

Call-for-Artists

Due: March 25, 2022

Individual Slide Memorials

Artist Opportunity: The Snohomish County Arts Commission is requesting artistic concepts for individual memorials planned for installation at the SR 530 (“Oso”) Slide Memorial. This request is limited to artists within the state of Washington.

Background: On March 22, 2014, at 10:37 am, forty-three lives and an entire riverfront community was lost as mud and debris rushed from the adjacent mountainside and deposited in the nearby valley. Leaving deposits up to seventy feet thick, the event destroyed forty-nine homes and took the lives of sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, siblings, grandparents, and friends. Termed the “Oso” slide, this disaster has been identified as one of the single deadliest landslides in United States history. The emotional toll of this event has been enormous, not only for those who lost loved ones, but also for those who stepped up to assist with rescue and recovery efforts and those who heard about the tragedy and were touched. Eight years later, the scar is still deep, and individuals are working to deal with the loss. Snohomish County has been working with the families of those lost in this tragedy to plan a memorial to honor the individuals and community lost, the survivors, the response effort and to provide information about the event.

A vision has been created for the memorial site, which includes an area where memorials to individual victims will be located. These memorials will provide places for families to come and remember their loved ones and leave personal items. It is important to the family members that their loved ones be remembered as loved individuals and that the memorial area is not reminiscent of a graveyard. It is the desire of the family members that lost family groups be honored together in a single memorial panel.

A preliminary concept for the individual memorials has been designed, which is envisioned to be created out of curved corten steel to represent the “embrace” of the community (see below). The concept includes cutouts to represent the missing individual(s) and to also allow for light and shadow to be created by the panels. There is the intent to personalize each of the panels with quotes, pictures, names and/or other artistic elements, as well as plantings around the memorial panels.

