

CALL FOR ARTISTS / REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS)



The Miller Hull Partnership

Washington State Library Archives Building

Submissions Due: Monday, October 11, 2021, 4 PM (Pacific)
Artwork Budget: \$357,000 (inclusive of design, fabrication, installation, and tax)

Overview

This is an exciting opportunity for an artist or artist team to incorporate one or more unique artworks into the new State Library Archives Building, commissioned through ArtsWA's Art in Public Places program in partnership with OSOS. The facility is currently in design, scheduled to open to the public in May or June 2024.

Contact

Mike Sweney, Art in Public Places program manager: 360.228.4080, mike.sweney@arts.wa.gov

Budget

The Library Archives Art Committee may invite up to three finalists to develop conceptual designs for artwork, including identifying the site(s), concept, scale, and medium(s). Each will receive \$3,000, inclusive of travel for a site visit and/or concept presentation (if required).

The artist selected for the Library Archives project will receive a **\$30,000** design contract that includes travel and stamped, structural engineering. Upon design approval, they will receive a commission contract of **\$327,000**, inclusive of all costs related to fabrication and installation, including sales tax and contingency.

Submissions

All materials due by **4pm, Monday, October 11, 2021**, through [ArtsWA's Submittable site](#). If you are unable to submit electronically, contact us to discuss possible accommodations.



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About the Library Archives Building

The Library Archives Building will actively connect Washington State's citizens to the rich history and inclusive future of Washington State by creating a transparent and accessible building that houses the current and future needs of the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) so that the heritage of our past can be appropriately honored, and the future of our state can be responsibly guided, through a symbolically and functionally resilient facility.

The Library Archives Building will bring together the collections of the State Library and State Archives, improving public access to historical documents and elevating the preservation of these documents to contemporary archival standards. The building will also incorporate other divisions within OSOS including Elections, Corporations & Charities, Community Programs, IT, and Operations to streamline and enhance our services. These divisions are currently located in

different facilities throughout Thurston county. Co-locating the divisions in a single building will lead to better public accessibility and service delivery for the public, generates joint optimization of resources between divisions while offering transparency of processes. This facility will be a public hub of activity during business and hopefully non-business hours for the entire community.

The building consists of a long, linear, transparent office “bar” and a solid, stone-clad secure storage “box”, stitched together with glass gasket. Since the facility will be in Tumwater, away from the State Capitol yet still considered on south Capitol campus, there will be more freedom in the contemporary exterior expression of this important civic building. The design of this facility will prioritize staff wellness through generous daylighting, good indoor air quality, and connection to outdoors. In addition, the building will reduce energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, water use, waste, and the creation of pollutants. Aesthetically, the Library Archives Building is intended to convey a sense of warmth and welcoming to the public by using local natural materials and visual transparency. The double height public lobby will be wrapped in vertical wood slats with varying degrees of spacing and transparency to allow daylight to filter into the space.

Vision for the art

Through a process managed by ArtsWA, the Art Committee will select an artist or artist team to create public art for the building or campus with a focus on Washington State – its natural features, 39 counties, diversity, industries, etc. The artist(s) may also choose to address activities that take place within the building or to represent the statewide reach and impacts of the divisions. The Art Committee will recommend a variety of sites but prefers that the artist create two artworks, one exterior and one interior, that conceptually and aesthetically relate to each other and the building design. The selected artist will work with the Library Archives design team to discuss opportunities for integration and consider how the artwork might respond to, complement, or enhance the architecture.



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Selection process

The Art Committee is made up of local stakeholders including staff, administrators, community members, and the Library Archives project design team, facilitated by ArtsWA. The Art Committee will review submitted materials of all applicants and invite up to three finalists to develop and present conceptual designs for artwork. From the finalists, they will select an artist or artist team to create a formal proposal for the Library Archives Building. Upon proposal approval, the artist will receive a commission contract for fabrication and installation.

Using the criteria below, the Art Committee will review and consider whether your submission:

- **communicates a unique vision or perspective**
- **shows a potential to engage and/or respond to its surroundings**
- **demonstrates skill in technique**
- **relates to the vision for the Library Archives art**

Submission materials

Please prepare and enter the following through [Submittable](#):

1. **a letter of interest** outlining your approach to public art and summarizing your interest in this project. Describe any experience with projects of a similar scope and include anything that might help us differentiate you as a candidate. Provide your name, address, phone number, and email address. Not to exceed one page, PDF or DOC format.
2. **a professional resume/CV** (limit 2 pages). Artists working collaboratively may submit a resume/CV for each member, PDF or DOC format.
3. **8 images of past works**, preferably created within past 5 years. (Horizontal orientation displays best.)
4. **brief descriptions (1-2 sentences) for each image**. Also include title, dimensions, materials, date, location, budget/cost, and commissioning entity (if applicable).
5. **three professional references** from past projects. Include name, title, and contact information, PDF or DOC.

If selected, you will

- design and propose an artwork for review and approval by ArtsWA staff, professional conservator, structural engineer, and the Art Committee
- travel to the project site up to three times during the proposal/design process to meet with the Art Committee and ArtsWA project manager (in light of COVID-19, it is understood that some meetings may be held remotely)
- be available to meet with building design team to coordinate artwork integration
- 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

Eligibility

You must be an established professional artist residing in the United States or British Columbia. Washington State artists and those with a deep connection to the state are strongly encouraged to apply. Neither ArtsWA nor OSOS discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, or gender identity. OSOS staff and artists with current ArtsWA public art contracts are ineligible.

Commission and contracts

The artwork will be commissioned through ArtsWA and will become part of the State Art Collection. Installation will be coordinated through ArtsWA and OSOS. Sample proposal and [commission](#) contracts can be found on ArtsWA's [website](#).

Anticipated timeline

- RFQ distributed: September 9, 2021
- all materials due: Monday, October 11, 2021, 4:00 PM Pacific Time
- Art Committee review: October 15-29, 2021
- second/final Art Committee review: November 4, 2021
- notification to selected artist: mid-November 2021
(committee may decide to interview 2-3 finalists before making selection)
- design: December 2021 through July 2022¹
- fabrication: November 2022 through November 2023
- anticipated artwork installation: Jan/Feb 2024 (dependent on building schedule)²

¹ building bid documents are due May 2022. This may affect design schedule.

² the installation deadline will be earlier if artwork is fully integrated.

ArtsWA Art in Public Places Vision Statement

Art in Public Places 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.

Due date and time: Monday, October 11, 2021, 4PM (Pacific)

Applications through [Submittable](#).

If you do not have an account, you will need to create one (there is no cost).

To avoid technical problems, please submit well in advance of the deadline.

Late submittals will not be accepted.