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Trinity Park Conservancy Issues Request for Qualifications: 106 W Commerce St
Architectural Services

Submittals of the RFQ are due by Thursday, July 23 at 11:59 PM CST.

DALLAS – Trinity Park Conservancy (Conservancy) is seeking a visionary architect to help reimagine the former Jesse R. Dawson State Jail at 106 West Commerce Street in relation to Harold Simmons Park (Park). The 10-floor, 238,000 sq.ft. structure is located at the juncture of the Trinity River’s east levee and the Park’s central axis at Commerce Street, with unparalleled proximity to the river and levee-top. Situated within the Park’s east overlook, the building will serve as a visual anchor and hub for the Park and its surrounding neighborhoods.

The future of 106 W Commerce will be informed by multiple factors, including the relationship to the Park, community aspirations, and technical and financial feasibility. In addition to Park-supportive (both operationally and public-facing spaces) and civic space, the building may include commercial and/or residential uses. The selected firm will work closely with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MVVA), the landscape architect of the Park.

“The Conservancy purchased the former Jesse R. Dawson State Jail in 2019 as part of the vision for a great Park that contributes to a greater city,” says Walter Elcock, Interim CEO of the Conservancy. “The transformation of 106 W Commerce is a significant undertaking that will require multiple partners and disciplines and we look forward to going through this robust selection process.”

This RFQ process is open to any qualified firm, and the Conservancy encourages firms from around the country and locally to respond. The full RFQ with context, scope of services, selection criteria, timeline and submission criteria/process can be found here. Submittals of the RFQ are due by Thursday, July 23. Any and all questions regarding this RFQ should be submitted by email to: procurement@trinityparkconservancy.org no later than July 15 at 12:00 PM CST.
About Trinity Park Conservancy

Trinity Park Conservancy is a nonprofit dedicated to the stewardship of Dallas’ largest public green space, the 10,000 acres of the Trinity River. Believing that the River is the natural gathering place for all Dallas residents, the Conservancy is committed to bringing people together to share their ideas, learn more about the possibilities and habitat of the area, and to assist in making it a more accessible space. In 2018, the Conservancy was selected to design, construct and maintain Harold Simmons Park in a private/public partnership with the City of Dallas and the Trinity River Corridor Local Government Corporation. Trinity Park Conservancy is dedicated to continuing conversations in the community throughout the Park development process. To keep up-to-date with the latest news from Trinity Park Conservancy become a Friend of the Conservancy at www.trinityparkconservancy.org.

Images from top: 106 W Commerce viewed from west side of Trinity River; 106 W Commerce viewed from Commerce Street Bridge; examples of murals painted by individuals incarcerated inside 106 W Commerce during its operation as Dawson State Jail. All images courtesy Trinity Park Conservancy.