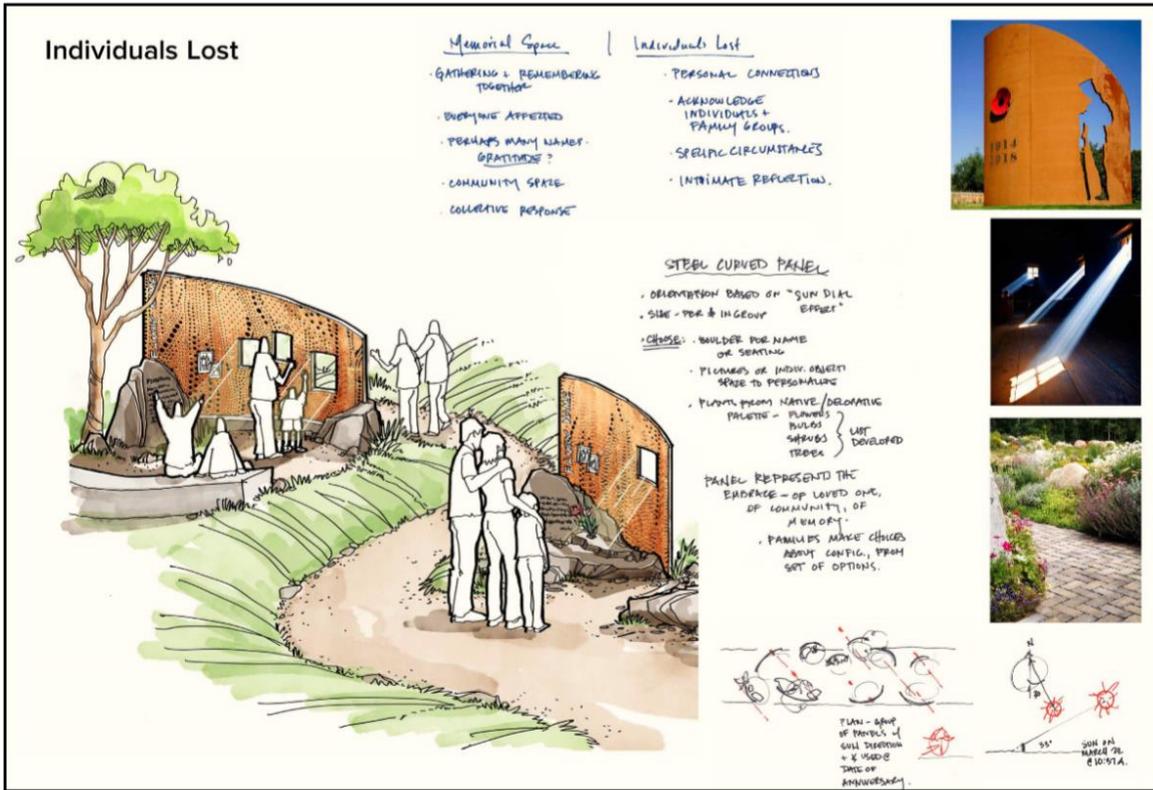


Figure 1. Memorial panel concept

There is concern that the preliminary concept does not reflect the family members' wishes that the individual memorial area not be graveyard-like or sad. The desire is that this area celebrate the individuality and happy memories of those that were lost. Further, there is interest in incorporating representation of butterflies within the panels to be reflective of the use of butterfly outlines in the two gateways to the Slide Memorial.



Figure 2. Engraved rocks in gateways

To this end, this call for concepts is released to refine and expand the preliminary concept, to honor the intent of the area being a positive space. The submitted concepts should continue the plan for use of curved corten steel panels but shift the effect of the collective experience of the panels to the desired effect.

In total, twenty-six panels will ultimately be created, which will be placed to reflect single victims lost as well as family groupings, of up to six individuals. The panels will be personalized to represent the victims, but a general style should be consistent throughout the space.

Additional Information: Additional information about the memorial can be found on the project website: slidememorial.com and on the County's project website: <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/3965/SR-530-Mudslide-Memorial>.

Scope of Work: Concept submittals will be reviewed and up to three preferred concepts will be selected for review and feedback by the families of the victims. Based upon family feedback, it is anticipated that a single artist will be selected who will develop a general concept and options for personalization of the individual panels.

After selection, the artist may interface directly with family members as personalized panels are designed, or the package of options developed by the artist may be coordinated with families by others. It is expected that the package for personalization would include a template with options for quotes, pictures, graphic features etc. and would allow families to design a personalized panel, which also fits into a cohesive display of the twenty-six panels together.

Structural engineering of the concrete base that the panels will sit on will be completed by others and the selected artist will need to coordinate on panel characteristics, connection, and installation.

Media: Media selected should fit into the larger memorial concept (see attached layout) and must be durable, vandal resistant and shall pose no safety threats. Preferred media is corten steel although other materials, or mix of materials, will be considered.

Selection Process: The Snohomish County Arts Commission is seeking concepts from metal artists for this call. Selection of up to three concepts will be made and shared for review by family representatives. These three concepts will be selected by a review committee and will be based on the following criteria:

Interpretation of how the memorials will reflect the individuals lost

How the interpretation is celebratory of the uniqueness of each of the victims

Compatibility of the memorial concept with the larger memorial

Ability and sensitivity of the artist to work with family representatives in helping to create individual memorials

Artistic quality of the proposed concept

Durability, vandal resistance and safety of proposed artwork

Qualifications and experience of artist on past projects that indicate an ability to complete the construction of the final design

Good planning and communication skills and a desire and ability to work with others

The selected concepts will be shared with the family representatives and feedback from this group will be used to identify the final preferred concept to be integrated into the memorial. The selected artist will work with a representative family committee to refine the design prior to working with families on individual panel design.

The Snohomish County Arts Commission reserves the right not to select any of the applicants.

Anticipated Timeline

Call sent: February 18, 2022

Deadline for entries: March 25, 2022

Preliminary review (narrow down to three options): March 28, 2022

Stakeholder review: May 15, 2022

Finalist notified: May 16, 2022

Materials to Submit

Current resume and up to ten images of relevant past work

A written statement, not to exceed one 8.5" x 11" typewritten page, which addresses the artist's qualifications for and interest in this project as well as their ability to work with family members in helping to identify appropriate content for each piece.

A conceptual sketch of a generic memorial panel, which includes relevant details, and explanation, in order to understand how the concept would be created, how it would look in aggregate with other panels and how the panels would be personalized. Sketches from multiple perspectives is preferred.

A written explanation of the concept which includes details on selected materials, panel size and other design details.

Self-addressed stamped envelope of sufficient size and postage to return any submitted materials, if requested.

Every effort will be made to ensure the safe handling of submitted materials. However, Snohomish County and the Snohomish County Arts Commission will not be responsible for any loss or damage.

Email entries to:

www.SnoCoArts.org/jobs

Annique.Bennett@snoco.org Phone 425-740-4309,

Mail or deliver entries to:

Snohomish County Arts Commission
Attn: Annique Bennett
14405 179th Ave SE
Monroe, WA 98272



Figure 3. Memorial layout