

## Request for Qualifications (Phase I)

Release date: January 27, 2023

# Call for Expressions of Interest: Public Artwork (Mural) for 10 Prospect Street (D2.1) Union Square, Somerville, MA

US2, the Master Developer of the Union Square Revitalization working in partnership with the Community and City of Somerville, is seeking qualifications from artists interested in creating a mural to adorn a wall of the soon-to-be completed building project at the corner of Prospect Street and Somerville Avenue.

If you are an artist (or team) who has successfully completed murals or other public art installations, please apply to this open call by February 13, 2023.

### Background

10 Prospect Street (D2.1) is a new, seven story purpose-built Life-Sciences building that will host over 400 new permanent jobs on site. Consistent with the City's comprehensive 'Somerville Vision' plan, it marks an important inflection point in the establishment of Union Square as Somerville's 'downtown' and new commercial employment center. The project's location anchors new density in close proximity to the MBTA's Union Square Station, recently completed as part of the Green Line Extension project which will continue to support and grow patronage to and from the Union Square Neighborhood and Greater Boston.

10 Prospect is one of two buildings being completed in 2023 and is located at the southeast corner of the Somerville Avenue and Prospect Street intersection (**Exhibit A**). The south facing ground floor elevation is being constructed to host the mural, which will occupy an area of approximately 15 feet x 30 feet. The mural will span across and be applied to concrete masonry units (CMU) and three hollow metal doors. (**Exhibit B**). The designated area is immediately adjacent to 10 Prospect Street's secondary lobby entrance, and is oriented to the adjacent residential building's entry and an access point to a new public parking facility. The mural will be a focal point of 'Bennett Court' a multi-purpose alley, which has been designed for pedestrian priority. Images of the in-progress condition today paired with a rendering of the future condition are provided as **Exhibit C**. The building's architecture and materiality has been thoughtfully designed with a historical context in mind. A narrative from the Architect, SGA, is provided as **Exhibit D** and is accompanied by material references.

This call for artists builds on the project team's desire to celebrate and expand the role of public art in the Union Square neighborhood, and foster an activated and enhanced public realm that promotes discovery, intrigue and always a reason for 'another look'.

A project by [Union Square Station Associates LLC \(US2\)](#)

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This Request for Qualifications (Phase 1) is to solicit artists or artist teams who are interested in being considered for the design of this public art piece for this site that will:

- Contribute to an enhanced public realm
- Recognize Union Square's history of innovation, making and entrepreneurship while promoting its future as a commercial employment center
- Be stable and relatively maintenance free for 5+ years

### **Artist Stipend**

The chosen artist will receive a fixed fee of \$8,500 for completion of the 15' x 30' mural. This stipend includes all expenses associated with the completion of the project, including but not limited to, artist(s) labor and coordination, payment to sub-contractors, supplies, travel, equipment, insurance, etc. Details of what equipment may be made available on site for use and the availability of on-site storage will be coordinated during Phase II of the process. The chosen artist is expected to fully manage the project with support of the project sponsor. This amount will be distributed upon completion of milestones noted in the final contract.

### **Intended Process**

Final artist selection is intended to be achieved through a two-step procurement process.

Up to three (3) respondents from this Request for Qualifications will be selected and invited to participate in a Phase II Request for Proposals (RFP). The finalists will each receive a stipend of \$1,000 to advance a site-specific proposal based on the RFP. One of the finalist proposals will be chosen. Upon selection, the artist(s) will work to finalize design documents in coordination with US2 and execute a contract for the agreed upon work.

### **Phase I: Request for Qualifications**

- **Review Criteria** | Eligibility is based upon the following review criteria:
  - Artistic excellence and achievement as evidenced by the materials submitted
  - Relevance of previous professional experience with projects of similar scale and scope
  - Demonstrated ability to successfully collaborate with others to deliver projects on schedule
  - Ability to address site specific conditions and manage to constraints
- **Required Materials**
  - a. Statement of Interest (300 words max)

Provide a narrative description of your interest in the commission and your qualifications for undertaking such a project; how your art and process can be translated to this project at this location and how your methods fit the project requirements. The reviewers are looking for artist(s) whose work engages with its surrounding context and leverages the opportunities and constraints of this context for maximum impact.
  - b. Artist's Statement (300 words max)

Provide a description of a past project that you are most proud of. Include reference to it from among the included work samples.



