



**Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)
Whatcom Community College
Phyllis and Charles Self Learning Commons
CALL FOR ART / REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)**

Due: Friday, April 24, 2020, 5pm

Budget: \$92,904.35 inclusive of design, fabrication, and installation.



Architect's Rendering, courtesy of Schreiber Starling Whitehead Architects

What we're looking for

Whatcom Community College and ArtsWA are seeking an individual artist or artist team to design and create original artwork for the new Phyllis and Charles Self Learning Commons. We seek applicants who can design and create artwork that is able to reflect Whatcom Community College's collaborative campus community and the Indigenous traditions of the Pacific Northwest, particularly those of the Coast Salish, Lummi, Nooksack, Semiahmoo and/or the other tribes of Washington state.

Eligibility

Open to artists residing in Washington state and British Columbia. Those with active or recent ArtsWA projects are ineligible for this call. Artists currently on ArtsWA's Public Artist Roster may be considered for this opportunity without applying to this call but are welcome to emphasize their interest in this specific opportunity by submitting updated materials. We do not discriminate based on race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, or gender identity.

The Washington State Arts Commission is committed to values of inclusion, diversity, equity, and creative expression. We believe in diverse forms of artistic expression, and we believe in access to arts and arts education for all individuals in our state. The arts can and should play a role in addressing inequities, modelling inclusion, and teaching empathy.

How to submit

Please e-mail digital materials to marissa.laubscher@arts.wa.gov by **5pm, Friday, April 24, 2020**. You should receive confirmation of your submission within one business day. If you are unable to submit electronically, contact Marissa Laubscher to discuss possible accommodations (360)586-2419.

What to submit

Artists interested in this project must prepare and submit the following set of documents:

1. **A letter of interest** outlining your approach to public art as well as providing the Art Selection Committee with insights regarding your interest in making art for the Phyllis and Charles Self Learning Commons. It should outline:
 - what you bring to the project as an artist or artist team
 - experience with other similar projects
 - any other comments that might help to differentiate you
 - your name(s), address, and a primary phone number and e-mail address
 - not to exceed one page. **PDF or DOC format.**
2. **8 images of past works**, preferably created within the past 5 years. 1,200 pixels on the long side, 72 pixels/inch minimum, file size less than 1.5 MB. Named uniquely. **JPG format.**
3. **An image list document**, this document should describe the images you've submitted. The document should indicate:
 - title
 - dimensions
 - materials
 - date of work
 - city/ locations
 - project budget and client, if applicable.
 - a brief description of the ideas, themes or context behind the artwork
 - (250 words max per image). **PDF or DOC format.**
4. **References:** A list of at least three references from past projects. The list must include complete addresses and telephone numbers. **PDF or DOC format.**

OPTIONAL: A resume/CV (limit 2 pages). Artists working collaboratively may submit a resume/CV for each member. **PDF or DOC format.**

This means your e-mail submission will include 3-4 separate DOC or PDF file attachments, and 8 separate JPG file attachments. Submitting your documents this way, versus in a single document file, makes it much easier for us to share and present your work to the selection committee.

Vision for the artwork

ArtsWA's Art in Public Places program is uniquely positioned to advance and support art and artists across Washington. Our goal is to build and care for a dynamic contemporary art collection that is accessible and valued. We seek impactful and lasting artworks that reflect Washington's diverse communities.

ArtsWA and the Whatcom Community College Art Selection Committee seek an artist or artist team who can design and create artwork that is able to reflect Whatcom Community College's collaborative campus community and the Indigenous traditions of the Pacific Northwest, particularly those of the Coast Salish, Lummi, Nooksack, Semiahmoo and/or the other tribes of Washington state. In addition, we are looking for student-centered artwork that is welcoming, uplifting, and that connects to the purpose of the learning center as place for student support.

Potential artwork locations

There are opportunities for either interior or exterior artwork with the goal of placing artwork where it will have the greatest impact on students. Secondary audiences include the outside community, faculty, staff, and employees. The art selection committee is most interested in the grassy quad area and the two large walls and bridge-way within the copper box space of the building. These can be seen in the rendering at the beginning of this call.

