

CALL FOR ART / REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)

Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (CDHY)

Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) Academic and Physical Education Building



CDHY students engage with project architects in Vancouver, WA. Image courtesy of Design Builder Skanska + Mithun

Submissions Due Tuesday, January 3, 2023 by 5pm Pacific Time

Artwork Budget

\$156,000 inclusive of design, fabrication, and installation, and tax.

The selected artist will receive a \$16,000 design contract that includes travel and stamped, structural engineering. Upon design approval, they will receive a commission contract of \$140,000 inclusive of all costs related to fabrication and installation, sales tax (\$11,900 at Vancouver's 8.5% tax rate), and contingency.

Eligibility

Open to artists residing in the United States and British Columbia, Canada. **Deaf and hard of hearing artists as well as artists with a strong connection to the deaf community are strongly encouraged to apply.** Neither ArtsWA nor CDHY discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, or gender identity.

Artists currently on the ArtsWA Public Artist Roster will also be considered and need not apply; though they are welcome to submit updated materials or materials tailored to this call. Those with active or recent ArtsWA projects are ineligible for this call.

Overview

The Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (CDHY) and the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) invite individual artists or artist teams to design and create a unique artwork for the new Academic and Physical Education Building on the Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) campus in Vancouver, WA.

The facility is currently in design, scheduled to open in the 2024-2025 school year. There are opportunities for either interior or exterior artwork, the potential to integrate the artwork into the building architecture, and the potential for creative reuse of historic architectural elements and materials.

Background

The Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) is the state of Washington's only American Sign Language (ASL)/English bilingual school serving deaf and hard of hearing students in Pre-K through 12th grade. WSD's teachers and staff are committed to supporting the school's mission to provide an inclusive, student centered, and culturally rich environment to ensure all students become bilingual and life-long learners.

ArtsWA and the CDHY Art Selection Committee will select an artist or artist team to design and create an artwork that reflects the WSD vision: *WSD students are Bilingual, Empowered, Successful, for Today and Tomorrow, The BEST.*

Several buildings on the existing campus were designed by architect Donald J. Stewart and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The new 48,000 square foot Academic and Physical Education Building will serve to educate future leaders and enhance WSD community pride. It is designed using principles of the [DeafSpace Design Guide](#).

Vision for the Art

WSD's staff and students embody values of openness, reciprocity, identity, and pride in their heritage in the Pacific Northwest. ArtsWA and the CDHY Art Selection Committee seek to celebrate an artistic expression of the deaf experience and encourage deaf and hard of hearing artists, and those with a strong connection to the deaf community, to apply.

The Art Committee will recommend a variety of interior and exterior sites that the artist may engage. The selected artist may work with the design-build team to discuss opportunities for integration and consider how the artwork might respond to, complement, or enhance the architecture.

The new building design will incorporate creative reuse of significant elements of existing buildings in the new development. The design-build team encourages the selected artist to incorporate creative reuse of historic materials and elements in their design.

Selection process

The Art Committee is made up of local stakeholders, including CDHY faculty and staff, facilitated by ArtsWA. The Art Committee will review submitted materials of all applicants and will select an artist or artist team to create a formal proposal. Upon proposal approval, the artist will receive a commission contract for design, fabrication and installation.

Using the criteria below, the Art Committee will review and consider whether each 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 art detailed above

Submissions

All materials due by Tuesday, January 3, 2023 by 5pm Pacific Standard Time through [ArtsWA's Submittable site](#). If you are unable to submit electronically, [contact us](#) at to discuss possible accommodations.

Submission materials

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

1. A **statement 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. (500-word limit)
2. A **brief autobiographical statement** about your life experience, training, education, mentors, teachers, places lived, career milestones, past projects, etc. If there are parts of your identities that inform your experience, please tell us how (500-word limit)
3. **8 images of past works**, preferably created within past 5 years. (horizontal images display 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.

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 (considering 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

Commission and contracts

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

Anticipated timeline

- November 16, 2022 RFQ distributed
- January 3, 2023 RFQ closes, materials are due by 5PM PST
- January–February 2023 Art Committee review
- Before March 1, 2023 Notification to selected artist
- March–August 2023 Design phase
- August 2023–June 2024 Fabrication phase
- June-August 2024 Installation phase (dependent on building schedule. 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:

Tuesday, January 3, 2023 by 5pm PST

Applications will be 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.