

Northern Kentucky University

RFP NKU-19-18

NKU HIC Permanent Outdoor Art Installation

Call for Artist Credentials --- RE-ISSUED

Note: NKU issued RFP-23-17 in early February of this year, for an Outdoor Sculpture Installation. The University reviewed those submissions, and while grateful for the interest, was unable to decide on next steps. After conducting an on-campus charrette with NKU scholarship art students, the concept for this piece of art has been re-conceptualized and updated. Please consider this opportunity. We welcome applications of interest from all those with an interest and passion for being a part of the exciting Health Innovation Center project.

PROJECT: NKU Health Innovation Center Permanent Outdoor Art Installation

RFP RESPONSE DUE DATE: Friday, December 1, 2017

SITE: NKU Health Innovation Center

Site Description: NKU seeks an artist or artist team to design, construct and install a permanent 3D art installation on the west side of the new Health Innovation Center (HIC) which is under construction and will be occupied in the summer of 2018. The site is shown on the attached site map. The art installation may be installed in the vicinity of the intersection of the site's pedestrian paths, a triangular shaped area 81' x 81' x 50', and can extend beyond this area. This area is located prominently along the main pedestrian pathway through the West Quad in front of the HIC building and is visible from several adjacent buildings and student areas. Please refer to attached site plan for an understanding of the site pathways; for a sense of the larger quad space, refer to the site and landscape plans at this link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0lf7kvoptvhp0ns/AABfBqJ54sSL9-mOf5HErJ2ia?dl=0> (For example, A1-01 Site Plan and the L4-00 to 03 Planting Plans).

Project Description: The Health Innovation Center has been carefully sited to create a unique campus space. The building's site design is highly developed, including a series of rain gardens, a covered outdoor seating area leading from an indoor café, and major campus pedestrian pathways. Of most interest, however, is the project's goal to restore the original topography in the area between the HIC and adjacent Nunn Hall. This design allowed for ADA access from the lower quad area to the prominent upper plaza, which previously had been impossible due to the 28 foot elevation difference. The topography lines are inferred in the terracing of the hillside under the building; this concept extends into the building, into the double-height forum space which extends inward from the glassed-enclosed

southwest corner of the building. Refer to PPT prepared by the architect, CO Architects, describing the site concept for this building:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/23xvky80vijf5ip6/AAC1A5XEnHjkvYffTxaC9oLNa?dl=0>

Refer to this link for the architect's renderings of the building:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s4eh7udwiue70iq/AAA_iw_zkTlI1tyAFaGdQq-ya?dl=0

The art installation should organically engage the pathway and the space. It could reference the landscape. The University envisions an art installation, not a singular sculptural object. It could be a series of pieces that create experiences that specifically respond to the topography, and that reference the themes of health and humanity, wellbeing, and connectivity. Artists could also consider concepts that engage students or provide shelter, or respite.

Background: Qualified artists for this opportunity should submit images of previous projects which demonstrate the artist's ability to create meaningful, unique and exciting works of art that enliven public spaces, at least some of which are similar to what is envisioned for this project. The completed work for this site must be constructed of durable materials, with a minimal requirement for long-term maintenance. The artist may choose, if selected as a semifinalist, to submit an existing piece to the committee for consideration. Installation shall be complete by September 1, 2018.

This work of art will be a permanent installation. The art work(s) will be owned by and promoted as part of NKU's permanent art collection. See link for gallery of NKU art:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e4kiyby2huokydo/AADLUUA0ISNtre6_H_Q9QQtZa?dl=0

Artwork Goals: NKU has a history of investing in outdoor public art and has great excitement about this opportunity to enhance the outdoor environment. In addition to the planned dedication of the HIC/Founders construction project in Fall 2018, NKU will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2018 and considers this investment to be part of the anniversary celebration.

The artist may, in addition, consider the following concepts and themes when envisioning the sculpture:

- NKU mission, vision, strategic goals and core values - <http://fueltheflame.nku.edu/>
- Innovation
- Unique NKU academic environment promoting trans-disciplinary collaboration
- Inspiring and engaging, contextual and specific to this site

Artists should note that there is often a strong westerly and southwesterly wind across this site due to the I-275 interstate valley which borders the west side of campus.

Artwork shall be engineered to meet applicable requirements for wind load, etc. per the Kentucky Building Code.

