video scripts, etc.). There is no penalty for not submitting a writing sample. Only submit one if it strengthens the case for your selection for this opportunity.

**WORK SAMPLES** — Each individual or team may have different work sample configurations depending on past work and discipline. Applicants must adhere to the format restrictions listed below. You are encouraged to submit work samples that best illustrate your qualifications for this opportunity. If you have questions about how to prepare the strongest application, please [contact us](#).

All applicants must submit **between 6 and 12 total work samples** to be eligible for consideration. Applicants may submit all work samples as digital images, or they may choose to submit **up to 6 work samples as audio/video files, web-based projects, or publications**—or any combination of these.

Work samples must be uploaded according to the instructions below:

- **DIGITAL IMAGES** Images must be uploaded as JPG files only. Images must be 1920 pixels on the longest side, at least 72 dpi, and less than 2MB in size. Once uploaded, the system will automatically label the files with your last name, first initial, and a number indicating viewing order.
- **AUDIO/VIDEO FILES** Audio samples must be submitted via [SoundCloud](#), with the specific URL (e.g. [soundcloud.com/29523](https://soundcloud.com/29523)) noted on the Work Sample Upload page. Video samples must be submitted via

[Vimeo](#) or [YouTube](#), with the specific URL (e.g. [vimeo.com/2992575](http://vimeo.com/2992575)) noted on the Work Sample Upload page. All submissions must be publicly accessible (password protected files will not be accepted).

Timed excerpts are preferred, but longer samples may be submitted with notation in the description field of specific start and stop time for a **cumulative** run time of up to 5 minutes. Please include the start and stop times for excerpted audio/video samples at the beginning of the descriptive text.

- **WEB-BASED PROJECTS** Web-based project samples must be submitted by selecting “Video” as the Work Sample Type in the Work Sample Upload page, pasting the project’s URL in the in the “URL” field, and typing “Web Sample” in the “Duration” field. This is only to be used for web-based projects and NOT for web portfolios or other sites that document your work. If there are specific instructions regarding what to see in your web sample, please note that in the description field.
- **PUBLICATIONS** Publication samples must be submitted by selecting “Video” as the Work Sample type in the Work Sample Upload page, pasting a link to a PDF of the publication in the “URL” field (uploaded and shared from either [Google Drive](#) or [Dropbox](#)), and typing “Publication” in the Duration field. For longer publications, please indicate a select number pages you would like the panel to review in the descriptive text for the work sample.

**NOTE:** Submissions in excess of 12 work samples will not be reviewed. Audio or video samples in excess of 5 cumulative minutes will not be reviewed.

In the Work Sample Upload page, the title of the artwork/project name, completion date, medium and dimensions are required fields. Please provide a brief description (75 words or less) for each work sample. Completion of optional fields for project location, commissioning agency, budget, project partners, photo credit, and copyright owner is encouraged.

After your first entry, text fields will automatically populate with information from the previous work sample upload. This is meant to help expedite the inclusion of multiple samples per artwork and can be easily changed by highlighting and typing over the text for a new work sample. All images and descriptive text can be reviewed, edited, or deleted by clicking on the file name in the left-hand progress navigation.

#### **QUESTIONS?**

Brennan Jernigan

[Brennan.Jernigan@4culture.org](mailto:Brennan.Jernigan@4culture.org)

206.263.1587

Cath Brunner

[Cath.Brunner@4culture.org](mailto:Cath.Brunner@4culture.org)

206.263.1596

**DEADLINE: APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM PST ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018.**