



Call to Artists Donner Summit Gateway Sign

Donner Summit Legacy¹

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The Donner Summit Legacy has received a grant from Placer County to begin planning a gateway monument on Donner Summit just off I-80 at the Soda Springs exit on Donner Pass Rd. and across from the Donner Summit Lodge building. Yes, that Placer County grant will be used in Nevada County but that has been worked out.

We are looking for an artist, designer or architect to design the gateway monument. This is a request for proposal process and **proposals or entries must be postmarked or received via email, mail, or in person no later than August 1, 2016.**

There will be two rounds of selection with the first winnowing round done by a jury made up of architects, artists, and locally prominent people to ensure that the final five works meet requirement stated below; will be practical for construction; and have a simple, elegant impact that reflects Donner Summit (see below). The final judging will be by the community-at-large via a public display Labor Day weekend, 2016. The selected art-work will then become part of the construction grant proposal to be submitted to Placer County in October, 2016.

Compensation for the selected design will be \$4,000.

There are no restrictions on artists' or artist teams' eligibility beyond the parameters listed below. Multiple entries are acceptable. Creativity will be valued in selection.

Project Description:

The artist or artists will be creating artwork in the form of a conceptual rendering of the monument in any medium or media of the entrant's choosing. It can be two or three-dimensional (or both). The winning rendering(s) will then become the Donner Summit Gateway Monument visible outdoors, lit at night, welcoming people to Donner Summit, the most important square mile in California. The final sign portion of the monument, if any, cannot exceed 100 square feet and the monument cannot be taller than fifteen feet (Nevada County regulations).

The monument design, welcoming visitors to Donner Summit, will reflect the unique attributes of the Donner Summit area (see a listing below) and that Donner Summit is the most important square mile in California. The monument will be a celebration of Donner Summit and artists are expected to incorporate elements of Donner Summit uniqueness and importance into the design. The design should have impact, be memorable in design, and be elegantly simple.

¹ Donner Summit Legacy is a non-profit formed by local business interests and other stakeholders for the purpose of promoting Donner Summit as a whole, with the ultimate goal of revitalizing the economy of the area and raising public awareness of the recreational opportunities that the area offers.

Following selection of the artwork and winning of the second year of the Placer County grant, the monument and total design will be incorporated into actual building plans by an architect and structural engineer. Application for construction money will be made to Placer County in October, 2016. Upon receipt of the grant, construction will proceed in summer, 2017 with participation of the community in the final choice.

Selection Criteria

Design can be easily adjusted, if necessary, after vetting by architect and structural engineer

Art piece content: How does the art interpret the uniqueness of the Donner Summit Donner Pass area and welcome visitors?

Does the artwork have impact? Will the monument be memorable? Is the design simple?

Does the artwork fit and enhance the area?

Final sign size (if any) cannot be larger than 100 square feet. The height of the whole installation cannot be more than fifteen feet.

For more information contact: pmalberg@igc.org or 916-708-5394

Artist Eligibility:

This RFP is open to artists nationally

This RFP is open to both professional and amateur artists

Artist teams are eligible to apply

Local artists are encouraged to apply

Multiple submissions are acceptable

This Call to Artists is an Equal Artistic Opportunity: selection of the winning proposal will be made without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/reassignment, citizenship, pregnancy or maternity, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law.

Proposals should consist of and be delivered to:

JPGs (300 dpi or greater) submitted by email or via DVD or CD-ROM or

Models or

Artwork (paintings, illustrations, sketches, portfolio)

Via email: bill@exploredonnersummit.com

By mail: P.O. 959 Soda Springs, CA 95724

In person: Castle Peak Vacation Rentals in “downtown” Soda Springs - next to the store.

Please include a resume and contact information

Deadline for submissions is August 1, 2016

Donner Summit – Unique

Snow

At 7,000' and more, Donner Summit gets an average of 34' of snow each winter – the highest amount of snow for any residential area in the Continental U.S. Snow has been integral to Donner Summit's history and affects daily life and opportunities both positively and negatively.

Rich biodiversity

500 species of plants

100+ species of birds including Bald Eagles and spotted owls

150 species of butterflies

dozens of mammal species – martins, weasels, bear, deer, fox, and bobcat

16 species of amphibians

There are also some “special status” species.

Scenery

Donner Summit has incomparable views of mountains, peaks, lakes, and into the Royal Gorge of the American River.

Recreation

Recreational opportunities abound: road and mountain biking, hiking, trail running, downhill and nordic skiing, boarding, swimming, birding, boating, exploring, fishing, geo-caching, rock climbing, history, camping, action sports (skateboard, BMX), and high altitude elite athlete training.

History

Historically, the Summit is the most historically significant area in California and maybe the entire Western U.S. Native Americans crossed Donner Pass for thousands of years leaving behind petroglyphs, grinding rocks, cupules, and metates. The first wagon trains to California with wagons came over Donner Pass. The first transcontinental railroad, highway, telephone line and air route also went over Donner Pass. The first bicyclist to cross the Sierra, the country and go around the world went over Donner Pass. The first motorized crossing of the U.S. went over Donner Pass. The first automobile to cross the Sierra went over Donner Pass. What stories there are!

Geology

There are Hoodoos, exposed granite batholith, the Sierra Unconformity, glacial remnants, and Van Norden Meadow, the source of the Yuba River and an important wetlands and stopping place for migratory fowl.

Donner Summit is not for everyone. It attracts visitors and residents who are tough, hardy, and even extreme.

For more information about the Donner Summit/Donner Pass area consult:

www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org, www.onthesummit.net, www.exploredonnersummit.com

Timeline:

Submission Deadline: August 1, 2016

Jury Review: August 15-20, 2016

Selection after public display Labor Day weekend, 2016

Artist(s) notified: following Labor Day, 2016

Artist contract signed: September, 2016

Application for second year grant for construction October, 2016

Construction by community and contractors: summer,2017.

Location:

The Donner Summit Gateway will be on Donner Pass Road (formerly Highway 40), just east of the exit from I-80, on the south side, across the road from the area between the gas station and the Summit Restaurant (formerly known as Donner Summit Lodge). There is a strip of land between the pavement and the adjacent property owner of 45 feet.

The top picture below shows the Donner Summit Lodge building on the left side of Old Highway 40 with the Gateway sign location on the right. The picture at bottom is a closeup.

Initial Selection Jury:

Chris Parker, Sugar Bowl, architect

Mason Kirby, Architect

Amy Ohren, Boreal Ski Area General Manager

Nancy Oudegeest, Artist

Sue Simpson, Architect