



WAUKEGAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Honoring Ray Bradbury in Waukegan

Ray Bradbury Statue Committee issues Request for Qualifications

Waukegan, IL – The Ray Bradbury Statue Committee (RBSC) on Monday, October 5 issued a Request for Qualifications for sculptors to memorialize author Ray Bradbury in his hometown of Waukegan with a work of art at the Waukegan Public Library. Application packages in response to this RFQ must be submitted by Friday, December 11, 2015. Three finalists will be chosen from the applicant pool and tasked with developing a detailed sculpture proposal. The RBSC's RFQ provides little in the way of artistic constraints, hoping rather to elicit a variety of creative and thoughtful proposals. The RBSC has budgeted a total of \$125,000 for this project thanks to a concerted fundraising effort.

Bradbury was born in Waukegan, and frequently drew on his childhood memories of his hometown for his writing. "Green Town," the town featured in *Dandelion Wine*, *Farewell Summer*, and *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, is a fictionalization of his boyhood home. Bradbury is best known for his dystopian masterpiece *Fahrenheit 451* and for prescient, disquieting science fiction and horror stories published as *The Martian Chronicles* and *The Illustrated Man*. Bradbury was also the author of numerous short stories, plays, screenplays, and television scripts. The Waukegan Public Library commemorates Bradbury's gift with an annual Storytelling Festival each October – Bradbury's favorite time of year.

"As a permanent piece of public art, a statue would be the best way to commemorate Bradbury's remarkable creativity, the timelessness of his stories, and his love for Waukegan," said RBSC Committee Chair Richard Lee. "It seems fitting that the town that so inspired his writing should honor him in this way."

The Bradbury statue will be the centerpiece of the Waukegan Public Library's proposed Story Garden. The Library's planned landscape renovation will transform its rear parking lot into an outdoor learning space, providing opportunities for nature storytimes and an expansion of the Library's extremely popular children's garden.

This opportunity is open to all professional sculptors with public art experience working in the United States. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the Library's website at



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waukeganpl.org/news/Bradbury-Statue to learn more. All materials should be submitted to Richard Lee, Executive Director of the Waukegan Public Library and Chair of the Ray Bradbury Statue Committee no later than Friday, December 11, 2015.

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About the Ray Bradbury Statue Committee: Composed of Waukegan citizens, elected officials, and Bradbury fans, the Ray Bradbury Statue Committee was formed to create a permanent sculpture to honor Waukegan's native son. With this statue, the committee hopes to establish a significant public art collection for the City of Waukegan. Waukegan is already home to a full-size, bronze statue of celebrated actor and comedian Jack Benny.

About the Waukegan Public Library: The Waukegan Public Library is dedicated to empowering and enriching the lives of Waukegan residents through learning, from early childhood to adulthood. The Library's educational programming includes an award-winning literacy and language program; GED preparation, homework assistance, and more. Its 2015 renovation completely transformed the main floor into a learning-focused library space ready to meet the needs of its patrons by creating spaces for art exhibits, collaboration, and quiet study and increasing the number of classrooms and tech-ready workstations. In addition, the award-winning Early Learning Center encourages children to read and interact with an immersive dual-language exhibit.