



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Tender Title:	PUBLIC SPACE ACTIVATIONS
Tender Reference Number:	JICP202409
Client:	JICP
Publication Date	27 September 2024
Proposal Submission Deadline:	11 October 2024, 17h00

1. INTRODUCTION

JICP invites qualified vendors/individuals to submit proposals for Public Space Activations under the Scaling Urban NbS for Climate Adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa (SUNCASA) project. This initiative is implemented by International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in partnership with World Resources Institute (WRI).

2. SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Jukskei River originates beneath the Johannesburg Inner City, where the ridges that contribute to the catchment area are also prominently situated, and it ultimately flows northward, merging with the Crocodile River before continuing its journey toward the Indian Ocean. By strategically integrating the river's natural pathways with the walkability of the city's core, we aim to create a network of green, accessible, and welcoming spaces. These initiatives will not only improve the quality of life for residents but also contribute to the ecological sustainability of the region.

The SUNCASA Project aims to revitalise the Upper Jukskei River catchment by addressing flooding, managing urban heat, improving water security, and enhancing biodiversity—ultimately increasing climate resilience for over a million people.

By transforming key public spaces along the Jukskei River in Alexandra and at intersections within Johannesburg's Inner City Walkable Network into vibrant community hubs, the project will leverage innovative art and nature-based solutions (NbS) to facilitate the achievement of SUNCASA's overarching goals of promoting NbS education and environmental stewardship.

Working with local partners, the project aims to remove invasive species clogging waterways, rehabilitate riverbanks, and expand green spaces through tree planting. The placemaking components of the project includes designing litter traps as public art, creating parks with community-focused designs, and envisioning pocket plazas with ecological elements. Urban farming should be incorporated to boost food security and sustainable practices as well the integration of



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medicinal plants, enhancing community awareness of their uses and benefits while supporting health and well-being.

The SUNCASA Project aims to implement gender-responsive, nature-based solutions by empowering women and engaging them actively in climate resilience and community development efforts. Central to this approach is fostering active citizenry, encouraging local communities to take ownership of the revitalization process. By involving residents, especially women, in planning and stewardship, the project ensures that the transformation of the Jukskei River and surrounding public spaces is inclusive, sustainable, and reflective of community needs.

SUNCASA PLACEMAKING INTERVENTIONS:

- **INTERVENTION A: LITTER TRAPS AS ART:** Transforming pollution into public art installations along the Jukskei River, these interactive pieces will educate and engage the community on conservation efforts.
- **INTERVENTION B: ACTIVATED PARK:** Designing a park in Alexandra to become a vibrant community hub that emphasises recreation, learning, and ecological harmony.
- **INTERVENTION C: POCKET PLAZAS:** Reimagining intersections within the Johannesburg Inner City Walkable Network to integrate artistic and ecological features, fostering connectivity and community interaction.

TIMELINES

#	Intervention	Start	End
A1	Litter Traps as Art (Design)	ASAP	November 2024
A2	Litter Traps as Art (Implementation)	November 2024	February 2025
B1	Activated Park (Design)	January 2025	March 2025
B2	Activated Park (Phase 1 Implementation)	April 2025	December 2025
C1	Pocket Plazas (Concept Design)	ASAP	December 2024
C2	Pocket Plaza (Concept Implementation)	March 2025	August 2025

PLACEMAKING OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are applicable to all three Intervention Areas:

1. **Enhance Community Engagement and Involvement:** Create vibrant and welcoming spaces that foster active participation from local residents and urban farming initiatives to provide participatory activities for residents.
2. **Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment:** Ensure that women have equal opportunities for participation, leadership, and economic benefit throughout the project activities.
3. **Promote Environmental Awareness:** Raise awareness of local environmental challenges and encourage sustainable practices through art and educational programs and leverage urban farming as a tangible example of sustainability.
4. **Foster Collaboration:** Strengthen the ties between local artists, community members, and educational institutions for a holistic approach to urban and ecological regeneration.



