

TRI ÂN MONUMENT CALL FOR ENTRIES AND COMPETITION GUIDELINES BRIEF

THE TRI ÂN IDEA

In Louisville, Kentucky, a diverse group of citizens led by Yung Nguyen, an immigrant from Vietnam, has conceived this idea of a monument of thanksgiving; a place of special recognition for the tremendous sacrifices the American and South Vietnamese Armed Forces made during the Vietnam War in order to give the Vietnamese people a chance to live in freedom.

This citizen's group formed a foundation to develop this concept and to raise private funds to implement it. The foundation's name is "Tri Ân", which means "deep gratitude" in the Vietnamese language.

A site was secured in an existing park dedicated to veterans. It is in Jeffersontown, a suburb of Louisville, Kentucky. Wanting the most inspirational and unique monument possible, they decided to sponsor an architectural competition, open to everyone, to help them find the most creative ideas.

It is the foundation's intent to fund and build the Tri Ân Monument based upon the selected design.

THE PURPOSE

The overriding purpose of this proposed monument is to honor and express deep gratitude for the millions of Americans and Vietnamese who fought side-by-side to stop communist aggression and give the South Vietnamese people their freedom.

To give meaning to this difficult struggle, it is important for many of the Vietnamese people who fled their country and escaped communist persecution, to show their appreciation to those that helped them during and after the war. They thought it important to recognize the combined contributions of the American, South Vietnamese and other participating Coalition military personnel; and to celebrate the bond that developed between the soldiers from these different countries as they faced a common enemy.

It is important to recognize the numerous humanitarian efforts and good deeds done by the U.S. military and the many Americans who went far beyond the call of duty to help the South Vietnamese people.

It is important and proper to solemnly recognize all who served and sacrificed, and to memorialize all who fought and died in that war, and in the struggles that followed.

It is important to remember thousands of Americans who are still unaccounted-for after all these years.

It is important to remember hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese who died or suffered terribly in the concentration camps set up by the invading Communist regime.

THE MONUMENT DEFINED

The Physical Monument

It is situated on a sloping hillside site within a park with other monuments to veterans nearby. As envisioned by the Tri Ân Foundation, the physical monument is an *environmental setting* made up of an assemblage of features and spaces that will accommodate the anticipated uses, and serve to engage the attention, imagination and feelings of each visitor as they experience it.

The composition of this monument could include a combination of elements and features. Circulation paths within the monument might organize the exhibits and invite recreational park visitors to visit. More private areas and seating might provide respite, and allow for passive contemplation.

There are many compositional elements which could be used to create the *environmental setting*. The infrastructure may include landscaping, pavement, architectural structures, fountains, walls, seating, fencing, and other site features; augmented by graphic depictions, sculptures, flags, military symbols, signage, exhibited artifacts, lighting, or any other methods that would help to achieve the monument's purposes.

The Digital Monument Site

Also planned is an *interactive website* that will augment the visitor's on-site experience. It will link the on-site monument features, via a smartphone app and QR codes, to a digital "museum," employing the latest commercially available technologies to enhance the visitor experience. This will aid in the storytelling of those who fought in or were affected by the war.

Note: The scope of this competition is specifically limited to the Physical Monument and does not include the Digital Monument Site.

THE AIM FOR AN INSPIRING DESIGN

It is the aim of the Tri Ân Foundation to select a monument design that evokes from the visitor the strongest emotional response, the deepest sense of contemplation, the best spirit of thanksgiving, and the most respectful mood of remembrance. The selected entry will have been judged to:

- 1 Be unique.
- 2 Be dramatic, timeless, and contemplative
- 3 Have many levels of meaning
- 4 Have the seductive power to invite a closer look, even to the casual observer
- 5 Be in harmony with the landscape, and be compatible with the other features and uses of the park in which it will reside
- 6 Be a creative use of the hillside site; incorporating its views, topography, and natural wooded backdrop
- 7 Successfully convey the *Overriding Purpose* and *Interpretive Themes* stated in these Guidelines

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Once a winning entry is selected, and the project moves forward with more detailed development of the design, the Tri Ân Foundation will commission a professional Exhibit Designer to provide research, curatorial and exhibit fabrication assistance, in collaboration with the selected monument designer.

Therefore the goal of this competition is to generate overall design concepts which show the general location of the interpretive elements, how the *Interpretive Themes* might be presented, and the circulation plan and gathering spaces that become a part of the exhibit experience. The exact content and technology of the exhibits will be created at a later time.

The monument designer may augment the presentation of the interpretive content; but the essential core themes which must be included in the monument design submission are as follows:

Background and History:

- 1 Explain the history of the Vietnamese country and its people leading up to the war, including such topics as its independence from imperial China; the royal dynasties; the French occupation; the Japanese occupation; and the ultimate division between the North and South.