Background - HIC/Founders Hall Project: The HIC will be a comprehensive health science education and applied research facility located in the core of NKU's campus. It is an addition to the existing 1974-era

Founders Hall academic building, which is being completely renovated as part of the HIC project. The University's approach is collaborative and trans-disciplinary, involving numerous academic disciplines, including those in health, social science, information science and the physical and life sciences. Upon completion, the building will be light-filled, open and inviting. It will feature active learning classrooms, simulation spaces and labs. The building features a dramatic split-level public space which connects the Central Plaza with the West Quad. The new building has been planned as a pair of wings or lofts oriented along the east-west direction to optimize solar orientation. The lofts are positioned directly adjacent to Founders Hall, creating multiple collaborative common areas. They are connected via bridges to Founders Hall across a narrow four story atrium space, joining the new construction with the existing building. A large skylight at the roof level will allow natural daylight to spill down through the atrium space. See links for photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kesq7xui3wwjk0c/AAC83GrhxxdA4lwSbl0z5XF5a?dl=0>

and plans of the HIC/Founders project: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0lf7kvoptvhp0ns/AABfBqJ54sSL9-m0f5HErJ2ia?dl=0>

See webcam for status of construction: <http://architecture.nku.edu/health-innovation-center.html>

Refer to this link for photos of the campus:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pabt90l99w3v4gg/AAA0AtYGAMIEG40yEA1EDLvKa?dl=0>

Eligibility: All professional artist or artist teams may apply. If applying as a team, the team should be declared on the Application Form, specifying a team leader to receive notifications. The artist must have completed two permanent public artworks with budgets of at least \$50,000. Three references (names/contact information) are required from prior public art projects. Additionally, the artist must meet at least two of the following criteria to be considered for this commission:

- The artist has completed other public art commissions of similar scale.
- The artist has received awards, grants or fellowships.
- The artist's works are included in public, private, corporate or museum permanent collections.
- The artist has participated in exhibitions at major museums or galleries.
- Artists currently enrolled in a university or college degree program are not eligible to apply.
- NKU faculty, and staff are eligible to apply.

Budget: The University's total budget for this project shall not exceed \$115,000; the artist shall consider this budget to be ALL inclusive. The artist's budget will include research, design, materials, fabrication, transportation, shipping, installation, significant site modifications, engineering, insurance, taxes and any other expenses, to result in a complete project and installation. Any expenses that exceed the contracted amount will be the artist's responsibility. The artist will be responsible for submitting an artwork maintenance manual upon completion.

SELECTION PROCESS

Artists will be selected based on artistic merit, quality of materials, appropriateness for the site, feasibility to meet the goals of the project within existing budget constraints, demonstrated experience, and ability to meet the scheduled timeline. Members of the selection committee will view most favorably those submissions which indicate that the artist has carefully reviewed the goals of this project. Following the initial screening of applicants' images, up to four artists may be selected to fully develop a concept (unless the work is an already completed work). A stipend of \$7,500 will be offered for the completed concept to these semi-finalist artists who submit an artwork proposal by the due date, make a presentation and whose work is not selected.

Semi-Finalist Selection:

The Artist Selection Committee will review applicants and select up to four (4) semi-finalists or artist teams for artwork proposal development. Semi-finalist artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Originality, artistic excellence and innovation demonstrated through past work and supporting documentation.
- The artist's experience in public art is sufficient to meet the demands of the project.
- The artist is open to a collaborative working process in regards to design, approvals and implementation.

Site Visit 1: Selected semi-finalists will tour the site and campus; meet with the Artist Selection Committee and others; and have an opportunity to ask questions to inform the artwork proposal. Detailed architectural and engineering information about the site and campus will be provided at this stage in the process.

