

## The Clark Brothers

### Brief

The Clarksville (Indiana) Historic Preservation Commission is seeking proposals for the creation of an acknowledgement of the contribution of brothers George Rogers Clark and William Clark in defining and securing the borders of the young United States to shape the country as we know it. This installation may be in any medium, but should be appropriate for outdoor placement.

### Two Brothers

General George Rogers Clark (1752-1818) and William Clark (1770-1838) were brothers who each took action that would make a significant difference in what would become the boundaries of the United States of America. George Rogers Clark's western campaign helped double the size of the young United States. William Clark's participation as co-leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition helped secure the U.S. claim to the Louisiana Territory and the Oregon Country., doubling the size of the United States yet again.

Born 18 years apart, George and William Clark were two of the ten children of John and Anne Rogers Clark of Virginia. Five of the Clarks' six sons would become officers in the American Revolutionary War. William, too young to fight in the war, would lead the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

George Rogers Clark is little known today, but he was a hero in his time. In the 1770s, Clark saw what the British and Native Americans were doing in the back country to destabilize the American colonies. He left western Virginia, where he had been surveying, and trekked back to Williamsburg to consult with Governor Patrick Henry to describe what he saw. The governor made Clark a colonel in the militia and authorized him to raise men to oppose the British and their allies.

In June of 1778, Clark led a small company of men on an expedition in the dead of winter, through icy swamps to capture the settlement of Kaskaskia, several smaller forts, and Fort Sackville in Vincennes. He was able to accomplish this feat through wit, bluster, and courage. His capture of British Quebec's Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton was a turning point in American history.

Because Clark continued to hold this territory, the 1783 Treaty of Paris granted that over 300,000 square miles to the United States. That land, the Northwest Territory, was then divided into Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. Without

Clark's efforts and courage, the Northwest Territory might have been ceded to the British and the northern boundary of the new United States could have been the Ohio River.

As thanks for his bravery, the young United States conferred 150,000 acres along the Ohio River at the Falls of the Ohio to Clark and his men, and designated part of this tract as a new town named for the General. George Rogers Clark became the first Town Council President of what is the oldest American town in the Northwest Territory.

A few years after the end of the Revolutionary War, Thomas Jefferson requested that George Rogers Clark lead an expedition of discovery to the west. Citing ill health, Clark declined, but recommended his brother William, "a stout and hearty fellow for any service to the country which you might deem him worthy." In 1803, William received a letter from Merriwether Lewis, offering him a co-captaincy in the Lewis and Clark Expedition of discovery to the west.

William Clark was residing with his brother, George, in Clarksville, Indiana, when Meriwether Lewis arrived on October 14, 1803. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, this Corps of Discovery sailed down the Ohio River to begin their mission: to establish a trade network across the country, to befriend the native tribes they encountered, and to confirm or deny the theory of an all-water Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean.



Existing statue of the "handshake" between William Clark and Merriwether Lewis, Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center

In 1806, the expedition returned, having mapped uncharted lands, rivers, and mountains. Their journals were filled with details about Native American tribes and scientific notes about plants and animals they had never seen before. American settlers and traders soon began to travel over the route the Corps of Discovery had blazed. The expedition expanded the fur trade and strengthened the American claim to the Pacific, fending off claims of other nations to the land.

Both George Rogers Clark and William Clark were emblematic of the character, grit, and determination that exemplified this new nation, and both played significant roles in defining and securing the borders of the young United States. Their actions added over 1,000,000 square miles of territory, helped shape the boundaries of the country as we know it today and set the stage for further territorial expansion.

### Project Details and Goals

The end goal of the project is an installation in the Town's new downtown district along a linear "town square." For the past 5 years, the Town of Clarksville has been creating a new, urban area along the Ohio River. It was here, near the Falls of the Ohio, where so much of the Clarks' and the nation's history played out.



New street grid, with Town Square outlined in red.



The Town desires the new area to reflect the distinct history of Clarksville and avoid “cookie cutter” design that is common elsewhere. As a simple way of incorporating this goal, the streets of the new district are being named after the nine-young men of Kentucky who were part of the Corps of Discovery. While the area may be newly constructed, we seek to acknowledge our past as we build our future. It is with this acknowledgement of the past that we seek this project.

The first two developments and several sections of the roadway are complete in the area. A hotel, conference center, and Amtrak train station are all planned over the next few years. Multiple types of housing including several blocks of brownstone style homes are also being planned.

### **Budget**

The expected budget for the project will be \$250,000. However, proposals that otherwise meet the goals of the Historic Preservation Commission will be considered if the proposed cost is higher.

Most of this money will come from fundraising efforts on the part of the HPC. To help show what we are working and raising money, it would help to have a tangible image to see. The Town is also requesting a smaller “display” model of the final proposal, which can be shown at Town Hall and help donors imagine what the final product will be. This scale model should be no more than \$10,000 of the final cost.

### **Submittal**

Consultant proposals are to be submitted by email to Planning Director Neal Turpin ([nturpin@townofclarksville.com](mailto:nturpin@townofclarksville.com)). An email response will be provided by the Town to the sender of each proposal that is submitted upon receipt of their proposal. Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. (EST), April 12, 2024.

All communications in specific reference to this RFP shall be sent by email to [nturpin@townofclarksville.com](mailto:nturpin@townofclarksville.com), and should reference the Clark Brothers RFP.

The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submittals.

### **Submittal Format and Required Elements**

*Cover Sheet:* This cover sheet should be no more than one page and should provide all contact information including mailing address, phone number, and email address (one page).

*Description of Approach:* Provide the artist's or applicant's typical approach to projects similar to this one, including artistic and historic considerations (1-2 pages).

*Expertise:* Brief description of general qualifications and multidisciplinary nature of the applicant this project (1-2 pages).

*Comparable Projects:* Examples of similar projects in progress or completed by the applicant (up to 3 examples).

## **Evaluation**

The choice of project will be made by the selection committee, which will consist of the following members:

- Town of Clarksville Historic Preservation President
- Town of Clarksville Council President
- Town of Clarksville Planning Director
- Clark Indiana County Historian
- Clark Family and Lewis & Clark Historian

The selection committee will evaluate the proposals on the following criteria:

Capacity of the applicant to perform the project within the time limitations, taking into consideration current and planned workload (15 points).

Location of the applicant, distance from Clarksville (10 points).

Proposed cost of the installation (15 points).

Experience of the applicant with this type of project (40 points).

Technical qualifications of the applicant to perform the work (20 points).

Upon completion of the review and evaluation of all proposals by the selection committee, the most qualified applicant will be selected. The applicant will be contacted and invited to enter into contract negotiations with the Town. Should the selected applicant and Town be unable to come to contract terms, the selection committee will select and contact the second highest scoring applicant.

During consideration of any responses, the artist shall retain all intellectual property rights to submittals. Upon selection of a submittal, the Town will be seeking a purchase, including all rights.