Call for Artists: Pasig River Art for Urban Change Phase II

This is an invitation for local and international artists to respond to urban structures along the Pasig River in Metro Manila, Philippines.

This is a great opportunity for early and mid-career artists to show their works in a public space for a period of at least one year. The works will be on revetment walls along the river, which are visible to ferry commuters and riverbank inhabitants. The sites can be seen from roads and bridges connected to the river.

Pasig River Art for Urban Change is a platform for artistic creation and collaboration around urban regeneration. The initiative is spearheaded by the Metropolitan Manila
Development Authority (MMDA) with technical assistance from the British Council through a partnership to create more liveable and inclusive cities.

Pasig River is an estuary that runs through the city, and is historically an important transportation route and water source. Several cultural landmarks and historical events can be mapped along its banks, such as the walled city of old Manila (Intramuros) and the presidential palace (Malacañang). These days however it only carries a relatively small portion of ferry commuters, fishing boats, and industrial cargo ships. The river is also deemed by ecologists as overly polluted.

Metro Manila is among the world’s cities most exposed to natural disasters and catastrophic flooding. Revetment walls are common infrastructures found along Pasig River and, although often overlooked, are vital in the city’s flood management. These structures serve as barriers from flooding in the riverside communities covered during heavy rains and inclement weather. By making these ‘invisible’ infrastructures visible through art, the project increases public access to the river while raising awareness of its important role in sustainable urban development.

Through Pasig River Art for Urban Change, the river can once again be Metro Manila’s alternative corridor for transportation and cultural activities.

The artworks will be unveiled through a river art tour in April 2020.

Eligibility and support

The call is open to all local (22 slots) and international artists (5 slots) / art collectives based in the Philippines or with a connection to the Philippines. The site spans at around 13.5 km.

Artists are invited to propose a work responding to the structure of a revetment wall. Images are found below.

Proposals are limited to flat, 2-dimensional works. Paint and materials will be provided.

Artists should be able to demonstrate some experience doing similar or relevant work in public art interventions, street art, collaborations, big-scale art, or mural making.

Artists should be available to travel to Manila and finish the work within January to March 2020.

MMDA will provide logistical support to ‘mount’ the works, since some of the revetment walls may be physically challenging to access.
An artist fee of PHP 50,000 will be given to the artists. Art collectives will be considered as one participant. Travel costs are not covered and artists are responsible for obtaining their own accident insurance.

Selection

The selection committee is composed of Asec. Roberto T. Almadin (AGM for Operations, MMDA), Ms. Julia Nebrija (Urban Planner), Mr. Leeroy New (Artist), and Malaya del Rosario (Head of Arts and Creative Industries, British Council).

Specifically, the committee will (1) shortlist and select relevant artists to the project (2) perform curatorial decisions by assigning which artists will work on which portion of the revetment wall and (3) as appropriate, initiate possibilities of collaboration between artists.

Important dates


Production period: January to March 2020.

Project Site

Size: 13,500 m² total surface area (500 m² per artist)

Height: The depth/height requirement varies between 1 to 3 meters, the project will base on the total surface area covered (length x height)
Area to be painted: 

Total surface area: 13,500 m² (southbound + northbound of the river)
Applications

The open call will primarily be promoted through the website of MMDA (www.mmda.gov.ph).

Proposals must contain the following:

- Name
- Birthday
- Address
• E-Mail
• Contact Number
• Connection to the Philippines (Citizenship, Residency, Work, etc.)
• Entry Title
• List of paint requirements (quantity in liters and list of paint color codes)
• Potential Challenges of the Proposal
• Mediums / Materials / Logistical Support Needed

Attachments

• Sketch/simulation of proposed work based on the Figure 1.0
• Concept Abstract - one-liner summary
• Concept Brief - 250 words maximum
• Answer to the question: What has prepared you to carry out this proposed work? (150 words maximum)
• One-page Artist CV
• Images and description of similar works

All proposals must be submitted as one single PDF with a maximum of 5 pages and 5MB, with e-mail subject: “Pasig River Art II – Artist name”

Please submit applications to mmdaatforurbanchange@gmail.com.

Project Coordinator: Ms. Ava de Castro, +63.917.7042702 (Office of the Assistant General Manager for Operations, MMDA).