- 2 Exhibit and describe the geographical and political divisions that existed within Southeast Asia region. This would include Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and the waters of the South China Sea.
- 3 Exhibit images of the land of Vietnam and show the lifestyle of its people, including such topics as its towns, villages, cities, markets, farming, jungles, rivers, mountains, sea shores, deltas, trails, roads and bridges.

The War with the North:

- 1 Explain the reason for the struggle and why the South Vietnamese had to fight; and explain the history of South Vietnam's alliance with the United States.
- 2 Exhibit a calendar showing the sequence of significant events during the period of the conflict. Explain the historical significance of the major operations and battles that transpired.
- 3 Explain the working relationship between the military personnel of the United States and those of South Vietnam, and how they lived and fought together. Show examples of the cooperation, brotherhood and comradeship that developed between them.
- 4 Describe the many humanitarian acts done by American Troops, above and beyond their service duty, to help the civilian population and improve the lives of the Vietnamese people.

Those who Served:

- 1 Honor both living and deceased American and South Vietnamese military personnel who fought against communist aggression in Vietnam. The United States deployed 3,403,100 military personnel and suffered 58,286 fatalities. South Vietnam deployed over 1,000,000 military personnel in 1972 and undetermined numbers during the other years, with over 250,000 fatalities.
- 2 Honor both living and deceased military personnel of the other allied countries that fought against communist aggression in Vietnam. These include (with casualties shown) the countries of: South Korea (5,099), Australia (426), Thailand (351), New Zealand (37), Republic of China—Taiwan (35), and the Philippines (9)
- 3 Exhibit the character, courage, fortitude, cooperation and patriotism of those in the armed forces of the United States and South Vietnam throughout the many battles of the war.

THE PROGRAM OF REQUIREMENTS

Programmatic Elements

It is the interest of the Tri Ân Foundation to give each designer or design team the maximum creative freedom within the limits of the site. The actual Program Elements prescribed by the sponsor are minimal requirements. This is to allow considerable flexibility for Competition participants to imagine their own set of features that, taken together, define the Monument per se. The most important result, and the basis for judging the entries, is the extent to which the more intangible *Overriding Purpose* and *Goals and Design Criteria* are achieved.

The overall concept should:

- 1 Include locations and general display concepts for the exhibit components to indicate how they may convey the history and events to the visitor that are referenced in the *Interpretive Themes*. Detailed exhibit content will be developed after the competition in collaboration with a professional exhibit designer.
- 2 Provide opportunities for both public and intimate participation by visitors in contemplation, reflection, remembrance, and the expression of gratitude for the service and sacrifice of the military personnel of the United States and the Republic of Vietnam.
- 3 Accommodate outdoor gatherings, for celebrations, reunions, group orientations and ceremonies of all kinds, (accommodating up to 100 people at a time).
- 4 Include a donor recognition component, thanking by name, all who contributed funds to the Tri Ân Monument.

Practical Considerations

Once constructed, it is important to the City of Jeffersontown and to the Tri Ân Foundation that the monument and associated site features continue to be useful and kept in good condition with only a reasonable level of maintenance required. Solutions or features that might require continual cleaning, excessive management or expensive repair are discouraged.

Submitted design concepts will also be tested against the following criteria:

- 1 **Accessibility:** The site and all features of the monument environment must be made accessible to those with disabilities and comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- 2 **Durability:** The materials and landscaping should be long-lasting, resistant to weathering, resistant to vandalism damage and easily repaired if necessary.

- 3 Security: Visibility of the monument environment from the parking area and the surrounding park should be reasonably maintained for visual monitoring. Considerations should be taken to make people feel secure while visiting alone.
- 4 Safety: The built features within the monument environment should be safe for visitors, particularly children. Climbing opportunities, sharp edges or points, attractiveness to skateboarders, and unprotected drop-offs should be avoided to minimize the possibility of personal injuries.
- 5 Scale of Structures: Any buildings, pergolas, or structures of any kind must be in keeping with the scale of the existing Veterans Park buildings. Any architectural structures should not exceed the height of the existing park structures: and care should be taken not to obscure views of other displays and memorials within the Veterans Park.

Other Considerations

- 1 Flag Poles: If flags for the United States and South Vietnam are included in the design, they should not be more than 20' in height.
- 2 Symbolic Depictions: It is desirable to depict, in some form, the flag design of the coalition; the official symbols of the United States military service branches and the South Vietnamese military service branches; and, the Tri Ân Foundation logo.
- 3 Native Materials: It is desirable to utilize, in some fashion, the limestone, marble or granite that is native to South Vietnam.