- c. Resume or CV (2 pages max)  
Provide a current resume or CV, highlighting artistic endeavors, public work, and/or experience with creative placemaking. If you are applying as a team, combine your information into a document that summarizes each team-member's qualifications.
- d. References (two)  
Provide the name, phone number, email address of two professional references that have experience working with you on a comparable creative project. Please identify their position and your relationship to each reference.
- e. Work Samples  
Provide up to 10 pages of completed work, and/or embedded links to digital content. Include a list 'key' for the submitted or hyperlinked work, identifying date, medium, dimensions, budget and location. If applying as a team, identify authorship or role of each team member for each of the included work samples.

**How to Apply** | Required Materials (Statements, Resume, References, Work Samples) should be compiled as a single pdf and provided via email as attachment or download link to [info@discoverusq.com](mailto:info@discoverusq.com) with "10 Prospect Mural Qualifications" in the subject line. There is no submission fee. Artists must submit all of the required materials for consideration.

- **Questions?** | Please contact us via email at [info@discoverusq.com](mailto:info@discoverusq.com) with any questions about this opportunity and we will provide a response.

**Phase II: Request for Proposal (NOT being requested at this time. Included for transparency to communicate the next step in the process, subject to change and refinement based on Phase I process)**

As part of Phase II, US2 will invite up to three selected finalists to develop site-specific proposals for review. Each finalist (or team) will receive an honorarium of \$1,000 for submission of a complete proposal\*

- **Site Visit** | A site visit will kick-off the Phase II process to ensure existing and future conditions are understood. The visit will provide for a discussion with US2 and an opportunity to ask questions.
- **Final Proposals** | \*Complete proposals will:
  - a. Include an illustration or model of the proposed art piece in proportion to the 15' x 30' area
  - b. Include a narrative description of the art piece, articulating the work's inspiration
  - c. Include a proposed schedule and budget for completion of the work, noting any scheduling constraints known for June, July, & August 2023.
  - d. Include detailed information on proposed materials and application/installation methods
  - e. Include detailed maintenance information statement
  - f. Anticipate continued refinement prior to implementation as may be applicable in coordination with US2



- **Project Goal & Review Criteria** | US2 aspires to commission artwork reflecting contemporary art practices of the highest caliber possible, especially drawn from local to regionally-based artists. The conceptual Request for Proposals will be judged according to the following review criteria:
  - Appropriateness of the approach to the site’s context, architecture, function, and users
  - The enhancement of the public realm and celebration of ‘place’, to promote a positive and welcoming environment
  - Messaging and clarity of artistic vision
  - Skilled craftsmanship
  - Consideration of cost and durability of the artist’s chosen materials
  - Promotion of specific private business interests in the artistic undertaking is prohibited
- **Jury** | US2’s award will be supported by a review panel composed of the Somerville Arts Council, US2, and SGA