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5. **Advance Nature-Based Solutions:** Integrate nature-based solutions (NbS) throughout the project to prioritise enhanced ecosystems and environmental sustainability. Emphasise urban farming as a key NbS, promoting biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources.
 6. **Improve Focus on Urban Greening and Placemaking Projects:** Encourage all stakeholders to focus on urban greening and other placemaking initiatives that align with the goals of the Walkable Network, promoting healthier urban environments.
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INTERVENTION A: LITTER TRAPS AS ART

Objective: Transforming Pollution into Expression

Location: Jukskei River, Alexandra

Project Overview

We are undertaking an initiative to install **five** innovative litter traps in the Jukskei River, addressing the ongoing pollution problem and enhancing community engagement. As part of this project, we aim to transform these litter traps into striking public art pieces that educate the community on the importance of river conservation and the benefits of NbS.

Artistic Concept

We envision the litter traps as interactive art installations that embody themes of nature, conservation, and community and encourage proposals that specifically involve women in the design and creation of the litter trap art installations, providing opportunities for artistic expression and leadership.

The following ideas/themes can be considered for the five installations:

- "Guardian of the Jukskei: Echoes of the Deep" - a giant fish sculpture that appears to be swallowing litter, symbolising the impact of pollution on aquatic life.
- "Rebirth from Waste" - use recovered materials from the river to construct sculptures representing local wildlife and emphasising recycling.
- "Shimmering Reflections" - a structure with mirrors and coloured glass that reflects the environment and promotes interaction.
- "Story of the River" - install artistic markers along the river trail, each representing different ecological, cultural, or historical aspects of the river.
- "Illuminating Nature" - incorporate solar-powered lights into the installations, transforming them at night into glowing fish or plant motifs.
- "Carriers of Life" - craft large sculptures of traditional water vessels adorned with artistic patterns, reflecting community heritage and the significance of water.
- "Awareness in Motion" - create floating installations from recycled materials shaped like animals or plants that drift down the river to capture attention.

Activation Elements

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Rand Club, 33 Loveday St, Marshalltown, Johannesburg, 2107 www.jicp.org.za

Directors: I Mkhabela (Chairperson), N Barnes (Vice-Chairperson), X Diwathi, P Foley*,

D Jeevanantham, C Lund, L Netshitenzhe, R Petersen, K Cox**

**Australian **Alternate Director*



We plan to coactivate the surrounding area to create a community-friendly space that fosters education and engagement. Proposed elements include:

- **Community Workshops:** Plan workshops targeting women, focusing on skills development and knowledge sharing in environmental art and education, enabling them to become advocates for river conservation. Collaborate with local schools and organisations for workshops on river conservation and eco-friendly practices.
- **Community Play Area:** Design a natural play area for children, with educational displays about local wildlife.
- **Outdoor Furniture:** Install benches and tables made from sustainable materials to create a gathering space.
- **Wi-Fi Access:** Provide free Wi-Fi to enhance connectivity and learning opportunities.
- **Community Gardens:** Integrate small-scale community gardens near the litter trap installations, using them as educational sites to discuss pollution and sustainability.
- **Ablution Facilities:** Incorporate NbS in the design and maintenance of facilities

INTERVENTION B: CREATION OF AN ACTIVATED PARK

Theme: "Garden of Nexus: Nurturing Nature and Community"

Location: "The Hub Presents," Alexandra, Johannesburg

Overview

The project seeks to cocreate an activated park along specific areas of the Jukskei River, turning neglected spaces into vibrant community hubs that inspire creativity, connection, and reflection. We emphasize **community involvement** throughout the design process, ensuring that the parks reflect the needs and desires of local residents. These parks will encourage recreation, learning, and community bonding while promoting environmental stewardship and enriching natural infrastructure through imaginative design.

NbS Principles and Goals

- **Biodiversity Enhancement:** Utilise native plants in park designs to foster local biodiversity and create habitats for wildlife, intertwining art and nature in a harmonious ecosystem.
- **Natural Water Management:** Implement green infrastructure, such as swales and rain gardens, that can visually and functionally manage stormwater while enhancing the aesthetic beauty of the parks.
- **Community Resilience and Multi-Functionality:** Support community resilience by providing art-infused green spaces that promote physical activity, mental well-being, and social ties while also serving multiple functions for diverse community experiences.

