



Call for Art | Request for Qualifications

Western State Hospital – New Forensic Hospital – Patient Courtyards

Washington State Arts Commission & Department of Social and Health Services

Deadline: Thursday, February 29, 2024, 4pm Pacific

Budget: \$200,000 - \$1,000,000 (\$200,000 per courtyard, apply for 1-5 courtyards)



Rendering of aerial hospital view courtesy HOK

What we're looking for

We seek artists or artist teams who have lived experience with mental illness¹ to design and create artwork for the patient courtyards at Western State Hospital's new forensic hospital. Washington state's vision of transforming behavioral health includes constructing a therapeutically designed hospital on the Western State Hospital campus with 350 beds to care for forensic patients in a modern facility. The new forensic hospital will serve patients who enter care through the criminal court system.

The chosen artist(s) should be able to design artwork that is culturally sensitive and considerate of the patient experience. We seek artworks that will engage patients and aid recovery. We are interested in artworks that could enhance the therapeutic uses of these outdoor spaces, enhancing the hospital's design theme of "a walk in the park". Artworks will need to adhere to strict patient safety criteria. They must be resistant to damage but could invite passive interaction through sensory experiences, texture, pathways, seating, reflection, light/shadow play, etc. Please reference the resource section at the end of these guidelines for more details on acceptable materials and trauma informed design.

Artists from Nisqually, Steilacoom, Puyallup, Cowlitz, Coast Salish, and/or the other tribes of the Pacific Northwest are encouraged to apply.

You are eligible to apply if you:

- Live in the United States or British Columbia
- Are not enrolled as a visual arts student as of March 2024
- Do not have an active project with ArtsWA
- Are not a staff or Board member of ArtsWA, DSHS, or WSH

We do not discriminate based on race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, or gender identity.

How to apply

Please prepare the below items and apply on [Submittable](#) by Feb. 29th:

- **statement of interest** (limit 250 words) outline your approach to public art and summarize your interest in creating artwork for Western State Hospital. Describe your experience with similar projects. Include what differentiates you, including your lived experience with mental illness.
- **brief biography or artist statement** (limit 250 words). Artist teams may submit a statement for each member.

¹ This can be firsthand experience, experience through someone you know, or experience through people or communities you've worked with, etc. The committee is looking for an artist that will be able to understand and relate to their patient population, and sensitively design artwork for them with awareness. Knowing that this can be personal and sensitive, we are not encouraging anyone to share anything in their application that they'd be uncomfortable sharing. Applicants do not need to disclose personal health details. Simply stating you have experience, and how you might address creating artwork for this population to demonstrate your sensitivity should suffice.

- **8 images of past works**, preferably from within the past 5 years
- **brief descriptions (1-2 sentences) for each image**. Include title, dimensions, materials, date, location, budget/cost, and commissioning entity (if applicable).

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

We will not accept late applications.

How we'll choose the artist(s)

WSH's Patient Courtyard Art Committee consists of community members, staff, patients, administrators, and project architects. The committee will review applications and choose artist(s) or artist team(s) to design artwork for one or more of the five patient courtyards. Upon design approval, the artist(s) will receive a commission contract to fabricate and install the artwork.

The Art Committee will consider whether your portfolio:

- **communicates a unique vision or perspective**
- **shows a potential to engage or respond to its surroundings, or both**
- **demonstrates skill in technique**

They will also assess which applicants' lived experience, art practice, and interests best match the artwork goals for the patient courtyards based on your statements.

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

If chosen, you will

- design an artwork proposal for review and approval by ArtsWA staff, conservator, structural engineer, and the art committee
- travel to the project site up to 3 times during the proposal/design process to meet with the Art Committee and ArtsWA project manager (meetings may be held remotely)
- meet with the building design team to coordinate artwork integration
- work within the fixed budget
- maintain registration as a state vendor and adhere to applicable state permitting and licensing requirements, including contracting and the paying of Prevailing Wages
- enter and fulfill the requirements of contracts with ArtsWA, and pay applicable taxes

ArtsWA will commission the artworks. They will become part of the State Art Collection. You'll coordinate installation through ArtsWA and DSHS/WSH. View sample [contracts here](#).

What the budget needs to include

\$1,000,000 is the artwork budget for all five patient courtyards. This breaks down to roughly \$200,000 per courtyard. The artwork budget is inclusive of design, travel, structural engineering, materials, fabrication, installation, artist fee, taxes, and all other associated project costs.

Timeline

- RFQ distributed: Week of Feb. 12, 2024
- Applications due: Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024
- Selected artist(s) notified: March 2024
(Committee may decide to interview 2-3 finalists before making selection)
- Artist site visit: April 2024
- Design: April 2024 through October 2024 (for design coordination w/ architects)
- Fabrication: Jan. 2025- Dec. 2026
- Anticipated artwork installation: Spring 2027

About the patient courtyards



Rendering of courtyard courtesy HOK

Project Background

The new therapeutically designed hospital on the Western State Hospital campus has 350 beds to care for forensic patients in a modern facility. The hospital will also serve as a Forensic Center of Excellence and focus on providing state-of-the-art care for forensic patients, operating in an environment of care that supports safety and the delivery of evidenced-based and proven practices, and working hand in hand with local academic institutions to support research and innovation. The 350-bed facility will only serve patients who enter care through the criminal court system.