### **Anticipated Project Timeline**

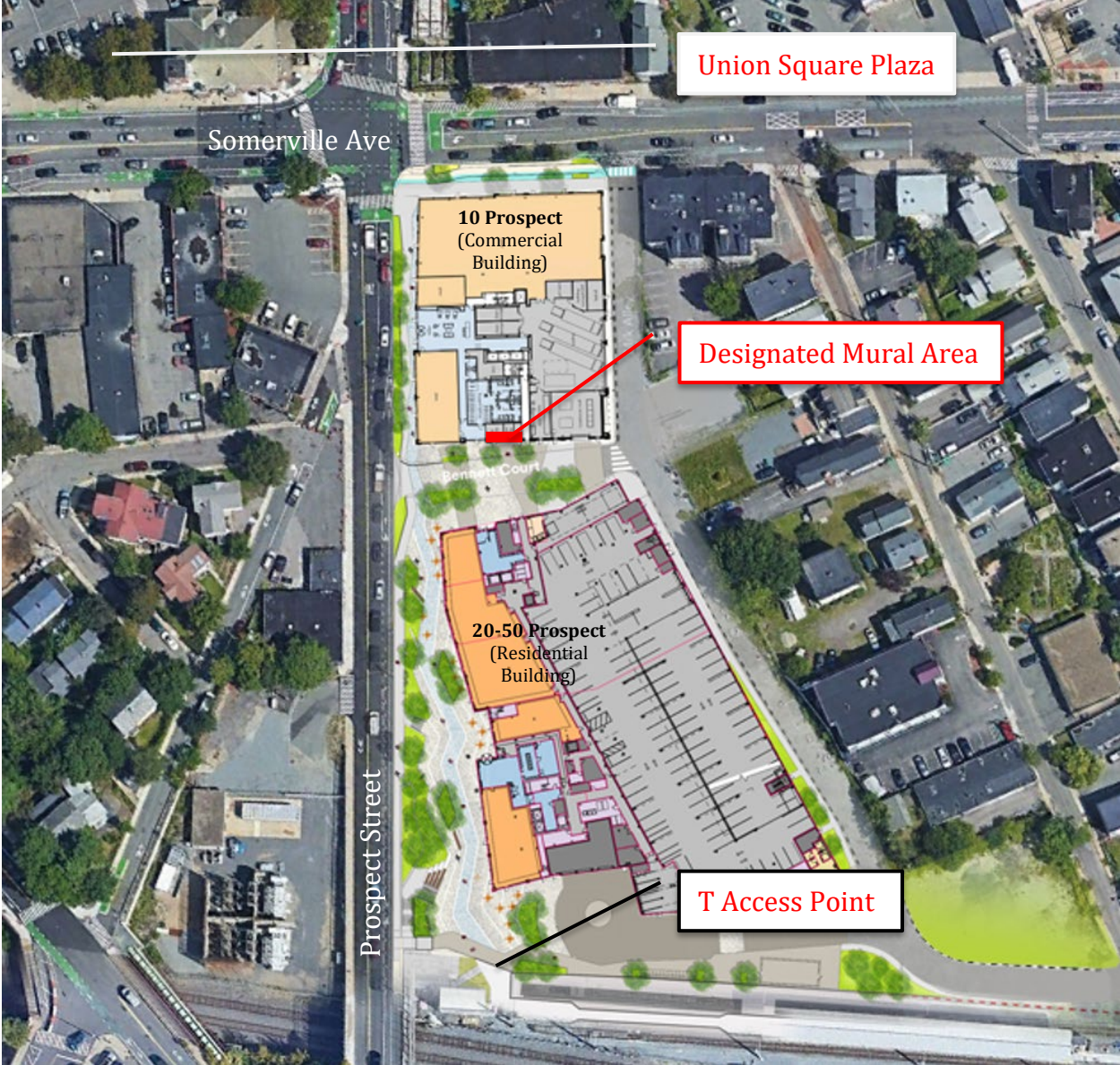
#### Phase I

- Request for Qualifications Issued (RFQ) January 27, 2023
- Deadline for RFQ Submissions February 13, 2023, 11:59 PM
- Notice to Finalists March 1, 2023