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Community Engagement and Education

- **Community Gardens:** Establish sustainable gardens that encourage local residents to participate in growing fruits, vegetables, and native plants, nurturing care for the environment and the community.
- **Workshops and Educational Programs:** Incorporate knowledge-sharing sessions centered on environmental awareness, sustainable practices, and artistic expression. Include specific sessions on urban farming techniques, composting, gardening, and the cultivation and uses of medicinal plants to deepen community engagement.
- **Women-Led Initiatives:** Support women-led projects within parks, such as urban farming initiatives or wellness programs, which can serve as platforms for entrepreneurship and social cohesion.

Design and Aesthetics

- **Inclusive Design:** Ensure that park designs consider the needs and inputs of women, offering facilities and services that enhance safety, accessibility, and comfort.
- **Edible Landscaping:** Incorporate edible plants within the park landscapes, providing food for the community and an aesthetic appeal.
- **Medicinal Plant Gardens:** Establish designated areas within the park for planting medicinal plants, providing community education on their benefits, uses, and importance in traditional medicine.
- **Relaxation Zones:** Create inviting spaces for relaxation and gatherings, incorporating seating, shade, and art to enhance comfort and visual appeal.
- **Art Installations:** Integrate various artistic expressions reflecting local culture and the surrounding environment, emphasizing sustainability and conservation.

Connectivity and Programming

- **Nature Trails:** Develop pathways that connect different parts of the park, inviting exploration while featuring educational signage that highlights the importance of local wildlife and ecology.
- **Performance Spaces and Programming:** Design informal stages for community expressions and regular programming, such as workshops or events, that foster a dynamic cultural landscape.
- **Ablution Facilities:** Incorporate nature-based solutions (NbS) in the design and maintenance of facilities to ensure sustainability and accessibility.



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INTERVENTION C: POCKET PLAZA ACTIVATION ALONG SELECTED INTERSECTIONS OF THE JOHANNESBURG INNER CITY WALKABLE NETWORK

Theme: "Urban Oasis: Cultivating Connection and Creativity"

Overview

The Walkable Network is an urban regeneration strategy developed by the Johannesburg Inner City Partnership (JICP) to respond to the significant decline of Johannesburg's Inner City. This strategy has been integrated into the City of Johannesburg's planning and policy frameworks, reflecting a collective commitment to revitalising urban spaces.

As part of the SUNCASA Project, the Walkable Network will be revitalised through a robust urban greening initiative that includes the installation of trees and the transformation of selected intersections into "pocket plazas." These pocket plazas will serve as vibrant community spaces, fostering social interaction and engagement.

The primary objective is to activate the Walkable Network by designing pocket plazas that creatively blend biodiversity with urban infrastructure and incorporate innovative nature-based solutions (NbS). These interventions aim to enhance ecological resilience while creating inviting, multifunctional spaces that promote pedestrian activity, community bonding, and environmental stewardship. By integrating elements that serve pedestrians, such as increased safety, access to Wi-Fi, green landscaping, seating areas, and art installations, the Walkable Network will not only rejuvenate the urban landscape but also encourage a sense of ownership and pride among local residents, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and interconnected city.

Community Engagement Initiatives

- **Community Involvement:** Facilitate active participation in the design and activation of public spaces, reinforcing communal ties and collective responsibility.
- **Artist Competition:** Host competitions that invite local artists to contribute creatively, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in the artistic landscape.
- **Student Involvement:** Engage students from local universities to breathe new life into public spaces with their fresh ideas and energy and in urban farming projects, providing real-world applications of ecological and agricultural science.

