

STEVENS POINT SCULPTURE PARK

Juried Call for Outdoor Public Sculpture/Chimney Swift Towers

www.stevenspointsculpturepark.org

Overview

The Stevens Point Sculpture Park is working in partnership with the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society to develop and install a “sculptural” **chimney swift nesting tower** in the Stevens Point Sculpture Park. This project is focused on exploring the aesthetic possibilities of this medium and on raising awareness about this unique bird. Proposals are now being accepted.

General Information about Chimney Swifts

Chimney Swifts are beautiful birds that provide benefit to our natural surroundings by eating many harmful insects. Often called “Flying Cigars,” these birds are rapidly disappearing due to habitat loss. Originally nesting in hollow trees, the Swift moved into homes with wood/coal furnaces and chimneys. As gas furnaces replaced wood and coal, many chimneys were either torn down or modified with openings that do not allow chimney swift entrance and nesting. Many constructed chimney swift towers are primarily utilitarian. The survival of the Chimney Swift depends on having a place to nest, and people have been building towers to address this need.

Chimney Swifts do not perch like most birds, but instead use their long claws to cling to the walls of chimneys and other vertical surfaces. Swifts are among the most aerial of birds, flying almost constantly except when at the nest or roosting at night. The chimney swift bathes in flight, gliding down to water, smacking the surface with its breast, then bouncing up and shaking the water from its plumage as it flies away. The chimney swift is gregarious, with large numbers of swifts roosting together in a single chimney or air shaft during the non breeding season. Non-breeding swifts will roost together in the summer too, and this behavior has fooled people into thinking that the Chimney Swift nests in colonies. In fact, only one pair nests in a single chimney. The pair may tolerate other swifts roosting in their chimney, though, further confusing people watching the swifts from the ground. The nest is a half saucer of woven small twigs held together and glued with saliva to inside walls of chimneys. Clutch size is 1–5 white eggs.

Call for Proposals

The Stevens Point Sculpture Park in collaboration with our local Audubon Society has created a “box” or tower where the birds migrate and nest. This specific call is for the artist to “decorate” or add to the existing box using “sculptural elements”. A fee of \$430 will be provided for the artist selected. The artist may have the tower delivered to work on at the artist’s location or the artists can work on the box in the Sculpture Park.

Application Deadline: January 10 2014

Artist Award: \$430

Project Scope

- Function as a sculptural object
- Attract and house nesting chimney swifts
- Allow park visitors to see and be aware of the nesting birds
- Raise park visitors' awareness of the plight of the chimney swift

Considerations

Proposals will be considered based on their ability to fulfill the stated needs for this call. A local jury will select a proposal for installation.

Please note:

The inner structure of the Chimney Swift tower (chamber) will be supplied by the sculpture park. This inner tower is where the birds would migrate and nest. The dimensions of this tower are 2' X 2' X 12'tall. The charge for the selected artist is to build a façade surrounding the tower chamber that is both artistic and appropriate.

Materials and Installation

- Innovative use of materials is encouraged
- Selected projects intended to be a lasting and enduring element in the Park
- Projects should be built from durable materials with at least 20-year life expectancy
- Structure should have integrity to withstand hands-on public interaction
- Foundations and footings can be used to stabilize structures
- Projects will be sited in an open area near water and woods
- Electricity is not available on site, although a generator can be used on-site

Construction Considerations

- Sculpture must include the tower chamber for chimney swift nesting
- Tower height is 12 feet and must be open on top (like a chimney) so birds can dive in vertically
- Top opening must be at least 12 inches
- Consideration must be given to prevent predators and ants from entering chamber
- Chamber must have access at bottom for cleaning

Agreements

- The selected artist will receive \$430 to fund the completion of the project
- Artists can submit more than one concept)
- Artists are responsible for completing installations by June 1, 2014

All construction and installation expenses are to be covered by the artist Assistance with installation, including: equipment use, site prep, local material sourcing, and in-kind material donations may be considered, although no guarantees can be made. If a proposal requests support not covered by the proposed budget, such requests need to be clearly and accurately stated in the initial artist submission. It is the artist's responsibility to explore potential resources and/or support for their proposal.

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Submissions Must Include

- Artist Name; Address; Phone; Email
- Written description of proposed Chimney Swift Tower project
- Materials list/description and construction/installation details
- Itemized budget and calendar for installation
- Images, drawings, photos of maquettes, etc to support the proposal
- Artist's statement

Mail To

Attn: SPSP Chimney Swift Call for Entries
Stevens Point Sculpture Park
PO Box 975
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Or email: pointsculpturepark@hotmail.com

Submissions must be received by January 10, 2014.

Submissions organized into a single .pdf file are strongly encouraged.

Submissions that are incomplete or don't meet all requirements may be disqualified.

Email and standard mail submissions are accepted.

Project Calendar

- January 10, 2013 – Submission deadline
- February 28, 2014 – Notification of selection by phone or email (contract will follow)
- March 12, 2014 – Contracts returned by artists
- March – May 2014 – Artist Installation/Construction
- June 1, 2014 – Installation Complete

Additional Resources on Chimney Swifts

www.concentric.net/~dwa/page6.html

www.chimneyswifts.org/index.html

www.chimneyswifts.org/page12.html

www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8sAn9apGhw

www.amazon.com/Chimney-Swift-Towers-Mysterious-Environment/dp/1585443727

Stevens Point Sculpture Park

For information about the Stevens Point Sculpture Park, this call for entries, or for visitation requests, please contact Elizabeth or Stuart at pointsculpturepark@hotmail.com

For more information about the Stevens Point Sculpture Park, visit

www.stevenspointsculpturepark.org