



**CALL TO ARTISTS**  
**Village of Oak Creek, AZ**  
**Accepting Proposals for 3-Dimensional Public Art**  
**Art-in-the Roundabouts Committee**  
September, 2023

**Mission Statement:** To display the story of our community with inspiring public art.

**How:** The Art in the Roundabout (AiR) Committee will develop a process and structure to facilitate the selection and installation of works of art to be placed on the four roundabouts located in our community on State Route 179, and ensure they are properly maintained.

**Background**

The Big Park region, which includes the Village of Oak Creek, is part of the greater Sedona region. Sedona is often cited as one of the most beautiful towns in the US (#3 cited in recent article in Architectural Digest).

The Red Rock Scenic Byway gracefully meanders through the Village, then winds past famous rock structures, terminating in the uptown business district of Sedona. The landscape along that route is breathtaking, with towering red rock features to either side, that have been inspiring an unforgettable sense of awe since man first arrived.

The Greater Sedona area attracts more than 3 million visitors/year for the experience of outdoor recreation (hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, golf), sightseeing – including appreciation of cultural artifacts of Native American peoples, and world class resorts/spas and art galleries.

It is also home to many families and retirees, attracted by the availability of year-round outdoor recreation, Dark-Sky tranquility, abundant wildlife, proximity to a major university in Flagstaff to the north, the metropolis of Phoenix to the south, and a thriving tourist economy.

Through the center of the Village of Oak Creek stretches a 2.6-mile section of the magnificent Red Rock Scenic Byway. The road serves as the

**Big Park-Village of Oak Creek  
Vision Statement**

Our community honors and protects its quiet, small-town feel and southwestern heritage.

We value and support low-density, low-rise, walkable development design to preserve our exceptional Red Rock views, open spaces, and cherished International Dark-Sky designation.

Priorities include the health, welfare, education and safety of residents, reliable broadband and infrastructure and access to abundant educational, recreational and cultural opportunities.

As part of our economy, we support sustainable tourism practices that enrich the quality of life for residents and future generations.

*Approved by Big Park Council  
March 2023*

welcoming gateway to Sedona's famed Red Rock Country and as our community's charming Main Street.

The Byway (SR-179) was designed by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) with roundabouts, rather than traffic signals, to provide aesthetic and safety benefits. Each roundabout was constructed with an 8-ft diameter concrete pad intended for the installation of art. Four of these roundabouts run through the Village.

### **Locations of Proposed Artworks**

For the purpose of this project, the roundabouts are identified by their intersection with SR179, and proceeding from south to north, as follows:

Location 1: SR179/Ridge Trail/Las Posadas (the southernmost)

Location 2: SR179/Jacks Canyon/Verde Valley School Road

Location 3: SR179/Cortez Road

Location 4: SR179/Bell Rock Boulevard (northernmost)

### **Project Sponsor**

The Big Park Regional Coordinating Council (Big Park Council and/or BPRCC) provides the Big Park region, including the Village of Oak Creek, with a structured, representational organization to serve the community's interests. On May 12, 2022, the Big Park Council created an Art in the Roundabouts (AiR) standing committee to explore and complete the design for the beautification and edification of our community. This Art in the Roundabouts Committee maintains an informative website at <https://www.ourvillageart.org>

### **Project Process**

The process plan for the AiR project will meet two essential goals. First, ensure strong community participation – with the selected artworks reflecting the unique character and heritage of our Village. And secondly, the plan will ensure that the artworks visually and thematically complement the surrounding landscape, which is our community's trademark.

Community participation will be invited at various intervals through surveys and potentially public displays to achieve the broadest acceptance possible. Residents will have the opportunity to express preferences, including artistic themes and characteristics consistent with “displaying the story of our community”.

### **Proposed Themes**

The Committee's mission is to display the history of our Village in the roundabout artworks. Through the process of a recent community survey, the community has endorsed the following themes:

- a. Our Native American heritage
- b. Our abundant wildlife
- c. Our western heritage
- d. Our cattle-ranching history
- e. Our manifold outdoor recreational opportunities, such as hiking, biking, birding and golfing

While the Committee has identified the above-mentioned themes, it will also consider other themes consistent with our mission to represent the history of our community.