Infrastructure

- **Trees:** Integrate tree planting in pocket plaza that enhances greening, providing shade and sanctuary while contributing to urban biodiversity.
- **Lighting:** Utilise solar-powered lights to create inviting spaces, ensuring safety and enhancing night-time visibility.
- **Ablution Facilities:** Incorporate NbS in the design and maintenance of facilities
- **Vertical Gardens:** Include vertical gardens, promoting biodiversity and creating visually stunning, ecologically beneficial art installations that engage the community, enhance the urban

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landscape and to demonstrate efficient farming in limited urban spaces, integrating them as part of the plaza infrastructure.

- **Medicinal Plant Integration:** Incorporate medicinal plants into the overall design of pocket plazas, offering opportunities for education and interaction with these beneficial species.
- **Street Furniture:** Promote upcycling initiatives that yield unique, functional art pieces for seating and gathering areas.
- **Move Utilities to Create Space:** Optimize utility placements to cultivate a sense of openness and accessibility in pedestrian pathways.
- **Stormwater Management:** Employ bioswales and sustainable urban drainage systems to provide water to the plants, urban farms and green infrastructure and to manage runoff creatively, transforming challenges into opportunities for engagement.
- **Innovative Water Solutions:** Implement bioswales and sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs) that not only manage runoff but also nourish plants, urban farms, and green infrastructure.

Safety and Accessibility

- **Pedestrian-Centric Design:** Incorporate design features such as neckdowns, raised crossings and speed humps to prioritise pedestrian safety. These elements will reduce vehicle speeds and create a safer, more inviting environment for foot traffic, encouraging more community engagement and enhancing the overall walkability of the area.
- **Universal Access:** Ensure all public spaces are designed to be welcoming for everyone, creating inclusive environments.
- **Signage:** Enhance wayfinding signage that not only guides visitors but also tells the story of the community and its aspirations.

Activations and Community Opportunities

- **Intersection Art:** Invite other artists to install curated, thematic art installations at intersections that celebrate the locality and enhance the identity of the space.
- **Active Recycling Initiative:** Establish interactive recycling sorting stations that not only educate the community about waste management and eco-friendly practices but also facilitate actual recycling as part of the JICP street cleaning initiatives.
- **Composting Stations:** Include composting facilities to support the gardens and educate the community on waste reduction.
- **Activations:** Design to include lively community events, markets, and performance showcases that bring locals together, fostering a spirit of unity, including nature and wellness programs such as yoga sessions in and around the plazas, promoting mental health and social cohesion.
- **Parklets:** Introduce parklets as extensions of the public realm, seamlessly blending art and green space for community enjoyment.
- **Wi-Fi:** Provide complimentary Wi-Fi access, enriching community interactions and connectivity.
- **Engaging Local Labour for Sustainable Care:** Develop maintenance plans that involve local labour, fostering community stewardship and ensuring the ongoing care and vitality of public spaces. These initiatives will encourage residents to take an active role in maintaining their environment, enhancing pride and ownership within the community.

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- **Local Food Markets:** Use pocket plazas as sites for regular food markets, showcasing produce from community gardens and encouraging local trade.

MATERIALS

To ensure environmental responsibility and sustainability, all interventions should prioritise the use of upcycled and sustainable materials during the design and implementation phases:

- **Upcycled Materials:** Utilise materials that have been repurposed or recycled as far as possible. This approach reduces waste, lowers environmental impact, and supports creative and innovative design solutions.
- **Sustainable Sources:** For materials that cannot be upcycled, prioritise those from sustainable and responsibly managed sources. This includes certified wood, environmentally friendly paints, and low-impact building materials that enhance the project's ecological footprint.

By adopting these material guidelines, the project aims to minimise environmental impact and promote sustainability, aligning with the broader goals of nature-based solutions and environmental stewardship.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following stakeholders should be consulted via the JICP, as part of the design phase for each intervention:

- Alexandra Water Warriors (Interventions 1 and 2)
- Water for the Future (Urban Farming)
- Global Affairs Canada (Via IISD)
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (All 3 interventions)
- World Resources Institute (All 3 interventions)
- City of Johannesburg (All 3 interventions)
- Property owners along the Jukskei River and the Walkable Network

3. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested vendors/individuals should provide the following information:

Bidders may submit proposals for any combination of interventions—whether for all three, or just one or two. However, each intervention should be submitted as a standalone proposal.

