

Folly/Function 2018: Seats

The Architectural League and Socrates Sculpture Park invite emerging architects and designers to submit proposals for Folly/Function, an annual design-build competition.

Submission Deadline
Monday, January 8, 2018
11:59 pm EST

archleague.org
socratessculpturepark.org

Jury

Allan Wexler, Artist
Chee Pearlman, Curator, Arts and Design, TED Conferences
Claire Weisz, Principal, WXY
Elaine Molinar, Partner, Snøhetta
John Hatfield, Executive Director, Socrates Sculpture Park
Leon Ransmeier, Designer, Ransmeier, Inc.

Call for Proposals

Socrates Sculpture Park and The Architectural League invite emerging designers and architects to help shape the physical setting in which the Park fulfills its role as a venue for art, creative expression, public programming, and education.

Socrates Sculpture Park, located in Long Island City, Queens, is one of the most distinct cultural organizations in the country with its combination of waterfront setting, accessibility, and community-based programming. As a venue for the presentation of public art, a New York City park, and an active social space, Socrates harnesses the power of creative minds to transform the urban landscape.

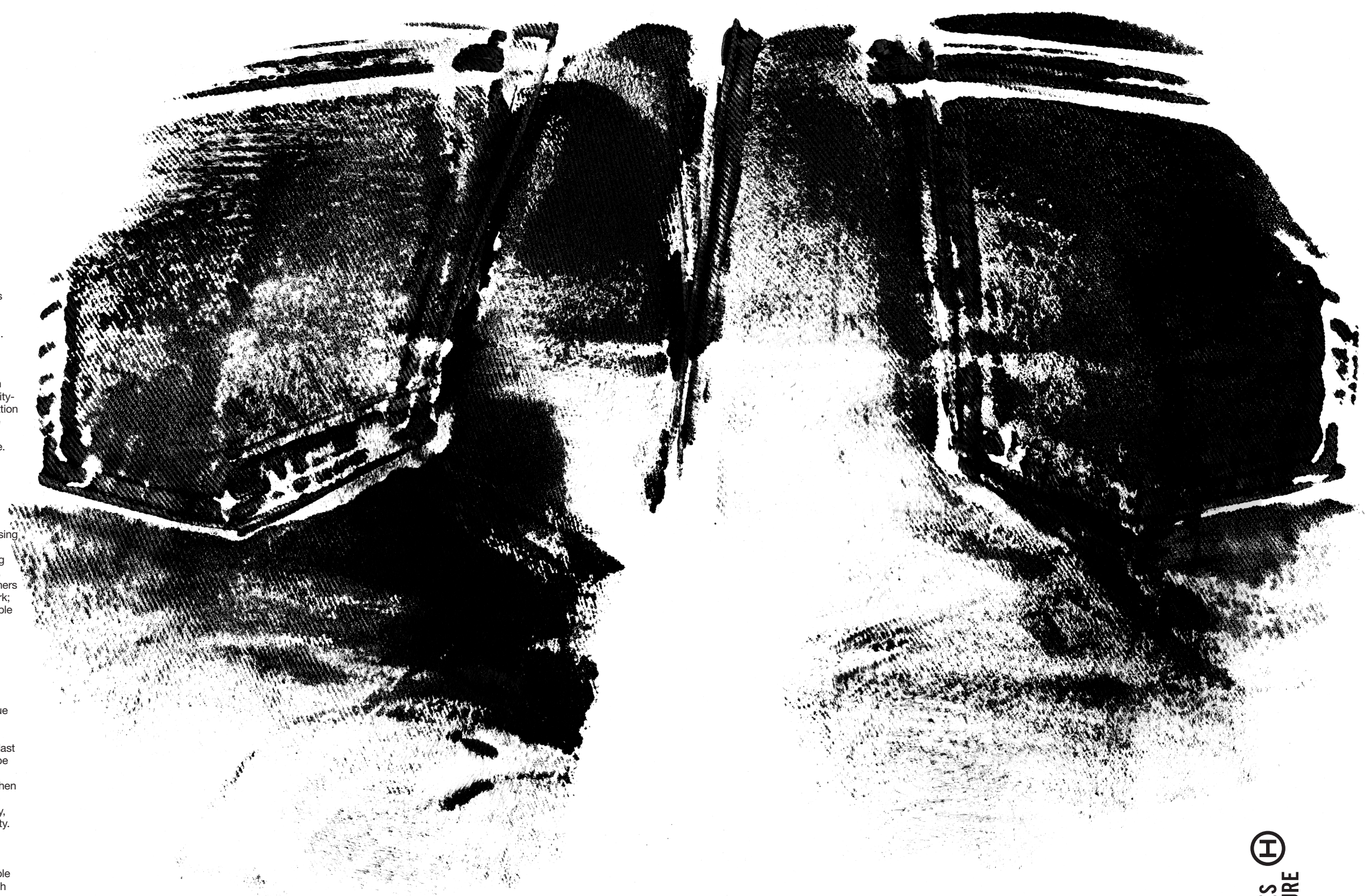
In earlier years the design-build competition investigated the intersection between sculpture and architecture with temporary structures that intentionally served no utilitarian purpose. More recently the competition has shifted emphasis, asking entrants to fuse form with utility by proposing designs that explore the intersection of art and architecture while also addressing and improving the conditions of the Park. Continuing this trend, the 2018 competition asks architects and designers to design and fabricate public seating for the Park; specifically, this call is for movable single or double outdoor seating for at least 25 people.