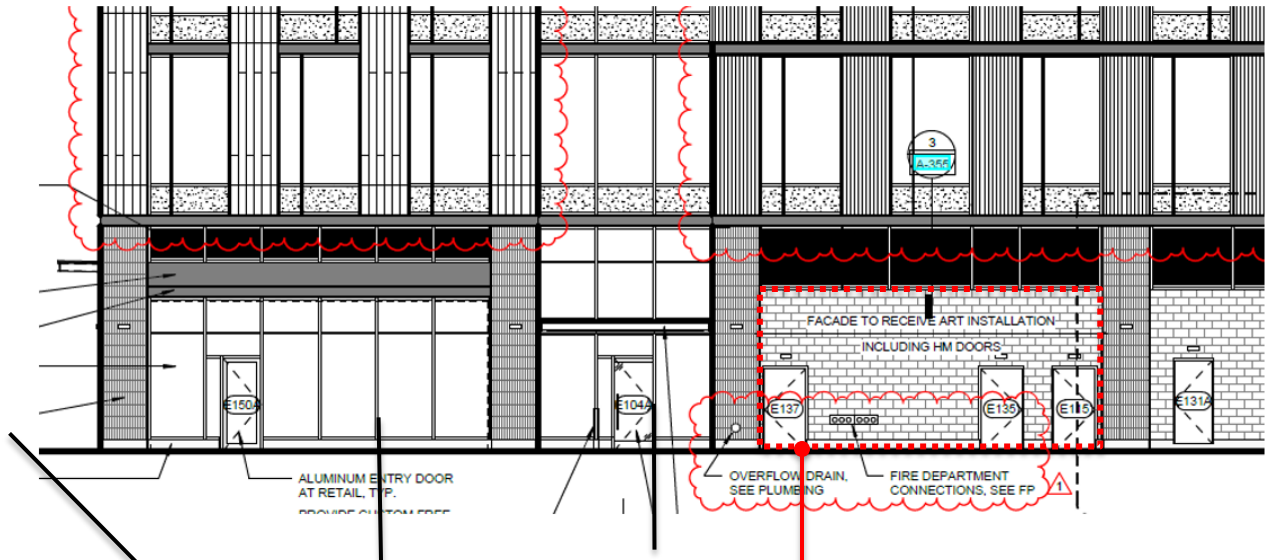
#### Phase II

- Site Visits Week of March 6, 2023
- Proposal Response Due April 14, 2023, 11:59 PM
- Notification of Award May 1, 2023
- Final Design Coordination May 2023
- Install (*subject to coordination*) June / July / August

**EXHIBIT A | Site Plan**



**EXHIBIT B | South Elevation**

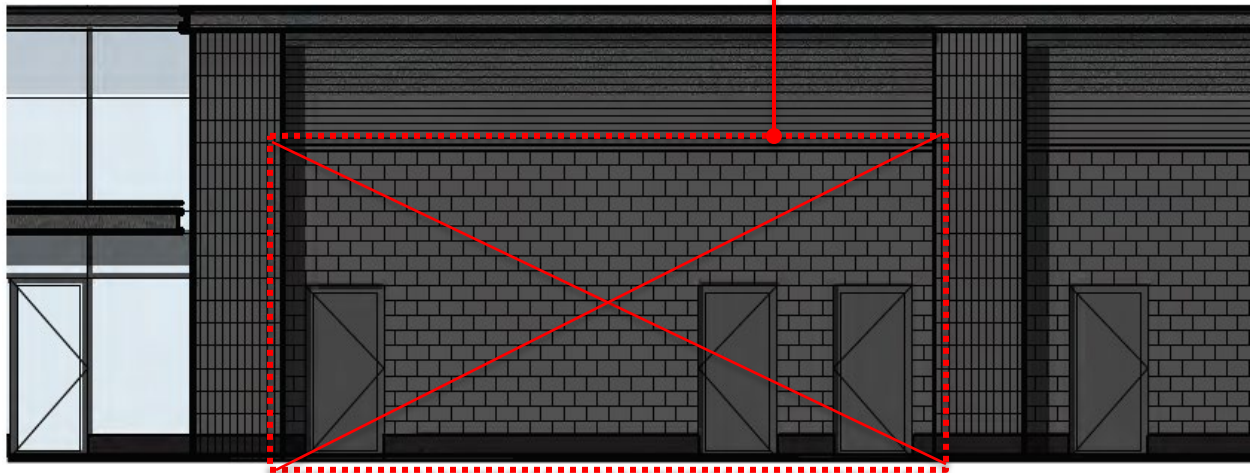


Prospect St.

Corner Retail

Lobby Entrance

15' x 30' defined art location  
over charcoal colored C.M.U



**EXHIBIT C | Existing and Future Conditions**



**Designated Mural Area**



**Corner Retail**

**Building Lobby**

**Parking Access**

**Building Lobby**

**Corner Retail**

**EXHIBIT D | Design Narrative**

**Creating a Modern Expression of the Industrial Vernacular**

Over 150 years ago, the marshland and sandy soils of the Union Square area yielded a fine grade of silica and gave rise to one of the neighborhood's first names – "Sandpit Square." This silica spawned brick-making and glass making as well as complimentary industries like metal fabrication and rope-walking. Drawing inspiration from this history, the D2.1 material palette reflects many of these materials that were the very early foundation of Union Square industry. The use of cladding and glass celebrate the neighborhood's past, but are utilized in a modern manner to highlight Union Square's current aspirations. Applied in vertically orientated cladded modules and cementitious panels will frame transparent window openings. Horizontal metal banding and vertical metal accents are introduced into the openings in concert with vertically oriented mullions. Through the careful placement of material and attention to texture, color and scale, the collective facade expression is intended to emphasize a timeless, industrial architectural language, while providing a contemporary design viewpoint.

