



CALL FOR ARTISTS – A PUBLIC ART PROJECT

Wamego’s “TOTOS AROUND TOWN”



The City of Wamego is offering Kansas artists a chance to participate in a public art project – “Totos Around Town”. Fourteen sculptures, measuring 36-40” tall, will be installed in Wamego public areas during June 2018. The sculptures, made from FRP (Fiber Reinforced Plastic), will be primed in white and ready to paint. They will weigh approximately 60 lbs. and will be available in sitting or standing poses. We are looking for artists to showcase unique elements of Wamego by creating a design for the sculpture to be enjoyed by both visitors and the community. All artists, amateur and professional, are invited to enter designs for one or both poses.

Artists are encouraged to express their creativity in decorating Toto in any manner they choose, but materials must be resistant to the effects of weather, public contact and suitable for clear-coating. The finished piece should be durable, permanent, safe, and easily maintained. The sculptures may be sanded, glued, wired, painted, plastered, bejeweled, decoupage, tiled or otherwise adorned, as long as they are weatherproof and safe to the public. The project committee is working with the manufacturer, Icon Poly, to provide artists with recommended guidelines. Each piece will be weatherized with a clear-coating that will not harm the piece or art: rather protect it from the elements. For further instructions visit or email Icon Poly at (www.iconpolystudio.com)

Artists wishing to participate should send or deliver a 16x20 framed rendering of their design to Wamego Chamber of Commerce, 529 Lincoln Ave. Wamego KS 66547 by February 1, 2018. Computerized renderings of the poses can be found in the Toto Project link at www.VisitWamego.com/page/totos-around-town. Additional perspectives showing pertinent design elements may be portrayed in an 8x10 format (unframed). Due to size limitation of the paper we realize that small details cannot be represented. The drawings should convey the overall look and feel of the design.

Artists will be notified by February 23rd if their design was selected by a sponsor. Both the sponsor’s and artist’s names will appear with the Toto dog while on display. All submitted designs, meeting project guidelines, will be on display in the Swogger Gallery of the Columbian Theatre prior to the final selection. After that, all selected designs will hang in the gallery until April 23rd where the public will have a chance to vote for their favorite Toto dog design. This will garner the People’s Choice Award for the most liked artwork.

To find out more about Wamego, please look at www.VisitWamego.com. A link to all project rules and requirements can be found there as well. Please complete and return the Letter of Intent by January 15, 2018. Design submissions are due by 4pm CST February 1, 2018.

Important Dates:

Jan. 15, 2018 – Letter of Intent to Participate

Feb. 1, 2018 – Deadline for 16x20 design entries

Feb. 23, 2017 – Notification of winning designs

May 24, 2017 – Unveiling & installation of Totos

“TOTOS AROUND TOWN” – a Wamego Community Art Project

Summary

The Oz story has been engrained within Wamego tourism since 2003. After guests have visited the museum, they often have time and a desire to explore more of Wamego. The Toto project can assist with their trek through our community.

Our “**TOTOS AROUND TOWN**” project is not unique. Many cities across the country have pursued figures similar to ours. In 2001, Kansas City had “Cows on Parade” and this summer Chicago hosted a “K-9s for Cops” exhibit. What will make our project unique will be the ways selected Kansas artists share their vision of Wamego. This community and the surrounding area has a rich history, some of which can be found at www.VisitWamego.com.

Guidelines/Requirements:

- Artists must be from Kansas or have a direct connection to Wamego.
- **An artist information sheet must be completed and postmarked or delivered to Chamber office no later than January 15, 2018.**
- Icon Poly, a studio out of Gibbon, Nebraska, has created 2 different 36-40” poses for us. They will weigh approximately 60 lbs.
- Artists are eligible to submit up to (2) entries. A usable template can be found at www.VisitWamego.com/page/totos-around-town.
- **Design entries of the side view should be presented in a full-color, 16x20 format, framed and ready to hang. An 8x10 full-color sketch of remaining views is required as well, if portraying additional design work not seen from the side view. The entries must be received or delivered no later than 4pm CST February 1, 2018.**

*Wamego Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Totos Around Town
529 Lincoln Avenue
Wamego KS 66547*

- All potential artwork received and deemed appropriate for family display will be available for visitor and sponsorship viewing in the Swogger Gallery of the Historic Columbian Theatre from February 5 – February 22, 2018.
- Sponsor Gala – February 22 – during this event, an auction among potential sponsors will determine which 14 entries will be chosen as Toto designs.
- **Artists of sponsored designs will be notified on February 23, 2018 and asked to submit a short statement describing their work.**
- The project committee and 14 artists will coordinate delivery of each of the 14 Toto dogs. **The artist will have from the delivery date (no later than March 1) through May 15, 2018 to complete the rendering they submitted in their entry form. DOGS MUST BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE MAY 15th 2018!!!**
- Artists will be given a \$100 stipend for painting supplies. The use of acrylic paints is highly recommended but not limited to. Any additional material added to the figure should be permanently attached and securely adhered from the weather elements and potential vandals. See painting tips sheet for detailed tips/suggestions from Poly Icon.

After the dogs are returned to Wamego, a clear coat will be applied. Flint Hills Auto of Manhattan is partnering with us by providing this service.

This project is planned to run for up to 5 years. If at any time the sculptures become defaced, damaged or unsightly, they will be removed from the display location. An examination will determine if repairs are possible. Once repairs are complete, the figure will be reinstalled. If repairs are not successful, the sponsor and artist will be notified for further suggestions.

A public “unveiling” is tentatively planned for May 24, 2018 showcasing the dogs, sponsors and artists. The Totos will be installed in Wamego public places during the month of June. The figures will be placed on a 10-12” tall base. A plaque attached to the base will identify the artist and sponsor.

A map guide, describing the Totos and identifying the artist, sponsor and location, will be printed and made available in local businesses and on the www.visitWamego.com website.

Wamego’s “**TOTOS AROUND TOWN**” committee reserves the right to reproduce images for the purpose of publicity and promotion in the form of posters, greeting cards, information, handouts, etc. One piece of artwork will be recognized by the People’s Choice Award. Voting by community members and visitors to Wamego will be open at the Columbian Theatre from February 23rd to April 22nd. This piece of artwork will be acknowledged with a plaque and other media yet to be determined.

Artists retain liability for the Toto statue in their care during the painting process until it is picked up on or before the May 15th deadline. By submitting artwork to the “**TOTOS AROUND TOWN**” project, each artist agrees to this statement.

Any questions contact Kellie Dillinger by email at kellie.dillinger@hotmail.com

Watch progress on our project and others undertaken by Icon Poly at www.iconpolystudio.com under current projects. We hope you can envision our goals and have fun with this project!