Finalist Selection

Site Visit 2: Semi-finalists will return to NKU in January 2018 to individually present their artwork proposal to the Artist Selection Committee. The submission/proposal will include the following: a written description of the artwork proposal, site specific rendering of the proposed Artwork including dimensions, draft budget, timeline, possible fabricators and anticipated maintenance requirements. Artists will present information regarding their background and experience in executing public art projects. The Selection Committee will make its decision within two weeks of the presentation. Semi-finalist artists preparing artwork proposals must agree to the following:

- The artist shall retain intellectual property rights.
- At its sole discretion, NKU shall have the unconditional right to retain the proposal materials (i.e. maquette, drawings, illustrations) as part of the proposal commission, whether or not the artwork is selected for implementation. Full credit will be given to artist or artist team if proposal is disseminated by print or digital means.
- If utilizing the proposal for future RFQ/RFP background materials, the artist shall give credit to the NKU HIC Outdoor Sculpture project whether or not the artwork is selected for implementation at NKU.
- Proposed artwork will be original and unique to the NKU HIC project.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Aesthetic Excellence** – The highest priority is the inherent aesthetic quality of the artwork and its compatibility and relationship with the site as well as the way the public is intended to respond and interact with it.
- **Relevance** – Artwork must be appropriate for and sensitive to the chosen location including surrounding architecture, topography, local history, and community attitudes and concerns.
- **Durability and Permanence** – Resistance to weathering, vandalism and theft as well as structural sustainability and the potential for excessive future maintenance, as this work is intended to be permanent.
- **Public Safety** – The artwork shall be examined for unsafe conditions, materials or factors.
- **Technical Feasibility** – The artist must provide convincing evidence of his or her ability to complete the artwork as proposed.
- **Past Performance** – The Artist Selection Committee will consider the artist's performance under previous contracts including success in meeting established timelines and budgets.
- **Cost Feasibility** – The Committee will consider the cost feasibility and determine if the project is realistic within the specified project budget.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Application materials are due Friday **December 1, 2017** and shall include:

- Statement of interest: 500-word maximum. Provide an overview of your interest in creation of an outdoor sculpture for NKU's Health Innovation Center, including an overview of the artist's public art experience and how it prepares the artist for this project.
- Resume: 5 page maximum
- Work examples: up to 25 JPEG images. Submitted images must include at least two projects of built/installed work. Up to two brief videos may be submitted. Slide annotation sheet to be submitted separately indicating title, artist(s) date, location, commissioning agency, materials, budget, and brief project description. Only original artworks executed by the artist/artist team will be accepted for submission.
- References: include at least three (3) art and/or design professionals or owners who have detailed knowledge of the artist's work and working methods. Include contact name, address, telephone number, and e-mail for each reference.

TIMELINE

An approximate timeline for this project:

- RFP Response Due Date to NKU: **December 1, 2017, 4:00 PM EDT**

- NKU issues Semi-finalist Notifications/Invitations to submit an Artwork Proposal via email: **December 12, 2017**
- Site Visit 1: **January 3, 2018**
- Deadline for Semi-Finalist Questions: **January 23, 2018**
- Deadline for NKU's Response to Semi-Finalist Questions: **January 25, 2018**
- Semifinalist Responses are Due to NKU: **February 9, 2018**
- Presentations by Semifinalist Artists at NKU (Site Visit 2): week of **Feb. 12th, 2018**
- Selection Process Complete and Commission Award is Announced: **February 23, 2018**
- Artwork Design Development: **March-April, 2018**
- Artwork Shop Drawings: **May-June 2018**
- Artwork Fabrication: **July-September 2018**
- Installation: Complete by **October 1, 2018**
- Opening/Unveiling: **October 2018**

ADDENDA to the RFP – RFP revisions/updates will be issued via numbered Addenda. These Addenda will be posted at NKU PlanRoom site: <https://www.nkupanroom.com/View/Default.aspx> It is the responsibility of prospective applicants to check the website frequently.

QUESTIONS: DO NOT contact selection committee members relative to this project. Contacting selection committee members may result in disqualification of the artist/artist team. Information relative to this project obtained from other sources, including other University administration, faculty or staff or external consultants may not be accurate, will not be considered binding and could adversely affect the potential for artist/artist team selection.

All requests for information, questions or comments relative to this project should be directed to:

- Contact Person for Project Information:
Mary Paula Schuh
Director of Campus and Space Planning
859.572.5122
schuh@nku.edu
- Contact Person for General Procurement, Planroom or Contract Information:
Ryan Straus
Procurement Specialist
859.572.6605
strausr2@nku.edu

Mailing Information for Submission of RFP Responses:

Ryan Straus
Procurement Services
617 Lucas Administrative Center
Northern Kentucky University

Northern Kentucky University
RFP NKU-19-18
NKU HIC Outdoor Art Installation

Highland Heights, KY 41099

Postal mail applications ONLY. Email applications will not be accepted.