The seating should be easily movable by park visitors and staff, but solid enough that visitors are discouraged from removing it from the Park. To allow for efficient storage, entrants should consider structures that can be disassembled seasonally. The seating should also have a unique and cohesive identity that distinguishes it from the surrounding art installations or typical Parks Department designs. The outdoor seats should last at least three seasons (2018–2020) and should be weather-resistant. These criteria, in addition to a realistic project budget, will be strictly applied when reviewing submissions. A submission will not be selected if this project, in the judgment of the jury, does not convincingly demonstrate this capability.

Site

The project is not confined to a single site within the Park. Instead, entrants should design movable structures adaptable for multiple locations, which will include areas adjacent to the Park entrance, to its education area, and throughout the landscape. Please consider the uneven terrain of the Park.

To read more about past competition winners as well as Socrates' annual programs and past artist-produced seating in use, visit archleague.org/folly18



Award and Installation

One project will be chosen. The recipient will receive a total \$6,000 production grant to realize the proposed project for single or double outdoor seating that accommodates at least 25 people. All aspects, including design, materials, delivery, labor, and initial installation of the seating structures must be within the \$6,000 budget included in your submission. Socrates Sculpture Park has facilities and equipment that can be utilized in the fabrication, assembly, and installation of the project and the recipient will have full access to these resources during a two-month period at the Park, beginning in March 2018. The initial public use of the structures will be in June 2018. The project will be documented with a digital feature on archleague.org.

Eligibility

Emerging architects and designers are invited to apply. Applications will be accepted from individuals and firms; entrants need not be licensed. Architects and designers outside of New York City are eligible to apply, but housing and transportation are not provided as part of the award. If selected, non-residents will have to make their own living and travel arrangements. Students are not eligible to apply.

Please note that this is a hands-on opportunity and the winner will be responsible for the design and production of the seating structures. Fabrication can take place in either the Park's outdoor studio facilities or off-site, or both.

Submission Requirements and Process

Applications should be submitted via Formstack, linked on the League's website, no later than 11:59 pm EST on Monday, January 8, 2018. For entry requirements, please visit archleague.org/folly18

Questions

Please email questions to folly@archleague.org. All questions and answers will be posted on The Architectural League's and Socrates Sculpture Park's website. Please read through FAQs online before submitting questions.

Support

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Socrates Sculpture Park's Exhibition Program is also supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Charina Endowment Fund, Paula Cooper, Mark di Suvero, Sidney E. Frank Foundation, Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation for Art, Agnes Gund, The Kayden Family, Lambert Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, Ivana Mestrovic, Nancy Nasher and David Haemisegger, Joel Shapiro and Ellen Phelan, Leonard and Louise Riggio, Silvercup Studios, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Smith, and Spacetime C. C. Special thanks to our public partners, including the City of New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Queens Borough President Melinda R. Katz, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, City Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer and Council Member Costa Constantinides, the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Commissioner Mitchell Silver, and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl.

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