

CALL FOR ART / REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

Due: Friday, May 31, 2024, 4 PM Pacific Time

Budget: \$83,000 inclusive of design, fabrication, and installation



Tacoma Public Schools

Tacoma Public Schools | Maritime 253 Skills Center Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)

Purpose of RFQ

Call for artists to create a unique, exterior artwork for Maritime 253, a new skills center to be built near the Foss Waterway in Tacoma, commissioned through ArtsWA's Art in Public Places program.

RFQ Description

Tacoma Public Schools and ArtsWA are seeking an individual artist or team to create an original artwork honoring the Indigenous traditions of the Pacific Northwest and Salish Sea, particularly of the Puyallup people. The artwork will be exterior, in proximity to the Maritime 253 building and new Port of Tacoma business office (the Port Maritime Center). The site is visible from the Murray Morgan (11th Street) bridge and downtown Tacoma.

Contact

Mike Sweney, Art in Public Places Program Manager, 360.228.4080, mike.sweney@arts.wa.gov

Site Visit Requirements

None required for submission. Artists are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Maritime 253 project via www.maritime253.org and www.portoftacoma.com/maritimecenter.

Submissions

Materials are due by **4pm, Friday, May 31, 2024**, through [ArtsWA's Submittable site](#). If you are unable to submit electronically, contact Mike Sweney to discuss possible accommodations.

Site History and Significance

The Port Maritime Center project is located in the heart of the historical puyalupabs village site. This area was used to train and honor Puyallup warriors and continues to be a place of great historic and cultural significance to the Tribe. Prior to industrialization of the Tideflats, tribal communities centralized around the mouth of the original Puyallup River alignment at this spot.

Vision for the Art

ArtsWA and the Maritime 253 art committee will select an artist or team to create an engaging, unique, and contemporary artwork that honors the Indigenous traditions of the Pacific Northwest, particularly those of the Puyallup people and their connection to the Salish Sea.

Project Schedule

Installation of the artwork is expected to occur in late spring or early summer of 2026. Maritime 253 is scheduled to open to the public in October 2026.

Budget

The selected artist will receive an **\$8,000** design contract that includes travel and stamped, structural engineering. Upon design approval, they will receive a commission contract currently estimated at **\$75,000**, inclusive of all costs related to fabrication and installation, including sales tax and contingency. Additional support may be available for artwork installation.

Commission and Contracts

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

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to professional artists or teams residing in the United States or British Columbia. Artists who have a historic and/or artistic connection to the Puyallup peoples are strongly encouraged to apply. Artists who currently live, or have previously lived, in Washington are preferred. Neither ArtsWA nor Tacoma Public Schools discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, or gender identity.

The selected artist will be expected to:

- design and propose an artwork for review and approval by ArtsWA and the Maritime 253 art committee;
- travel to the project site up to three times during the proposal/design process to meet with the Maritime 253 art 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; and
- enter into contracts with ArtsWA and fulfil those requirements, including paying applicable taxes.

Selection process

The Maritime 253 art committee is made up of community members, Tacoma Public Schools staff, and the building design team. The process is managed by ArtsWA staff. The art committee will review submitted portfolios and materials of all applicants and select an artist or artist team to create a proposal and artwork for Maritime 253.

Using these criteria, the art committee will review and consider whether your submitted artwork:

- **communicates a unique vision or perspective;**
- **shows a potential to engage or respond to its surroundings, or both;**
- **demonstrates skill in technique; and**
- **relates to the vision for the Maritime 253 artwork.**

The art committee may decide not to select an artist from this submission process, if, in its collective opinion, no application meets its expectations.

Submission Materials

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

1. **Statement of interest** (limit 250 words) describing your interest in this project. Include anything that might help you stand out as a candidate. If applicable, describe your experience creating artworks of a similar scope.
2. **Brief biography or artist statement** (limit 250 words) about your artwork. Feel free to include important influences or experience that has informed your art. Artists working as a team may submit a statement for each member.
3. **8 images of your artwork**, preferably within past 5 years. (Horizontal orientation is 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. **3 professional references**. Include name, title, and contact information, PDF or DOC.

Anticipated Art Project Timeline

- RFQ distributed: Week of April 22, 2024
- Applications due: Friday, May 31, 2024, 4:00 PM Pacific Time
- Art Selection Committee review: June 2024
- Notification to selected artist: June/July 2024
- Design: July 2024 through March 2025
- Fabrication: April 2025 through March 2026
- Anticipated artwork installation: Spring/Summer 2026

To avoid technical problems, artists are encouraged to submit well in advance of the deadline. Late submittals will not be accepted. [Due date: Friday, May 31, 2024, 4PM Pacific Time](#)