Construction Budget

The total budget for the construction of the physical monument, including all of its sitework and components, is Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$850,000 USD). All submitted entries should be designed to be reasonably implementable at that funding level.

THE SITE

Location:

10617 Taylorsville Road, Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

The site is located within an existing park in the City of Jeffersontown, a suburb of Louisville, Kentucky. The park has multi-recreational uses, but it is named Veteran's Memorial Park and it is dedicated to that purpose.

Size and Configuration:

The Tri-Ân Monument site is a designated area of approximately 1 acre, on a hillside slope, and adjacent to other memorials and interpretive military displays. Access roads and ample parking are nearby.

The Veterans Park Master Plan:

The existing park is being expanded and re-configured by the City of Jeffersontown. The main entrance to the park from Taylorsville Road will be reconstructed to create an entrance circle with a public gathering area at the center and car parking around the outside perimeter. An existing playground will be relocated from its current location in the circle area, and a picnic pavilion and torpedo exhibit will also be moved to accommodate this new memorial.

Detailed Site Plans and Site Data:

Plans of the site, reference photographs of the site and surrounding area, and information regarding the park master plan changes that need to be anticipated in the design of the Tri-Ân Monument are available on the “DOWNLOADS” tab on the home page.

AWARDS

A Project That Will Be Built

This competition is for the selection of a conceptual design that will be built. The winning competitor, individual or team, will have the opportunity to participate in the implementation of the project, at a level of involvement commensurate with their capabilities and credentials. This is a Two-Stage selection process.

Stage One:

The first stage will result in the selection, by the Jury, of three finalists. Each of the three finalists will receive an award of \$4,000.00 USD.

In addition, the jury will select at least 10 entries for Honorable Mention, with no monetary award.

Stage Two:

The second stage will involve a detailed evaluation of the three finalist’s designs, which will result in the selection of the winning design by the Tri Ân Foundation Board of Directors. The winning competitor, individual or team, will have the opportunity to participate in the realization of the project, at a level of involvement and compensation commensurate with their capabilities.

THE COMMISSION

An Open Competition

Entries are anticipated from a wide range of designers—from students and amateurs on the one hand, and credentialed professionals or multidisciplinary firms on the other. Some may be submitting as teams made up of individuals that have diverse skills; but are not an actual business entity. Some may be geographically remote from Louisville.

The Tri Ân Foundation Board of Directors wants to ensure that anyone is welcome to participate, and that the selection be based only on the best design. As such, the way forward to commissioning the winning competitor needs to be flexible. If the result is:

1 A WINNING COMPETITOR WITH THE NECESSARY PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND ORGANIZATION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT

The Sponsor will attempt to negotiate an Agreement with the winning competitor regarding terms and fees for Design Development, Construction Document and Construction Administration services. In the unlikely event that such negotiations fail to produce a mutually acceptable agreement, the Sponsor shall have the right to negotiate with the second-ranked competitor, and so forth.

2 A WINNING COMPETITOR WITH SKILLS TO FINISH THE DETAILED DESIGN, BUT LACKING THE CREDENTIALS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT

The Sponsor will attempt to negotiate an agreement with the winning competitor regarding terms and fees and assist them in associating with such qualified consultants and disciplines as the Sponsor deems necessary to supplement their skills to successfully implement the project.

3 A WINNING COMPETITOR THAT IS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE SERVICES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT

The Sponsor has the right to retain such professional and technical assistance as it sees fit to construct the project based on the selected design. In such event, the winning competitor will have ample opportunity to review and comment on the Design Development plans and Construction Documents prepared for the project by others.

THE JURY

SUSAN RADEMACHER, HON. ASLA

Landscape Lecturer, Writer, Curator, Consultant & Designer
Parks Curator, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

YUNG NGUYEN

Immigrant & Successful Entrepreneur
Founder and Chairman of the Tri Ân Foundation

P.Q. PHAN

Composer, Musician, & Educator
Professor of Music at Indiana University

DAVID M. BIAGI

Architect
Director of the University of Kentucky School of Architecture

Biographical information on the jurists is available on the “JURY” tab on the home page.

CALENDAR

Start of Competition and Registration:	May 16, 2016
Registration Ends:	August 15, 2016
Deadline for Questions:	August 18, 2016
All Submissions Due:	August 28, 2016
Publication of List of Entrants	September 2, 2016
Stage One Announcement of Finalists & Awards Finalists and Honorable Mentions Posted	September 19, 2016
Stage Two Announcement of Winning Submission:	October 29, 2016
Public Exhibition	October 29—November 15, 2016

Note: All deadlines are 5:00pm EDT (9:00pm GMT)

ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

This is an open competition and anyone with an idea is welcome to submit an entry—artists, sculptors, architects, landscape architects, graphic designers, students, professionals, etc. Registrations will be accepted from individuals as well as from teams or firms.

