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CALL FOR ARTISTS! 2025 TAMPA RIVERWALK LANTERN PARADE: COMMISSIONING MARCHING LANTERN FLOATS



February 1, 2025

Event Date: Saturday, May 3, 2025

Submission Deadline: 5:00 PM, February 28, 2025

Overview

The Friends of the Tampa Riverwalk, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is thrilled to announce the **4th Annual Tampa Riverwalk Lantern Parade** in partnership with the ever-popular Riverfest. This magical, light-filled evening will take place along the Tampa Riverwalk between Water Works Park and Curtis Hixon Park.

This year, we are commissioning **marching lantern floats**—large-scale, illuminated sculptures—to join over 500 community-crafted lanterns carried by participants of all ages. Through workshops and collaborations with Armature Works, neighboring businesses, and the Tampa Arts Alliance, we aim to create a stunning celebration of light, art, and community.

What We're Looking For

We are seeking **big, bright, fun, and mobile creations** that are 8–10 feet tall, less than 5 feet wide, lightweight, and easily carried. Designs should embody **creativity and fun** while reflecting themes of **water, aquatics, or Tampa's unique identity**.

Whether you are an individual artist or part of a community group, we encourage you to participate! Selected artists will play an active role in promoting the parade by sharing their design and creation process through photographs, videos, and potential media interviews. Your creation must be weather-resistant, durable enough to withstand potential rain and wind, and ready for the parade on May 3, 2025.

Compensation

Thanks to the generous support of [The Gobioff Foundation](#), three selected artists will receive:

- \$1,500 each for materials, transportation, and artist fees.
- Admission for two to the VIP Tent at Curtis Hixon Park during Riverfest.

Sponsors

We welcome business and corporate sponsorships to support this free, community-focused event. If you know of potential sponsors, please contact **MaryBeth Williams** at mwilliams@thetampariverwalk.com.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Creativity, originality, and alignment with the parade's themes.
- Feasibility and mobility of the design.
- Demonstrated ability to produce dynamic public art within limited resources.

Artists with experience in public art, puppetry, sculpture, and performance are strongly encouraged to apply. Proposals will be reviewed by a Selection Committee, and awards will be announced by **March 7, 2025**.

Timeline

- **February 1, 2025:** Submission window opens.
- **February 28, 2025:** Submission deadline at 5:00 PM. Late entries will not be accepted.
- **March 7, 2025:** Awards announced via email, Tampa Riverwalk social media, and website.
- **May 3, 2025:** Parade day! Artists line up at 8:15 PM at Water Works Park. The parade steps off at 8:30 PM for a 1-mile walk to Curtis Hixon Park.

Payment & Responsibilities

- 50% of the award will be paid upon approval of the proposal.
- The remaining 50% will be paid within 30 days of the event's completion.
- Artists are responsible for transporting their lanterns/floats to and from the parade.
- Friends of the Tampa Riverwalk are not responsible for lanterns/floats after the parade.

Application Requirements

Submit the following via email to info@thetampariverwalk.com by **5:00 PM on February 28, 2025**:

1. **Proposed Name** of your Marching Lantern/Float Sculpture/Puppet.
2. **Design Submission** (PDF or Microsoft Word): Full-color, to-scale design with dimensions.
3. **Brief Description** (500 words max): Describe your vision, including themes and potential collaborations with other artists or community groups.
4. **Work Samples:** 3–5 images (JPG, 300 dpi, max 3 MB each) or 1-minute video clips (MOV format) showcasing your previous public art or performance work.

Join us in creating an unforgettable night of art, light, and community along the Tampa Riverwalk!