

STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE COMMUNITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Archaeological Services

Stockbridge Militia and the Battle of Kingsbridge: Tribal Survey Project

November 2024

I. INTRODUCTION

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community (“Tribe”), a federally-recognized Indian tribe, is seeking proposals from qualified firms or individuals to conduct a systematic, focused remote sensing survey on areas associated with the 1778 Battle of Kingsbridge (today’s Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx NY) to fulfill its objectives under the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) grant: “Stockbridge Militia and the Battle of Kingsbridge: Tribal Survey Project.” The project is grant-funded to the Tribe from the National Parks Service. The area constituting the Battle of Kingsbridge battleground is a roughly 400-acre area situated in the northeastern part of Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, NY.

II. SCHEDULE

Sealed proposals for the services requested in the RFP **will be received until Monday, January 6, 2025 at 4:00 PM**, Central Daylight Time. Proposal must be identified as being “Bid for Archeological Services” on the outside of the envelope. Proposals shall be delivered to the:

Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Secretary
N8476 Moh He Con Nuck Road
P.O. Box 70
Bowler, WI 54416
Telephone: 715-793-4387

Bids must be physically mailed to this address. Email submissions are not accepted. The Tribe anticipates that a successful bidder will be selected by the Tribal Council on or about January 22, 2025.

III. PROJECT AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Tribe is a federally-recognized Indian tribe with a reservation in central Wisconsin. The Tribe has approximately 1,600 members and employs individuals both in tribal government operations as well as through a number of tribal enterprises. The Tribe has a Historic Preservation Program which operates from an extension office in Williamstown, Massachusetts. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) currently covers a territory of six eastern states and reviews more than 1500 cultural resource projects and repatriation projects annually. More information can be found within our website at www.mohican.com.

The Tribe is requesting proposals for firms or individuals to provide professional archaeological services for the Tribe's Historic Preservation program to fulfill a funded project, "Stockbridge Militia and the Battle of Kingsbridge: Tribal Survey Project."

Specifically, the Tribe requests that bidders provide, or with prior approval, contract for the following services:

- a. Task 1: Conduct an initial **metal detecting/magnetometry survey** beginning at the original positions of the Stockbridge Militia Company. This phase of the project will follow the lines of retreat and pursuit that characterized the Battle of Kingsbridge. It is thought that these lines of combatant movement will point toward areas that are most likely to contain ancestral burials. An interim report on the results of this first phase of the study will be prepared describing any findings that elucidate how the battle unfolded, the movements of military units, and any final positions and recommendations for subsequent in-depth remote sensing studies and search dog surveys.
- b. Task 2: **Search dog survey services** to investigate areas associated with the final positions of combatants. Mapping the positions of search dog alert locations shall be provided and mapped with interpretation by the handler and archaeologists.
- c. Task 3: In terminal areas of lines of retreat/pursuit identified during the above metal detecting, magnetometry, search dog surveys, **in-depth ground penetrating radar (GPR) and/or magnetometry surveys** will be employed to locate possible burial sites. A report will be produced on these findings including the likelihood of burial features identified and any other pertinent information related to the Battle of Kingsbridge.
- d. Task 4: **An evaluation of National Register eligibility** will be completed by the contractor as part of their scope of work. The report should include the number of possible burials identified, their location, the type (mass vs individual) and any recommendations of next steps.

To maintain grant timeframes, all tasks must be completed by **August 1, 2026**.

IV. STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS

The proposer must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Master's Degree in Anthropology/Archaeology, History, Native American Studies, or a related field.
2. Demonstrable professional experience in delivering database services for an academic institution, Tribal Government, historic organization or agency, museum, or other similar professional institution.
3. Contractor must obtain a Construction Permit from the City of New York in order to engage in this project. Details can be found at the following website:
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/permits/construction>

V. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

At a minimum, proposals must contain the following information. A proposal that does not contain this information shall be deemed non-responsible and is subject to rejection.

1. Identify the bidder's qualifications to provide the services.
2. Describe how bidder intends to provide these services and whether in-house, or if a team approach is proposed then specifying anticipated sub-contracts to other specialists to accomplish the survey tasks. The requested format is the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City, 'Work Plan' Section C.1.
3. Identify fee for these services and, if any reimbursable expenses, specify what such costs will be in detail.
4. Identify payment terms. If progress payments are desired, identify a basis for the progress payments.
5. Provide CV or resume for key personnel.
6. Describe your availability to complete this project and all reporting by August 1, 2026.
7. Provide contact information for at least 3 references
8. Identify any deviations from this RFP.

Written questions concerning this RFP shall be forwarded, by fax, email or mail, to the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Secretary at N8476 Moh He Con Nuck Road, P.O. Box 70, Bowler, WI 54416 (fax: 715-793-1307) (email: jody.hartwig@mohican-nsn.gov).

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The successful bidder will be selected in accordance with tribal bid policies, as applicable. This RFP does not commit the Tribe to award a contract or pay any costs associated with the preparation and presentation of a proposal. The Tribe reserves the right to revise the selection process and, in its sole discretion, to accept or reject any or all responses to this RFP. The Tribe may negotiate with or request additional information from any or all considered bidders. The Tribe may waive informalities or irregularities in a proposal.

The Tribe intends to hire the successful bidder as an independent contractor and such bidder will be required to enter into a written professional services contract with the Tribe. The successful bidder will be required to carry all appropriate insurance, such as professional liability, errors and omissions, general liability, vehicle and worker compensation coverages. The successful bidder must not engage in discriminatory conduct and may not be a barred contractor under tribal or federal contracting requirements.