The entry fee is \$35.00 USD for students; and \$75.00 USD for all others.

Only one entry submission is permitted for each registration

Registration is only available through this website. Entrants must complete the registration form and submit it with the fee payment, which is only accepted via PayPal.



Employees, associates or immediate family of members of the Jury, or the Tri An Foundation Board of Directors are not eligible to participate in this competition.

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Language

The official language of the competition is English.

Deliverables

Presentation Panel:

All designs are to be presented in landscape orientation on one E-1 (30"x42") panel in PDF format with a maximum file size of 8.0 MB

Optional Supplemental Narrative:

A narrative of explanatory text of no more than 250 words in 12pt type may also be submitted in portrait orientation on no more than one 8 1/2"x11" page in PDF format.

Content and Text

If text is considered necessary to explain some aspect of the design, it can be included; but should be brief and to the point. Both the drawings and the text should clearly convey the concept as to:

- The spatial arrangement, organization, circulation patterns and function of the Monument's components.
- The character and inspirational impact of the visitor's experience, and the visual impression of the Monument environment from a distance as well as from within.
- The description of any structures, sculpture, land forms, landscaping, water feature, exhibit areas, and materials proposed.
- The relationship to adjoining site features

Required Presentation Panel Illustrations

- A site plan (@ 1" = 20')
- An illustrative overall perspective view
- Plus: Any other illustrations, at the discretion of the designer, that help explain the concept (such as additional perspective views, sections, elevations, expanded plan views, or component details, etc.)

Identification

Each entry must include, (in the lower right-hand corner of the submitted presentation panel, and in the heading of the optional supplemental narrative page) that entrant's six-digit competition ID assigned at the time of registration. No other identifying marks are allowed.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications regarding the competition are to be made through the competition website. The sponsor will post any bulletins or updates for competitors on the site in a timely fashion. Any attempt to directly contact the Competition Advisor, any member of the Jury, any member of the Tri An Foundation, or any representative of the City of Jeffersontown is prohibited.

Questions

If you have a question, it may be submitted through the FAQ tab. All competitors' questions that are received will be listed and answered in the FAQ tab on the website. Please check the Q&A list before you submit a question to make sure that question has not already been answered.

RULES

Registration

The registration fee is non-refundable. Information provided on the registration form cannot be changed or updated once the form is submitted and the registration fee is paid.

Authorship

By submitting an entry, each competitor affirms that the work which they submit is entirely their own, and does not infringe on any copyright or patent.

Anonymity

The competition presentation panel may not include any copy or marks which might identify the author(s) of the entry, except for the PIN number placed in the lower right-hand corner.

Submission

To be considered, each competitor must submit their entries before the deadline, via email, using their 6 digit competition ID code as the Subject Line, to:
submission@tri-ancompetition.com

Conflict of Interest

Any employee, associate or immediate family of a member of the Jury, or the Tri An Foundation Board of Directors is ineligible to participate in this competition. Any entry in which such a person participated, advised, or assisted in any way will be disqualified.

Ownership and Use by Sponsor

By submitting an entry, the registered competitor agrees that:

- The Sponsor shall retain ownership of all of the design submission materials and use them for any purpose in perpetuity.
- The Sponsor shall have the unlimited right to publish, display, reproduce or otherwise publicize any and all design submissions. The author(s) will be appropriately identified in all such publications or displays.
- The Sponsor shall have the exclusive right to issue all public announcements regarding the competition; and reserves the right to control where and how a submission is first published.
- Competitors may not release any images of their submission to any media outlets, publications or websites until after the Sponsor has formally announced the First Stage award-winning finalists. No restrictions are placed on the use of a design submission by its author(s) after the Second Stage award announcement has been made.

Direct Contacts Prohibited

Competitors are prohibited from contacting, or attempting to contact, the Competition Advisor, or any member of the Jury, or any member of the Tri An Foundation Board of Directors, or any representative of the City of Jeffersontown, Kentucky with regard to any aspect of the competition.

Disqualification

Any submission deemed to be late, significantly incomplete, plagiaristic, revealing as to the identity of the competitor, offensive, or inappropriate in any way will be disqualified.

Additionally, any competitor having a conflict of interest, attempting to make prohibited contacts, or violating the competition rules in any way, will be disqualified by the Competition Advisor; whose decision to disqualify any entry and the potential forfeiture of any award stipends shall be final and binding on all parties.