

Request for Responses

Preservation Services for the  
Kingston Historic Bluestone Survey  
Project

KINGSTON, NY



Request Release Date: Thursday April 4, 2013

Responses Due: Friday April 27, 2013 at 5pm

It is recommended that responses be submitted in advance, at least one day prior to the specified deadline date and time to allow for a timely receipt. LATE RESPONSES will NOT be considered.

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Mayor of the City of Kingston  
Comptroller  
Office of Economic Development  
Planning Department

**Purpose of this Request for Responses:**

The City of Kingston (hereinafter referred to as the City) would like to engage the services of a qualified preservation specialist to coordinate and support the Kingston Historic Bluestone Project from May 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013.

**Background**

The objective of the Kingston Historic Bluestone Survey Project is to establish the condition of bluestone sidewalks in the City of Kingston, and take critical steps toward preserving historic infrastructure and building capacity for not only a safe walkable community, but livable and attractive city that highlights the bluestone industry.

Certified Local Government (CLG) funding has been awarded to the City of Kingston to be used to organize and oversee a geocoded survey of sidewalks in the designated Historic Districts and in the Heritage Area corridors along Broadway and Wilbur Avenue, as well as other areas in the City as practical. The project will also inventory city-owned bluestone currently held in a secure storage lot; identify priority projects for bluestone planning, care, and restoration; and provide survey training for participants, including all Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) members, city personnel involved with bluestone maintenance, members of peer organizations and the larger community.

Development of survey methodology and training protocols will provide a context for the HLPC to assess and organize additional survey and training needs. Media to recruit participants and publicize the purpose and progress of the survey, as well as reaching people directly through partner organizations will broaden public education about historic preservation and help to move the community toward better understanding of the value of historic preservation to the City's economy and quality of life.

As part of the Bluestone Survey Project, the HLPC will help formalize planning and support for the Rondout area's annual Bluestone Festival and establish it as an annual event to facilitate community education on preservation issues.

The HLPC, Kingston Planning Department, and other community organizations that have taken up important preservation issues in the City, including the Friends of Historic Kingston (FOHK), the Kingston Land Trust (KLT), the Cornell/Robert Wood Johnson-funded Healthy Kingston for Kids project, and Friends of Forsyth Park will work with a qualified preservation specialist to design, organize and oversee the bluestone survey training and survey. As part of the survey development process, the specialist will also work with the HLPC to outline a comprehensive, long-range approach to updating existing historic surveys and developing new reconnaissance-level surveys to round out and fill in gaps in existing inventories and understanding of the City's heritage resources.

Friends of Historic Kingston, the city's nearly half-century old preservation organization, will partner with the HLPC to ensure that community learning resulting from the Bluestone Survey is incorporated into a city-wide preservation plan and a more extensive public education agenda for preservation. A volunteer consultant will assist with communications, public education and advocacy. Through the community partnerships and steps outlined, the HLPC proposes to leverage the CLG grant process to make a substantive step forward toward retrofitting effective 21st-century preservation infrastructure, practices and values into municipal governance and community life.

## **Job Responsibilities**

A Preservation Specialist will be engaged to provide contracted services to work with the City of Kingston Planning Department and Office of Economic Development & Strategic Partnerships Directors, HLPC members and other project volunteers to:

- 1) Design, coordinate, implement and administrate a geocoded survey of sidewalks in the selected areas, and methodology to inventory bluestone materials currently held for municipal use.
- 2) Develop survey methodology and training protocols.
- 3) Recruit and train project volunteers.
- 4) Cultivate media, outreach, partner organizations and other like-minded citizen groups to recruit participants, conduct the survey, and build understanding about the economic value of the City's heritage resources.
- 5) Outline a comprehensive, long-range approach to updating existing historic surveys and developing new reconnaissance-level surveys to round out and fill in gaps in existing inventories.
- 6) Prepare reports on project progress as assigned.

Duties include:

- 1) Develop and deliver a sidewalk survey training as well as a model training format and a list of recommended additional preservation trainings;
- 2) Develop an inventory of existing bluestone in Historic Districts and Heritage Areas, including assessment of existing conditions and care of Kingston's bluestone resources;
- 3) Develop an inventory of banked bluestone, consolidation of stockpiled assets, and the identification of suitable bluestone sources to replace missing material;
- 4) Develop a sidewalk improvement plan to assist the City with prioritizing bluestone restoration within future sidewalk infrastructure investments;
- 5) Identify specific restoration projects with preliminary cost estimates; and
- 6) Support a program of public education to improve stewardship of and advocacy for Kingston's bluestone and other heritage resources.

