



Public Art RFP: CELEBRATING TX1015 SWEET ONIONS

State Vegetable of Texas (Sculpture)

Organization : South Texas Onion Committee
Opens : Now
Closing Date : April 25, 2025
Location : Weslaco, TX

The South Texas Onion Committee, is partnering with the Weslaco Chamber of Commerce to create an art installation that celebrates the legacy the Texas 1015 Sweet Onion – the state vegetable of Texas. The goal would be to commission the design and construction of a Texas 1015 Sweet Onion statue. The statue will be 15-20ft tall and motivates locals and passer-by alike to stop and take a picture with the giant onion, bringing attention to the Texas state vegetable while also encouraging a natural following (and draw to the area) on social media for the statue.

A location is being secured near a major roadway for max visibility and consumer interest. A location under consideration is near Interstate 2 (I-2), Texas State Highway (SH 107) or Farm-to-Market Road 88 (FM88).

The selection committee is looking for artists with prior public artwork experience, specifically large-scale sculptural work. The goal of the piece is bring awareness of and celebrate the legacy of the original sweet onion, the role of Texas in discovering, cultivating and promoting the TX1015 Sweet Onion. The TX1015 is the first domestic sweet onion to show up in stores at the start of the new season. Despite being the original sweet onion, many consumers, including Texan's, don't realize it's history or economic power in Texas agriculture and around the United States. Texas onions play a role in the state nearly 10 months of the year with plantings starting in October, all the way through cultivation, harvest and the in-market sales period March through early July. We want to emphasize the importance of supporting local agriculture and make it visible in more than just fields. We want to give it power in placemaking initiatives. Agriculture and farming is an art and what better way than for art to mirror life and celebrate our state vegetable.

Projected budgeted is not to exceed **\$18,500** for the entire project. This budget is inclusive to all costs associated with the designs, artist fees, delivery/transportation, planning, materials, fabrication, installation, project documentation and completion of the project.

The project must commence by May 1, 2025 and be completed no later than September 25, 2025. This timeline should include all necessary sculptural work, transportation, site work, landscaping, signage, etc. In preparation for an October 15, 2025 ribbon cutting celebration in coordination with Texas 1015 day.

Please submit your application to sabs@fulltiltmarketing.net by April 25, 2025 at 11:59 PM CST

All parties who have applied will receive notice on whether their proposal has been accepted or not by April 30, 2025.

If you have been selected, a representative of the marketing team will coordinate with you to schedule a time to discuss project timeline, expectations and deliverables. Regular meetings will be scheduled to maintain project timelines and on-time execution.

*Please include an additional line item that states how much anticipated annual upkeep would cost. This is not included in the budget and is only necessary for budget purposes.