

# Request for Interest

## Property Refurbishment & Ownership



### La Niña Caravel Replica

Lawrence Street T-Head  
400 A North Shoreline Blvd.  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401



**Deadline:** February 22<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 5:00 pm

# La Niña Caravel Replica Request for Information

## SECTION I. GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

### 1. INVITATION FOR REQUEST FOR INTEREST

The City of Corpus Christi and the Columbus Sailing Association (CSA) is issuing this Request for Interest (RFI) for the rights of ownership of Caravel Replica La Niña, berthed in the Corpus Christi Marina on the Lawrence Street T-Head. The City and CSA is seeking a dynamic project that will preserve and protect the Caravel Replica Niña, and restore her to her former glory, in-line with the vision of utilizing La Niña for educational and historical purposes, with dignity and honor, either in the water or on land. The City and CSA envision a complete restoration with long-term plans for maintenance and preservation of this historic ship, as she helps promote community and culture in her newly chosen venue.

The purpose of this RFI is to provide all interested parties with an opportunity to submit a Letter of Interest for the acquisition and preservation of La Niña, allowing the City to identify a new owner, historical foundation, and/or developer with the commitment, plans, and display concepts that are the most satisfactory to the future preservation of La Nina and her legacy.

NOTE: This is not a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) but an invitation to participate in a future RFP or direct negotiation process. The City reserves the right to forgo an RFP process and commence direct negotiations based on the responses received because of this RFI.

### 2. GENERAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Hull Length	70’6”
Overall Length	92’6” (with bowsprit)
Hull Breadth	20’6”
Main Yard	42’
Draught	7’
Max Height	59’1”
Freeboard	5’6
Gross Tons	57

### 3. HISTORY

La Niña is one of three replicas built in the 1980's by the government of Spain to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christopher Columbus's first voyage to the New World (1492-1992). The Quincentenary Ships were built with original materials, such as wood from the forests of Iberia, hand forged nails, canvas sails, and natural hemp rigging according to 15<sup>th</sup> century shipbuilding practices. La Nina, La Pinta, and La Santa Maria sailed from Spain in 1992, landing in New York, and sailing down the Eastern seaboard and around Florida into the Gulf of Mexico, and visiting Corpus Christi, where they were met by thousands of people from all over Texas. Corpus Christi won the contest over many cities in many states to permanently house the Quincentenary Ships. After a barge accident in 1994, Santa Maria and Pinta were dry docked at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History and were dismantled in August 2014.

All three replicas were gifted to the City of Corpus Christi in 2006, and La Nina was sailed and maintained solely by volunteers and her crew from 1995-2000. The Columbus Fleet Sailing School graduated almost 300 crew members in 12 + 1 Classes, all schooled in 15<sup>th</sup> century sailing practices and techniques. La Nina sailed in Corpus Christi Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, and to various ports of call along the Texas coast.

La Niña is the only remaining Caravel Replica in the Northern Hemisphere. This twenty-eight-year-old iconic replica has seen many berths in the Corpus Christi Marina. In 2010, the Corpus Christi City Council leased La Niña to the Columbus Sailing Association with a 15-year term. The Columbus Sailing Association (CSA) was formed in 2006 as a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable corporation, committed to restoring La Nina to her prior glory as a time warp into 15<sup>th</sup> century sailing and historical education. Volunteers, dedicated members, and fundraising monies and opportunities for the CSA are becoming non-existent in our area, and La Nina deserves far more than the CSA can provide alone.

On August 28, 2017, La Nina listed to port, and eventually became partially submerged due to complications from Hurricane Harvey. On December 4, 2017, she was successfully raised from her watery grave, thanks to the many volunteers who donated money and services because they believe the value and history of La Nina. With only 3 members and a few volunteers, the CSA can no longer maintain, protect, and preserve La Nina for historical and educational purposes. On May 16, 2018, the CSA approached the Corpus Christi City Council requesting permission to pursue other opportunities and perhaps locations for the salvation and preservation of the last Caravel Replica, Nina, hence this Request for Interest solicitation.



#### 4. EXISTING CONDITIONS



*July 2018*



*Bow –  
June 2018*



*Deck –  
June 2018*



*Stern Aft –  
June 2018*

*La Niña Ariel Site View*



*Niña Ariel Site View (continued)*





## 5. PROPERTY VISIT

Proposers will be able to tour La Niña. Tours will begin on the Lawrence Street T-Head at the Marina Boaters Facility office, 400 A North Shoreline Blvd.

Call for reservations **(361) 826-3980**.

## 6. INQUIRIES

Any inquiries related to this RFI must be submitted in writing via email no later than **February 8, 2019 by 5:00pm** to the below email address.

**Email:** [Marina@cctexas.com](mailto:Marina@cctexas.com)

## 7. SUBMIT LETTER OF INTEREST TO

Letters of Interest are due no later than **5:00 pm on February 22, 2019** via email to:

**Email:** [Marina@cctexas.com](mailto:Marina@cctexas.com)

## SECTION II. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### **1. DESCRIPTION OF ENTITY AND EXPERIENCE**

Within the Letter of Interest, the proposer must provide the following information:

- a. A description of the entity submitting the Letter of Interest to include, if not an individual, the name of all partners, corporate name(s), and dba(s) if applicable, and the pertinent address and telephone number, names and addresses of all investors, shareholders, and officers of the corporation.
- b. A clear statement of interest in ownership and restoration of La Niña with potential ideas for its future and official residence, including conceptual drawings.
- c. A clear statement of the interest and experience in this type of endeavor, detailing those years of experience.
- d. Experience (if any) working with the public sector, including pictures and details of completed projects.
- e. Experience (if any) with the rehabilitation and/or preservation of historical ships and/or buildings, including pictures and details of completed projects.
- f. The estimated completion of restoration and availability to the public (in terms of number of days or months) from the date of possession.

### SECTION III. REVIEW PROCESS

All Letters of Interest will be reviewed by the Superintendent of the Corpus Christi Marina, Columbus Sailing Association, appointed committee members, and representatives from the City Manager's Office. Following review of the responses, a selection and report will be presented to the City Manager and City Council by December 1, 2018.

Letters of Interest will be evaluated based on a combination of the following:

- Project or proposal ideas
- Experience
- Scale of renovation and rehabilitation projects
- Professional qualifications and expertise on similar projects
- Ability to bring projects to a timely and successful conclusion

This Request for Interest may lead to one of the following outcomes:

- 1) A request for additional information from one or more respondents.
- 2) The issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to one or more responders chosen as part of this Request.
- 3) The issuance of a RFP opened to all potential development individuals and/or teams.
- 4) Direct negotiations for sale/lease and refurbishment of the property with a development individual and/or team selected because of this Request.
- 5) Termination of this process without selection of a development team or issuance of an RFP.

This Request is not a request for competitive proposals and in no way obligates the City to enter a relationship with any entity that responds, or limits or restricts the City's right to enter into a relationship with an entity that does not respond. In its sole discretion, the City may pursue discussion with one or more entities responding to this Request or none.