About the Phyllis and Charles Self Learning Commons

The building was designed from west to east with transitions in mind, (from loud to quiet, active to contemplative). It will be a hub of student activity and support. The space includes a maker's space, academic support, a library for tutoring and testing, multimedia labs, writing assistance, a student help center, food center, community room, multi-function group study space, outdoor terraces, and gathering areas. Artists are encouraged to further familiarize themselves with the Phyllis and Charles Self Learning Commons project via the architect's [overview](#) and the College's [project summary](#) and [design schematic](#).

About Whatcom Community College

Whatcom Community College is unique in that it began as a College without walls. For the first 20 years, it existed within vacant properties in town before they broke ground on campus construction in 1986. The campus culture has remained closely connected to the community. It is a small campus with a collaborative culture. Every door is the right door and there are no barriers to education. Teachers are accessible and support students. The College is regionally and nationally accredited with an accomplished faculty and staff who serve nearly 11,000 students annually. On its 72-acre campus in Bellingham, Wash., and through online courses, Whatcom offers transfer degrees, professional-technical training programs, as well as basic education, job skills, and Community & Continuing Education classes. According to the Aspen Institute (2016), WCC is rated among the top nine community and technical colleges in the state and recognized as one of the leading community colleges in the nation.

Whatcom Community College is located on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish People. The College neighbors Lummi Nation, Nooksack Tribe, and Semiahmoo First Nation.

About Whatcom County

Whatcom County is marked by natural beauty. It exists in a glacial valley, with the Cascade Mountains (Mt. Baker) serving as anchors to the landscape. The county is also home to many small Island communities off Bellingham and Lummi Bays. Agriculture and logging are prevalent industries.

What you will need to do if chosen

The artwork will be commissioned through ArtsWA's Art in Public Places program. Artists will coordinate work with ArtsWA and Whatcom Community College staff. An agreement between ArtsWA and the artist or artist team will formalize budget, schedule and artwork design. The selected artist(s) will be expected to:

- Design and propose an artwork for review and approval by ArtsWA staff, conservators, and the Whatcom Community College Art Selection Committee
- Travel to the project site up to three times during the proposal/design process to meet with the Art Selection Committee and ArtsWA project manager
- Work within the fixed budget
- Maintain registration as a Washington State vendor and adhere to applicable state permitting and licensing requirements, including those relating to contracting and the paying of Prevailing Wages
- Enter into contracts with ArtsWA and fulfill those requirements, including paying applicable taxes.

What the budget needs to include

The project budget is **\$92,904.35** inclusive of design, travel, structural engineering, materials, fabrication, installation, artist fee, taxes and all other associated project costs.

How we choose the artist(s)

The Art Selection Committee consists of local stakeholders including Whatcom Community College staff, faculty, and students. The selection process is facilitated by ArtsWA staff. The panel will review submitted portfolios and materials of all applicants and select an artist or artist team to create a proposal and artwork.

The criteria used by the Art Selection Committee will include:

- **Appropriateness**
Evidence of the artist's ability to execute artwork at an appropriate scale and using materials suitable for permanent artwork in public places, or demonstrated potential for successful transition to public art;
- **Site Responsiveness**
Evidence of the artist's ability to create artwork that addresses the physical and/or community context of its placement; and

- **Artistic Excellence**

Evidence of some or all the following: mastery of skills and techniques, professional approaches to process and presentation, and/or communication of unique vision or perspective.

Timeline

- RFQ distributed: Week of March 23rd, 2020
- All materials due: Friday, April 24 2020, 5:00pm
- Art Selection Committee review: late April 2020
- Notification to selected artist: early-mid May 2020
(Committee may decide to interview 2-3 finalists before making selection)
- Artist site visit: late May early June 2020
- Design: June 2020 through January 2021
- Fabrication: March 2021 through March 2022
- Anticipated artwork installation: March/April 2022

To avoid technical problems, artists are encouraged to submit well in advance of the deadline. Late submittals will not be accepted.

Due Date and Time: Friday, April 24th 2020, 5PM Pacific Time

The Art Selection Committee may opt to not select an artist from this submission process.

Have Questions?

Contact Marissa Laubscher, Art in Public Places Project Manager; (360) 586-2419,
marissa.laubscher@arts.wa.gov