

Request for Proposal – Poets to Create Commemoration

RXR Development Services

Solicited by:

Carol S. Ward

Outside the Lines Consulting

www.outsidethelinesconsult.com



RFP Issue Date: January 18, 2023
RFP Reissue Date: March 10, 2023

Project Start Date: May 1, 2023

Contact: Carol S. Ward, Principal, outsidethelinesgallery@gmail.com

Call for Poets – Submit a Proposal to Create Poem on the History of the Enslaved in New Rochelle, NY - Deadline April 14, 2023

Project Overview

RXR Development Services, in conjunction with Outside the Lines Consulting, invites poets in the tri-state region to submit proposals for the creation of a poem to honor the Enslaved population of New Rochelle, New York. (**See ‘How to Apply and What to Include in the Submission’ for proposal requirements**). Historic investigation reveals that the Enslaved lived and labored in and around the downtown area near RXR’s newly-constructed development One Clinton Park.

RXR is committed to recognizing the history of Enslaved people in New Rochelle, whose stories have not been sufficiently told. The goal for the project and the selected poet is to create of the poem is to ensure that current and future generations remember and recognize the lives of Enslaved inhabitants of New Rochelle and the role they played in the city’s long history.

The honorarium to the poet for the selected poem is \$750. The poet would have full ownership of the copyright to the work (poem).

Historical Context

The history of New Rochelle begins with the arrival of the French-speaking Huguenots in 1688, who fled their home in Europe because of religious persecution. When the Huguenots settled in New Rochelle they brought with them, from the Caribbean, Enslaved workers. Ten years after their arrival, in 1698, records indicate that the population of New Rochelle was 231 of which 43 were “Negroes.” These Africans were the foundational builders of New Rochelle.

City Historian Barbara Davis’ research indicates that the former location of the French-speaking Baptist Church of New Rochelle (site of a Firehouse torn down in the 1900s, where human remains were found) at 12 Church Street was the location of an African Burial Ground. Records from historian George T. Davis, in the 1880s, place the burial ground near the intersection of Bank (now, Division Street) and Prospect Streets. And additional research from 1940 add to Mr. Davis’s research and has the entry for the African Burial Ground at the site of the former Firehouse, across from One Clinton Park. These documents will be made available to any applicant for review and research purposes as they prepare their submissions.

Project Deliverables

RXR and Outside the Lines are asking for proposals for the creation of a poem to which can showcase the historical context and human stories of the Enslaved populations of New Rochelle.

The awarded poet will receive support from RXR and community stakeholders who will provide resources to contextualize the history of the Enslaved in New Rochelle in order to produce the commemorative poem that will be used in the creation of a permanent art piece near One Clinton Park.

How to Apply and What to Include in the Submission

Applicants must include the following in this order and conform to the format detailed below:

- Poetry samples or examples from past projects of a comparable size and scope.
- Summary/CV of your background, resources, and relevant experience.
- Personal Statement as to why you are submitting your work and why you feel like this is an important project for you as an artist and New Rochelle.
- Three references from past clients of projects of a similar size and scope, if available, or professional references that are relevant to this work.
- Supporting materials of your choosing (e.g., audience studies, synthesized feedback, graphics to communicate a theme, etc.) may be included. Please include no more than five supporting materials.

Proposal Format

- Proposals must be submitted as a single 8.5"x11" document, 12pt type, in English.
- Proposals must be sent electronically to outsidethelinesgallery@gmail.com in PDF.
- Proposals must be received by April 14, 2023, 11:59pm

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be judged primarily on the poet who best encapsulates the goals of the poem. The selection committee consists of representatives from the City of New Rochelle, New Rochelle Council of the Arts, New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority, and representatives of other community organizations.

Questions

Questions about the project, RFP, or proposal submission requirements must be emailed no later than March 20, 2023 to outsidethelinesgallery@gmail.com. No phone calls please.