

Call for Proposals

Design, Fabrication and Installation of Embellishments to a Waterfront Industrial Artifact:

THE ACID BALL



DATE OF ISSUANCE	August 8, 2016
OPTIONAL SITE VISIT	August 23, 2016
PROPOSALS DUE	October 3, 2016
FINALIST SELECTED	October 14, 2016
ARTS COMMISSION REVIEW	November 1, 2016
INSTALLATION	June 2017

I. Project Overview

The City of Bellingham is working in cooperation with the Port of Bellingham to clean up the [Waterfront District](#) and prepare it for redevelopment. The property is the site of a historic pulp and tissue mill, which operated there from 1926-2007.

The first public waterfront projects are now being designed. Whatcom Waterway Park will be accessed by the Central Avenue Pier (for bicycles and pedestrians) and the new Granary/Laurel Street. This area has been identified as an important gateway to the Waterfront District, and is being constructed in coordination with the restoration of the adjacent Granary Building, which will host new retail, restaurant and/or office uses. These projects are anticipated to be completed by the fall of 2017.

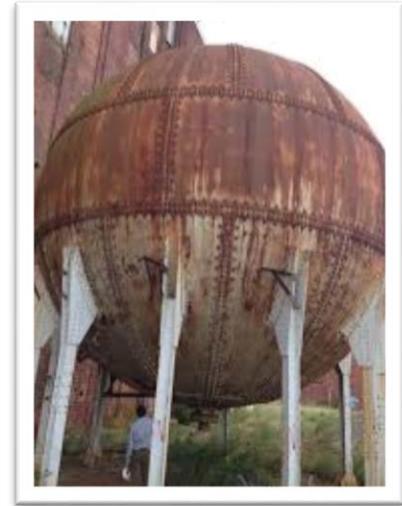


Pulp Mill Operations, circa 1945



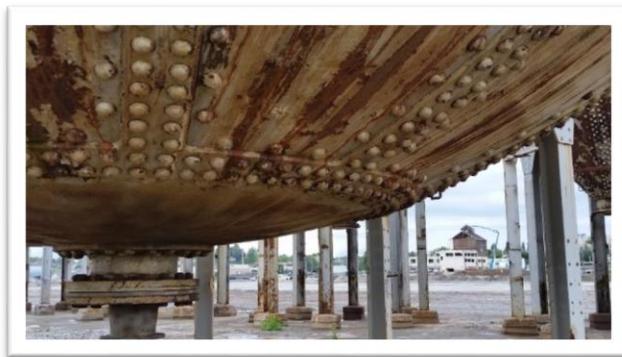
Conceptual drawing of Whatcom Waterway Park

Throughout the waterfront planning process, community members and other stakeholders have expressed an interest in retaining relevant or representative structures and artifacts to authentically represent the industrial character of the site and help tell the story of the historic pulp and tissue mills which operated there. One of these artifacts is known as the "acid ball" (ca 1938). This approximately 30-foot diameter globe was used as a relief system to draw liquid and gas from adjacent digester tanks to maintain a constant pressure while wood chips were being cooked in acid at high temperatures and pressures.



The acid ball

The City's One Percent for the Arts program dedicates one percent of large capital project budgets for the incorporation of artwork. The inclusion of artwork in public places reinforces the City's status as a regional arts destination, increases quality of life and attracts tourism and visitors to the area.



Detail of acid ball with Granary under construction.

Approximately \$130,000 from the Whatcom Waterway Park and Granary/Laurel Street projects has been allocated for an artwork project that will utilize the acid ball artifact. The City of Bellingham Arts Commission seeks creative individuals to design, fabricate and install artistic embellishments to this piece that will result in a highly-visible and interactive attraction for the Waterfront District, and create a symbol of the transition between the historic and new uses of the site.

II. Optional Site Visit

Staff recognizes the value of inspecting and viewing the acid ball in person prior to submitting a proposal, and is offering an optional site tour to interested applicants. During this time, Port and City staff will be available to guide participants through the site and answer questions about the project.

MEETING LOCATION: Granary Building - 1208 Central Avenue (accessible via Roeder Avenue)

DATE/TIME: August 23, 2016, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

As this is an active construction site, please wear appropriate footwear (e.g. close-toed shoes). Contact staff if additional accommodations are needed to access the site. Alternative site tour times may be scheduled upon request, but are subject to the availability of staff and the site.

III. Desired Proposal

The successful proposal will reflect the following goals:

- Utilize the existing shape and details of the acid ball artifact
- Draw people into the site and to explore and approach the artifact
- Utilize materials or technology creatively and appropriately
- Implement the project within the intended timeline and available budget
- Add elements that are durable, low-maintenance, vandal and weather-resistant (including strong winds and other outdoor impacts)

Embellishments may include, but not be limited to, all or some of these features:

- Altered exterior texture and/or color
- Decorative lighting
- Water features
- Interesting pathways, foundation design, or other hardscape
- Signage
- Other interactive or educational elements

Proposals should be a one-of-a-kind and have a dynamic visual impact from up close as well as from a distance, as the acid ball will be relocated to a location that is highly visible from Bellingham Bay, downtown, and other uplands surrounding the Waterfront District.

IV. Budget

Up to \$130,000 is available for design, fabrication and installation of the proposed embellishments.

The budget may include the cost of design, engineering, consultant work, fabrication, mounting, installation, finishes, materials, lighting, signage, insurance, travel (to and from site and per diem expenses), delivery, permitting and taxes. Payment is made based on reimbursement of purchases and work performed. (The City shall not reimburse for costs incurred prior to contract recording, including any costs incurred preparing a proposal.)

The City will pay the additional costs to clean the artifact (including lead abatement), if necessary, and to relocate the acid ball to a foundation in Whatcom Waterway Park. City staff will work with the Bellingham Arts Commission and the selected artist/team to acquire the necessary approvals and permits.

The City pays prevailing wages for public work. Wage rates are available from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/PrevWage/WageRates/default.asp>

V. Submittal Guidelines

This Call for Proposals is open to all creative professionals qualified to produce public art. The City of Bellingham promotes equal opportunity, and shall not discriminate against any person based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, nationality, or disability.

Submittals must include:

1. A narrative describing the proposal, including the project approach, materials and milestones/timeline for completion. The narrative should describe the activities necessary to accomplish the work, including:
 - Reconnaissance and data collection
 - Project management and coordination with team (if applicable) and City staff
 - Milestones and steps to complete the project
 - Delivery of concept phase plans, elevations, renderings, etc
 - Final as-built drawings and maintenance plan
2. Sketches, photos, and/or other materials illustrating the proposal
3. Project budget, reflecting the information described in Section IV.
4. Resumes and description of the role(s) of the individual or team undertaking the project, including identification of the project lead and their contact information
5. Portfolio of up to 20 images of showing examples of previous work
6. References (from public art projects preferred)

Submittals must be submitted no later than 5:00 PM on October 3, 2016 to:

Darby Cowles
Planning and Community Development Department
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
dkcowles@cob.org

The preference is for electronic submittal in pdf format. Alternative formats, including hard copies or proposals on CD or flash drive, may be accepted provided they are received before the submittal deadline.

SUBMITTALS RECEIVED AFTER THE SPECIFIED TIME WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

VI. Selection Process & Criteria

A jury of 4-6 stakeholders and professionals appointed by the City of Bellingham will review all submittals. Based on this review, one individual or team will be selected to present their concept to the Bellingham Arts Commission. The City will make a final selection following this presentation and a recommendation from the Bellingham Arts Commission. Until a contract is recorded, the City of Bellingham reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