## **Materials and Requirements of the Work**

The Committee has set forth the following criteria:

- a. All proposed art must be unique and original.
- b. All art must respect the Village commitment to stewardship of our incomparable red rock scenery
- c. Proposed art must exhibit or reflect the desired themes
- d. Proposed art must incorporate thematic depth, to uplift and provoke thought
- e. Proposed art must be appreciable over a range of viewing distances
- f. Proposed art must be viewable from all sides (no “back”)
- g. Proposed art must not encourage pedestrian access to the roundabout, for safety reasons
- h. Proposed art must improve and not detract from the safety of the site
- i. Proposed art must be of high quality in fabrication and finish
- j. The artwork must be durable, requiring minimal maintenance, and fabricated of materials with a proven track record of viability in public artworks
- k. We believe that the artwork should employ weathering steel sheet metal, as opposed to any foundry cast product, for affordability
- l. The artwork must be contained within the rock walls in the roundabouts, placed on the 8’ diameter of the concrete pad provided by the Arizona Department of Transportation
- m. Height may not exceed 20 feet. However, it is the Committee’s desire to avoid any interference with travelers’ sight lines of our red rock scenery, which might suggest a lesser height.
- n. Artwork must be appreciable from each of the four traffic directions at each roundabout.
- o. Artwork should be constructed in a manner to discourage theft and/or vandalism.
- p. Artwork requiring supply of water or electricity will not be considered.

## **Agency Approvals**

Both the Arizona Department of Transportation and Yavapai County will require their agency review for safety before the selected art is installed.

## **Eligibility**

There are no minimum eligibility requirements.

## **Application and Selection Process**

- a. Artist and /or Artist Team Contact: Provide complete and accurate contact information
- b. Proposal:
  - Artist’s resume not to exceed two pages
  - Include 2-5 digital conceptual images for each piece of art being proposed
  - Include your project statement describing your approach, the project intention, art dimensions, time required to execute and install, and proposed materials
  - Provide an estimated budget, display and installation requirements for each piece of art
  - If the artist wishes to submit more than one proposal, a full application is required for each art proposal
- c. The artist is requested (but this is not required) to designate the location for each proposed artwork, and the artist’s rationale therefore (see Project Locations on Page 2)
- d. References regarding Past Work: Provide relevant references for each reference work
  - Main contact: Name, organization, email and phone number
  - Project Location
  - Scope and Description of Project (include digital images)

---Cost of art and its installation

---Project timeline

- e. All materials to be submitted on a thumb drive; images in JPEG format, 1920 pixels on longest side and 300 dpi.

### **Timeline**

The Committee has established the following timeline:

- 9/1/2023 Issue Call to Artists
- 11/30/2023 Artists' Submittal deadline
- 12/15/2023 AiR Committee to acknowledge receipt of artist submittals
- 1/31/2024 Report to Council on committee's evaluation and recommendations
- 2/15-2/28/2024 Community charettes to display submitted artworks and receive community feedback as input to final selections
- 3/1-3/31/2024 Further interaction with artists to refine their offers
- 4/15/2024 Report to Council on final selection(s) and recommendations

If invited to the charette(s), artists shall provide at least one 24" x 36" poster board of his/her proposed art.

### **Project Budget**

The Village of Oak Creek is an unincorporated community in Yavapai County with a population of about 6,000. As such, it has no municipal funding source. Project funding is expected to originate with community benefactors who have expressed interest in underwriting the Committee's selected art. The Committee believes that funding is available for the first artwork, based on conversations with a prospective donor. Additionally, the Committee will be seeking grants from agencies such as the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Arizona Community Foundation.

### **Village of Oak Creek Art in the Roundabouts Agreement**

Once selected, each artist will be required to execute a copy of the Agreement between the BPRCC and the artist. This Agreement is currently in preparation and will be available later this Fall.

### **Artist Copyright**

The Committee suggests that each artist choosing to submit a proposal should consider trademarking his/her artwork prior to submittal of the proposal.

### **Artist Submittals**

Submittals shall be mailed **to arrive no later than 11/30/2023** to:

*Big Park Council  
Art in the Roundabouts Committee  
PO Box 21021  
Sedona, AZ 86341*

### **Closing Comments**

Neither the Committee nor the BPRCC shall be responsible for any expense for the artist's preparation of his/her proposal. Neither the Committee nor BPRCC is obligated to select any art whatsoever. Any pre-submittal questions may be submitted the Art in the Roundabouts website: [ourvillageart.org](http://ourvillageart.org).

For more information, including background on the project and images of the roundabout locations: [OurVillageArt.com](http://OurVillageArt.com)