



Project Title: Fort Myers Innovation Walk

Issuing Organization: Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and Edison Awards

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, May 2, 2024

Project Location: Historic Downtown Fort Myers, near the Caloosahatchee River

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Innovation Walk is an ambitious project aimed at transforming a meandering waterside park pathway in historic downtown Fort Myers into a WalkScape and educational experience celebrating human innovation. We are seeking proposals from talented innovators, designers, and artists to develop meaningful, durable, and engaging installations that provide the pedestrian viewers with experiences stimulating critical contemplation, curiosity and hope.

In celebration of human ingenuity and innovation, we seek to populate a mile-long park walkway with installations and experiences that intrigue and challenge, that push the limits of what we know, reveal the invisible, encourage community cohesion and open internal getaways of optimism and curiosity. Situated in the heart of historic downtown Fort Myers and following the verdant banks of the Caloosahatchee River, this project is more than a walkway; it is a journey into the territory of innovation, imagination, disruptive technologies, hope and inspiration.

The Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency, along with the Edison Awards, invites creative minds from across the globe – visionaries, innovators, artists, and futurists – to propose contributions to this canvas of urban transformation and placemaking. We seek proposals that embody the spirit of innovation, resonate with the history and culture of Fort Myers, and lay down a path of insight, inspiration, discovery and possibility for generations to come.

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- **Global Innovation:** Proposals should actively draw in and engage audiences while stimulating critical thinking and social insight. We encourage submissions that explore concepts, materials, and interactive experiences. Broad thinking blending local communities and histories with examples of human innovation that recognize and incorporate our collective presence on the planet today, yesterday, and tomorrow.
- **Resilience:** Given Fort Myers' hurricane-prone sun-drenched climate, designs must be robust and weather-resistant, capable of withstanding harsh conditions.
- **Walkability and Safety:** The final installations must maintain sidewalk functionality, ensuring safe and unobstructed passage for pedestrians.
- **Low Maintenance:** Designs should require minimal upkeep and address the practicalities of long-term maintenance and durability.

3. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:

- **Individual Profile:** CV and background information, including previous relevant work or projects.
- **Concept Description:** An outline of possible ideas for a proposed design, including conceptual themes, innovation aspects, and relevance to the local context.
- **Visual Representations:** Where possible, sketches, digital renderings, or models of possible designs or ideas.
- **Material and Construction Plan:** Some consideration of potential materials, construction methods and installation procedures emphasizing durability, safety, and maintenance regimes.
 - **N.B.** A partner in the Innovation Walk project is the [AddMan Group](#), specialists in metal and polymer 3D printing, precision CNC machining, and injection molding. Their facilities will be available for these commissions.
- **Budget Considerations:** Project budgets will range from \$75,000 to \$275,000 total, inclusive of commissioning fees, production, and installation costs.
- **Timeline Considerations:** Commissions will be awarded in May 2024 and the project must be designed, produced, and installed within eight months of the award. Full completion by January 2025.

4. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- Proposals will be evaluated based on intellectual impact, critical insight, imagination, regional historical and ecological awareness, and alignment with project objectives, feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and the artist's or designer's experience and qualifications.
- **Judging Panel:** Members from the Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency, the Edison Awards, and community representatives.
- **Criteria:** Human values, innovation, aesthetic impact, feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and engagement with the historic and cultural context of Fort Myers.

5. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Proposals must be submitted electronically to innovationwalk@cityftmyers.com by **May 2, 2024**.
- All submission documents should be in PDF format.
- Please include "Innovation Walk Proposal + Your Name/Team Name" in the subject line of your email.

6. PROJECT TIMELINE:

- **Proposal Submission Deadline:** May 2, 2024
- **Review and Selection Period:** May 3 - May 30, 2024
- **Notification of Selected Proposals:** May 31, 2024
- **Project Implementation:** June 7, 2024 to January 10, 2025

7. SITE SPECIFICATIONS:

- Walkway path running through Centennial Park from Caloosa SoundStage under the Cleveland Avenue bridge to Carson Street in Fort Myers Florida.

8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COMPENSATION:

- **IP Rights:** credited to the artists and creators.
- **Compensation:** artist fees to be a standard percentage of the selected project budget.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For any inquiries regarding this RFP, please us at innovationwalk@cityftmyers.com



About Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA):

The Fort Myers CRA is dedicated to the revitalization and enhancement of the Fort Myers River District and surrounding areas. With a focus on fostering economic growth, enhancing the quality of life, and preserving the unique character of the community, the CRA implements strategies and projects that promote sustainable development and cultural enrichment. The Innovation Walk is a testament to the CRA's commitment to innovative urban transformation and community engagement.

About the Edison Awards:

Renowned for recognizing and honoring the world's best innovations and innovators, the Edison Awards inspire imagination and ingenuity across the globe. Their partnership in the Innovation Walk project underscores a shared vision for celebrating creativity and technological advancements. The Edison Awards bring their expertise in highlighting groundbreaking ideas and a legacy of encouraging forward-thinking concepts to this collaborative effort.