The following disciplines are encouraged to submit proposals:

- **Intervention A:** Artist
- **Intervention B:** Collaboration between artist and landscape architect
- **Intervention C:** Collaboration between artist and urban designer

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To ensure a comprehensive evaluation, proposals should be structured with detailed narrative and financial subsections as outlined below:

Narrative

- **Introduction**
Provide a concise overview of your organisation and its relevant experience. Highlight any past projects that align with the aims of the SUNCASA Project.
- **Project Vision and Objectives**
Describe your vision for implementing the SUNCASA interventions. Explain how your approach aligns with the project's goals to enhance community engagement, environmental sustainability, and urban greening.
- **Methodology and Approach**
Detail the methods and strategies you plan to employ to achieve the SUNCASA project goals. Include specific nature-based solutions, urban farming practices, art installations, and community involvement strategies. Explain how you will incorporate upcycled and sustainable materials within the project scope.
- **Community Engagement**
Outline your plan for engaging with local communities and stakeholders, ensuring inclusivity and active participation throughout the project phases.
- **Impact and Sustainability**
Discuss the anticipated social, environmental, and economic impacts of the project. Describe measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of the initiatives.
- **Timeline**
Provide a detailed timeline for each intervention phase, including key milestones and deliverable dates.
- **Experience**
List of past projects demonstrating qualifications and experience executing similar work related to the SUNCASA interventions.

Financial

- **Detailed Budget**
Present a comprehensive budget breakdown, clearly identifying costs associated with each phase of the project (Intervention 1, 2, and 3). Include line items for materials, labour, community engagement activities, and any other relevant expenses.
- **Funding Sources**



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Specify any expected funding sources, including in-kind contributions, grants, or partnerships that will support the project financially.

- **Cost-Effectiveness**
Provide a brief analysis of how the budget demonstrates cost-effectiveness and efficient use of resources while achieving project objectives.

4. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

The following criteria will be the primary considerations in evaluating all proposals submitted in response to this RFP:

Innovativeness of Proposed Solutions (40%)

Well-presented proposal demonstrating creativity and originality to enhance public spaces and address project themes.

Experience and Qualifications (20%)

Proof of relevant experience in similar projects and qualifications, with an emphasis on working within Sub-Saharan Africa and with ecological or community-focused projects.

Community Engagement (10%)

Showcasing strategies for enhancing community engagement, particularly empowering women and local residents, and fostering ownership of the interventions.

Budget and Cost-Effectiveness (30%)

Reasonableness and transparency of the budget, ensuring cost-effectiveness while maximising impact and meeting project objectives.

The bidder offering the best overall value will be selected. For this procurement, both price and non-price aspects will be considered for evaluating bidders' proposals.

JICP may, at its discretion and without explanation to the prospective vendors/individuals choose to discontinue this RFP, or any of the interventions included in the RFP, without obligation to such prospective vendors/individuals or make multiple awards under this RFP.

Debarment and sanctions

Proposals will not be considered from vendors/individuals that are presently debarred or named on any restricted parties lists.

5. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF document, including both narrative and financial sections. The financial subsection must be submitted as a separate Excel document and be included in the PDF Proposal.



The narrative section should not exceed 10 pages, while the financial subsection should be concise, detailed, and clearly organised.

Use a clear, professional font (e.g., Arial, Times New Roman) in size 11 or 12.

All expressions of interest and questions about this RFP must be received via email to chanel@jicp.org.za by **17h00 on 7 October 2024**. Answers to the questions will be shared with all parties who have asked questions or otherwise expressed interest.

All proposals must be submitted chanel@jicp.org.za by **17h00 on 11 October 2024** in the **exact format as prescribed in Sections 3 and 4 of this RFP**.

RFP DATES

#	Activity	Due Date
1	Publication Date	27 September 2024
2	RFP Questions	7 October 2024
3	Submission of proposals	11 October 2024
4	Evaluation of proposals	21 October 2024
5	Project Start	24 October 2024