The guiding design theme of the hospital is “A Walk in the Park”. The patient courtyards are park-like settings that will be visible from multiple points within the hospital. Time spent outside in these spaces is very important to patient recovery. Patients will use the courtyards for recreation, relaxation, and therapy. Patients self-explore as well as participate in group activities with a recreational therapist in these spaces. Patients are supervised, but all designs will need to consider the possibility of high impact and safety.

All courtyards have opportunities for stand-alone sculpture, pathway integrations, play on light and reflection, shade structures, and landscape elements. Here is more information about each:



Courtyard 1

The easternmost patient courtyard sits atop floor one and is the only patient courtyard on structure - not on firm ground. Patients will use this courtyard primarily for recreation and relaxation. Recreational opportunities include a basketball court and a mounded synthetic turf lawn for programmed or unprogrammed activities. This lawn area was designed as a ‘sky-space’, which allows patients to lie on their backs and look up at the sky. The turf area also includes two concrete sculptural pebble seating elements and a singular tree contained within a corten steel planter. An arcing seatwall and adirondack chairs bookend the basketball court allowing patients to observe recreational activity, socialize, reflect, and relax. A looped walking path, constructed of concrete unit pavers, allows for patients to walk, and exercise. A shade structure on the east side of the courtyard provides weather protection and includes a variety of seating opportunities, both social and individual. Because courtyard 1 sits atop structure, the planting areas are raised 18” from the adjacent walkways, with a concrete retaining wall, and includes native/climate adaptive trees, shrubs, and groundcover. It measures roughly 80’x143’ long.

Courtyard 2

Courtyard 2 provides patients with a wide range of passive and active uses including an athletic court, looped walking paths, tables and chairs, a picnic shelter, lawn, and native/climate adaptive plantings. The design supports patients' interest in looped walking paths and will support patient recreation, relaxation, and respite. A small gathering space includes three concrete sculptural pebble seating elements. A larger gathering space includes a shade structure, picnic table and a variety of seating opportunities. Two mounded lawn areas will accommodate programmed or unprogrammed outdoor activities while also providing topographical interest. Courtyard 2 will be one of the shadier outdoor patient spaces and could benefit from an intervention that plays with natural light, reflection and/or provides a greater connection with the sky and outdoors. Courtyard 2 is approximately 80'x220'.

Courtyard 3

The northernmost courtyard is primarily an active recreation space for patients. It is characterized by a 45'x 62' synthetic turf lawn. This space will provide a canvas for programmed or unprogrammed recreation and socialization. The synthetic turf surfacing will be striped for soccer and volleyball and includes steel sleeves to accommodate a volleyball net. The northern perimeter of this courtyard is enclosed by a 15' mini-mesh security fence. It measures 77'x112'.

Courtyard 4

Courtyard 4 exemplifies the concept of 'Walk in the Park' and features looped walking paths, garden trails, and areas for respite. A shade structure on the west side of the courtyard provides weather protection and includes a variety of seating opportunities, both social and individual. East of the shade structure is a casual gathering space which includes three concrete sculptural pebble seating elements set within decomposed granite paving. Courtyard 4's basketball court surfacing will be painted with a complementary color combination to add color and interest. Several benches provide viewing of the basketball court activity and the unprogrammed lawn area. Additional seating opportunities include concrete seatwalls which are strategically located throughout the courtyards walks and lawn areas. Courtyard 4 will be one of the shadier outdoor patient spaces and could benefit from an intervention that plays with natural light, reflection and/or provides a greater connection with the sky and outdoors. Courtyard 4 is 80'x205'.

Courtyard 5

Courtyard 5 provides patients with a unique parklike setting that includes a hierarchy of looped walking paths, topographical interest, and variety of seating opportunities. A rich palette of native and climate adaptive plants thread through the courtyard visually connecting secure and non-secure spaces. The plant palette has been selected specifically to attract birds and pollinators. Courtyard 5 provides patients with a range of active and social opportunities including an athletic court, looped walking paths, tables and chairs, a picnic shelter, and a flexible lawn area. The design carefully supports patients' interest in looped walking paths while also supporting relaxation and respite. A small gathering space includes three sculptural pebble seating elements set within a decomposed granite paving. Courtyard 5 will be the sunniest patient courtyard.

Additional Resources & Background Materials

[Trauma Informed Material & Design Guidelines](#)

[New forensic hospital FAQ](#)

[ArtsWA's Public Artist Handbook](#)

[ArtsWA's Material and Fabrication Handbook](#)

Have any questions?

Contact Marissa Laubscher, Art in Public Places Senior Project Manager; (360) 252-9974,
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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 State Art Collection that is impactful, accessible, and valued. We seek lasting artworks that reflect Washington's diverse communities.