## **Qualifications**

- 1) Masters degree in historic preservation, architecture, engineering, conservation or a related field and at least one year of experience; Bachelors degree and a minimum of 4 years of job-related experience; or 6 years of job-related experience under the supervision of a preservation professional.
- 2) Knowledge of historic resource survey techniques and research methods; Familiarity with historic preservation regulations, processes, and procedures; Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- 3) Other qualifications: Computer skills including proficiency with relevant software programs such as Microsoft Office and Adobe Photoshop; Training or certifications in green architectural practices as well as Geographic Information System (GIS) preferred; Experience with architectural photography in digital format; Ability to establish and maintain positive working relationships with Boards, the business community, consultants,

developers, governmental agencies, and the general public; Ability to work independently and complete projects.

- 4) Experience in rehabilitation of historic buildings, in community development, urban planning, or historic preservation field.

### **Funding Available**

The award term shall be for approximately five months commencing on **May 1, 2013** and expiring on **September 30, 2013**. A longer award term shall not be considered.

Work must be completed including deliverables by September 30, 2013. The maximum funds available are \$10,000. The Preservation Specialist shall be contracted for 500 total hours @ \$20/hour. A flexible schedule can be designed that meets the project requirements and schedules of project leaders, volunteers and other participants.

### **How To Apply**

Please submit a cover letter, resume or CV, and three references. The cover letter should summarize qualifications and experience, highlight relevant skills, and confirm availability for the project.

### **Contact Person**

The Contact person for this project is Gregg Swanzey, Director of the Office of Economic Development & Strategic Partnerships. All questions and/or inquiries should be directed to him. He may be reached at [gswanzey@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:gswanzey@kingston-ny.gov) or 845-334-3962.

### **Response Due Date**

All responses must be delivered to the City of Kingston, by email, by hand delivery, or by postal service, by **Friday April 27, 2013 at 5:00 pm** after which they will be reviewed by a selection committee. No proposals shall be accepted or considered after that time. It is the responsibility of each respondent to ensure that their response arrives on time.

Submissions shall be addressed to:

Mr. Gregg Swanzey, Director

City of Kingston Office of Economic Development & Strategic Partnerships

City Hall

420 Broadway

Kingston, NY 12401

Matters relating to qualification to meet the City's needs shall receive the highest priority in evaluation.

The City will not consider any response that does not comply with the How to Apply section of this Request for Responses. Responses that do not meet these requirements will be deemed as **non-responsive** and will not be evaluated.

### **Other General Requirements and Conditions:**

The City of Kingston reserves the right to postpone or cancel this Request for Responses, or reject all responses, if in its judgment it deems it to be in the best interest of the City to do so.

All submission materials become the property of the City of Kingston.

The City of Kingston shall not be liable for any costs incurred by respondents in the preparation of responses or for any work performed in connection therein.

### **About the City of Kingston**

Kingston, N.Y. is a vibrant city that dates back to the arrival of the Dutch in 1652. Rich history, outstanding architecture, a thriving arts community and spectacular natural environment make Kingston a rewarding place to visit and to live.

The third settlement in the Dutch New Netherlands colony (after Manhattan and Fort Orange, later Albany), Kingston was a thriving farm community for more than 100 years before the British arrived. The city became the first capital of New York in 1777 and was burned by the British later that year following the Battle of Saratoga. Today, Kingston boasts some of the nation's best architecture from the colonial period, including the only intact intersection of 18th century stone houses remaining in the US.

In 1872, the Revolutionary War stockade district was merged with two villages dating to the Dutch - Wyltwyck and Rondout - to create one city.

In the 19th century, the city became an important transport hub after the discovery of natural cement in the region, and both railroad and canal connections facilitated the development of major steamboat building, coal, bluestone, brick and ice farming industries. These industries supported the development of an early arts community, including Hudson River School Painter Jervis McEntee, and afforded many businessmen the means to build homes and commercial blocks designed by top architects of the day such as Calvert Vaux.

In the early 20th century, Kingston's industries faltered as the railroad and highway provided new routes for coal and Portland cement replaced Rosendale cement and bluestone. Much of the Rondout section fell to the "urban renewal" wrecking ball. Speaking in Kingston in 1966, legendary conservationist Stuart Udall, then Secretary of the US Department of the Interior, noted the importance of what was lost in the Rondout: "the old phrase, '...no sadder words of tongue or pen are these: it might have been,' seems very apt. For had we heeded, Kingston's old 19<sup>th</sup> century Rondout section – one of the finest examples of a city of that period – could have been saved...."

Today, a number of museums and citizens' groups are working to tell the intertwined stories of America's art, architecture, river history, gilded age magnates and laboring class through the outstanding buildings, streetscapes and neighborhoods that remain to make Kingston a table-top museum of America's past.