

CALL TO ARTISTS

***Syv Søstre* Garden Park Sculpture**
***Skogfjorden*, Norwegian Language Village**
Concordia Language Villages
Bemidji, Minn.



Professional artists are invited to submit qualifications for consideration to create a site-specific sculpture, or artwork, for a newly created “garden park” at *Skogfjorden*, the Norwegian Language Village.

BACKGROUND

Skogfjorden, the Norwegian Language Village, is one of seven culturally authentic program sites on Turtle River Lake near Bemidji, Minn. In the center of the Village is a newly established garden park (2015) that was funded by Gary and Jenette Nelson in honor of their daughter, Ann Nelson, a former *Skogfjorden* villager (camper) who lost her life on 9/11 in one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The Nelsons intended to create a place that captured Ann's dream to learn languages and experience the world. The *Syv Søstre* garden park offers *Skogfjorden* villagers and staff a place for gathering, for finding purpose and direction, and for experiencing the wind in their sails to carry their dreams forward.

There is a Norwegian saga about the eight daughters of the mountain king *Sulitjelma*. They, like Ann, were eager to explore the world. *Lekamøye*, the eldest, was charged by their father to lead and protect them on their journey. They came down from the mountains to the salty sea that *Lekamøye* couldn't resist throwing herself into for a swim. *Hestmannen*, the son of the mighty *Vågakallen* from the Lofoten islands, spied *Lekamøye* in the fjord and was immediately enchanted. Eager to win her over, he mounted his horse and rode off to woo her. But *Lekamøye* was not to be had and fled, eventually having to leave her sisters by the sea as she sped on. But before the sisters could explore more or *Hestmannen* win *Lekamøye*'s heart, a drama ensued and they all turned to stone.

Today, the *Syv søstre* (Seven Sisters) stand tall, linked together, jutting into the ocean from Norway's coast. People travel from all over the world to walk the *Syv søstre*'s deep valleys and climb their tall peaks, all to discover the treasures of Norway's natural wonders of land, sea and vast vistas beyond. The *Syv søstre* offer exquisite stages for wonder and delight and stand as a magnificent landmark for seafaring travelers on journeys to places beyond.

This Norwegian legend has been the inspiration for the creation of the *Syv Søstre lommepark* at *Skogfjorden*. The small park's seven circles—one for each sister—offer their own small places for wonder and delight, places for looking inwards and looking out, for looking downwards and looking up.

A copper *vegviser*, a Viking compass used for finding one's way, is inlaid in the stone floor of the circle at *Syv Søstre*'s west entrance. On the east side, from the cobbled stone floor, shine the stars of *Lille bjørn* -- the little dipper and homing North Star. Between them, there is a circle for gathering and looking inwards, and another circle with a tree to provide shade for looking out. The park's three middle circles are linked to form a ship with a raised bough and swirling tail, reminding villagers and staff to take what they discover about themselves and the world with them on their life journey. In the middle of this ship, where a mast might be, is the home for the future sculpture that will be placed to draw one's eyes up, out and far, far beyond.

BUDGET

A selection panel will commission three short-listed artists to submit a concept design proposal for the sculpture responsive to the scope of the project listed in the Call to Artists. A stipend of \$300 will be paid for the concept design and any research or travel associated with the concept design.

The project budget for the *Syv Søstre* garden park sculpture project is \$13,500. The project budget must cover all costs associated with the completion of the approved artwork, including but not limited to the artist's fee, travel and mileage, required insurance, materials, fabrication, installation, any graphic design and miscellaneous supplies.

Eligibility requirements

All professional artists who can demonstrate the successful completion of a private or public project of similar size and scope are eligible to apply. Employees of Concordia College and Concordia Language Villages are ineligible. Undergraduate students will not be considered eligible.

Additional qualifications include:

- Demonstrated ability to work with a design team to meet the goals for the project;
- Ability to attend scheduled design team meetings in Bemidji or by phone; and
- Ability to design, fabricate and install a project at the selected location within the budget granted by the installation deadline of June 1, 2018.

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

Ross Dybvig
Assistant to the Group Director
rmdybvig@cord.edu
Subject: Garden Park Sculpture

SUBMISSION MATERIALS:

- Professional résumé highlighting relevant previous experience.
- Three to five images (JPEG up to 3MB) of previous private and/or public art projects of commensurate scope.
- Image list identifying title, date, location, materials, size, budget and commissioning entity.
- Letter of interest outlining qualifications, interest, and ability to complete the project.
- Names and contact information of three references.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 1, 2017

SELECTION PROCESS

A committee comprised of Concordia Language Villages leadership staff and art professionals will review qualified submissions the week of May 8, 2017 with a decision for launching the design phase by May 15, 2017.

Schedule

A group of three artists will be short-listed and will be requested to provide a site-specific concept design for the *Syv Søstre* garden park sculpture. A design prospect booklet will be provided, and opportunity to see the site can be arranged by appointment.

Each artist selected will receive a stipend of \$300 to cover the costs of producing a 2D rendering or maquette by July 3, 2017. Stipend must cover all costs of the production of the site-specific rendering, research, travel and materials.

Review of site-specific concept proposals by the Selection Committee will take place July 5–26, 2017.

Terms and Conditions

Application for any project advertised by Concordia Language Villages constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined in this prospectus as well as recognition of ordinances and policies of Concordia College. Concordia Language Villages reserves the right to reject all submissions and to terminate the selection process without prior notice. Submission materials become the property of Concordia Language Villages. For more information about Concordia Language Villages and the Norwegian Language Village, please visit www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org

Questions may be addressed to:

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Concordia Language Villages
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