

Request for Qualifications and Expression of Interest (RFQEI)
for the
Relocation of the Brockhouse Collection
For the
City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota



Prepared By: City Purchasing Office

City of Sioux Falls

224 West Ninth Street

P.O. Box 7402

Sioux Falls, SD 57117-740

Request for Qualifications and Expression of Interest (RFQEI)

Project Description: Following an amendment to SDCL 6-13-15, the City is now able to donate the Brockhouse Collection to another political subdivision within the state of South Dakota or a qualified nonprofit(s) organization in the United States after the governing body makes the determination that the collection is no longer necessary, useful, or suitable for the purpose for which it was acquired. The City is seeking qualifications and expression of interest for the future ownership, management, preservation, and utilization of the Brockhouse Collection, a significant assemblage of taxidermy animals amassed by Henry Brockhouse who collected a wide array of specimens from various habitats and continents beginning in the late 1940s until the time of his death in 1979. This collection, which is housed at the Delbridge Museum of Natural History, was closed in August 2023 due to safety concerns related to arsenic contamination and lack of sufficient public barriers to prevent touching of the taxidermy.

The Brockhouse Collection consists of a diverse range of specimens, including many endangered and threatened species that were harvested prior to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, making it a rare and valuable resource for scientific research, educational purposes, and public display. An evaluation by A.M. Art Conservation has confirmed that the majority of the specimens are in good to excellent condition, though they will require substantial restoration work estimated to exceed \$1 million. Despite the significant costs associated with restoration, the collection's historical and educational value positions it as a unique opportunity for institutions specializing in natural history.

This Request for Qualifications and Expression of Interest invites proposals from museums, conservation organizations, academic institutions, and other qualified entities interested in acquiring pieces from the collection or the collection in its entirety.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria: The City of Sioux Falls desires that the qualified entities acquiring the collection and commit to its preservation, restoration, and use for scientific and educational objectives. The prioritization of the relocation of the collection will be as follows:

- 1) Entity is a qualified organization.
- 2) The desired quantity of pieces from the collection.
 - a. It is desired that the entire collection remains intact, but not a requirement for selection.
- 3) If multiple entities have interest in the same asset, and the quantity of desired pieces is the same, the preference for selection will be to the entity in closest proximity to 224 W. 9th St, Sioux Falls, SD, 57104

The City reserves the right to not select an entity as part of this process if an agreement cannot be reached or for any other reason.

Objective: The aim of this expression of interest is to identify a new custodian(s) for the Brockhouse Collection. The selected entity (s) will be responsible for the future ownership, preservation, relocation, and utilization of the collection.

Eligibility: This invitation is open to any eligible government agency, non-profit 501 (c)3, or as an organization which is able to qualify and be awarded a 501 (c)3 status.

Selection Timeline and Process:

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| 1) RFQEI announced: | September 20, 2024 |
| 2) Virtual Meeting held for interested entities: | October 25, 2024, 1 pm |
| 3) Response Submission Deadline: | December 12, 2024 |
| 4) Brockhouse Collection Work Group Meeting | December 18, 2024 |
| 5) Work Group Presents recommendations to City Council | January/February, 2025 |
| 6) Surplus Resolution brought to Council to gift collection | February/March, 2025 |
| 7) Specimens removed and relocated | March – September, 2025 |

Submission Requirements: Submissions will consist of one (1) online application via the City of Sioux Falls website; the committee will not accept hard-copy materials. All submissions must be submitted electronically and received by 11:59 PM Central Standard Time on Thursday, December 12, 2024.

Submission instructions are available on www.siouxfalls.gov/rfqei and the direct link to the RFQEI application is available on that webpage as well. Applicants will be required to provide the following information:

- Company Name: Primary Contact Phone Number:
First / Last Name of primary contact: Mailing Address:
Primary Contact Email Address: Website:
- Are you applying as a government agency, a non-profit 501 (c)3, or as an organization which is able to qualify and be awarded a 501 (c)3 status?
- How many pieces of the collection are you interested in?
- Which pieces of the collection is your organization interested in acquiring? Please select the applicable items below.
- Narrative statement responding to the following prompt: “Describe how these pieces will be used.” [maximum 500 words]

General Terms: This Request for Qualifications and Expression of Interest is solely an invitation to provide information about their professional qualifications and interest to the City of Sioux Falls and is not an offer to contract. Furthermore, this request does not obligate the City of Sioux Falls to pay any costs that any Respondent may incur in the preparation of their response. All costs associated with the preparation of a response to this request including without limitation any responses to clarifying and/or follow-up questions asked by the Brockhouse Collection Work Group committee upon review of Respondent’s submission shall be borne solely by the Respondent.

Reference Materials

- Comprehensive report and taxidermy survey from A.M. Art Restoration
- Inventory Spreadsheet

Questions: Please email Matthew.Newman@siouxfalls.gov with questions about this opportunity.