



Oklahoma Art in Public Places Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Project: Jim Thorpe Office Building

Installation Artwork

Deadline: May 6, 2025

Overview and Project Description

Artists and artist teams are invited to submit qualifications and a proposal for the design and installation of artwork for an Oklahoma Art in Public Places project at the Jim Thorpe Office Building located at 2101 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK. The Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) is seeking an artist or a collaborative artist team to create an installation artwork for the ceilings of the first-floor hallways and sixth-floor elevator landing. The locations for the public art will be in highly visible and publicly accessible areas for both state employees and public visitors.

Theme and Intent

The vision for this monumental project is a dynamic and visually striking public artwork of exceptional quality and lasting impact, installed against or suspended along the ceiling of the newly renovated Jim Thorpe Office Building. This new work will be inspired by the legendary achievements of Jim Thorpe, capturing the spirit of his extraordinary athleticism, his Native American heritage, and his enduring legacy. The artwork should also complement the building's distinctive Art Deco style, blending modern creativity with the historic architectural design. The piece will serve as a tribute to Thorpe's remarkable contributions while enhancing the visual identity of this iconic structure.

An additional source of inspiration could be the existing historic relief murals carved into the limestone at the first-floor entrance. The engravings depict laborers and highlight American agriculture and industry. Offering a positive representation of Oklahoma's people and landscapes, the carvings are characterized by strong figures and productive land. The scenes chiseled into the limestone walls of the lobby demonstrate a "bedlam" partnership, as the artwork was designed by Doel Reed, longtime professor of art at Oklahoma State University, and carved by sculptor and University of Oklahoma professor of art, Joseph "Joe" Taylor. The collaborative effort of faculty members of the state's two largest universities merged the expertise and artistic talent, showcasing the rising influence of both artists in the field.

Project Funds

The artist or artist teams will receive \$332,500 to create the artwork. All costs associated with the public art project including, but not limited to, artist design fee, structural engineering, eligible materials, fabrication, insurance, transportation, installation, building or site modification, travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, project documentation, contingency to cover unexpected expenses, and any other costs related to the project are covered by the budget. All costs associated with the public art project are covered by this budget, and no additional funds will be available.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to artists and artist teams with prior experience working with public art project budgets exceeding \$200,000.

Application Requirements

Artists must [complete the application form available at this link](#) and provide support materials specified below. Please be sure to allow adequate time to submit your application as technical difficulties can occur. Applications that are mailed, emailed, faxed, or hand delivered will not be considered.

Proposals will not be accepted after the May 6, 2025, 11:59 p.m. (CDT) deadline

Application materials include:

1. Letter of Interest
 - a. This should be a summary of your artistic focus and professional career, especially as your background relates to your qualifications for the Jim Thorpe Office Building project.
 - b. One page maximum
2. Resume/CV
 - a. If applying as a team, please include the team/studio resume. If a team/studio resume is not available, please combine the individual resumes of each team member into one document.
3. Five images of relevant previous work, per member of team with a maximum of fifteen images
 - a. Files can be up to 2mb. Images should be at least 72dpi.
 - b. Please number images 1-5, etc., in the file name using this system, #LastName,FirstName.jpg
4. Image descriptions
 - a. Please include title, medium, dimensions, and year for each artwork. You may also include a brief statement about each work (2 sentence maximum).
 - b. Number your descriptions, corresponding to the file names.

Selection Process

RFQ applications will be reviewed and scored by the Director of Art in Public Places to identify the short list of qualified artists to be considered for the project based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
- Appropriateness of artwork to the goals of the project, as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
- Professional experience is adequate to meet the demands of the project, including working in a large scale.
- Availability to participate in the design, approval, and implementation of the project as required.

The list of qualified artists will be presented to the Jim Thorpe Office Building Public Art Selection Committee, consisting of one representative of OMES, the project architect, one artist, one arts professional, one art educator, two to five community representatives, and the Director of Art in Public Places from the Oklahoma Arts Council. The selection committee will identify up to five finalists who will be invited to develop conceptual site-specific proposals after attending a mandatory orientation session with the project team and key stakeholders. Each finalist will be paid an honorarium of \$1,000 for the development and in-person presentation of a conceptual design proposal. Artists residing greater than 60 miles from Oklahoma City are eligible to receive up to \$2,000 total towards the reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses, approved by the Oklahoma Arts Council prior to travel arrangements being made for the orientation session and panel interview. Receipts will be required for travel expenses to be considered. The public art selection committee will submit rankings of finalist proposals and recommendation for approval to the Art in Public Places Oversight Committee.

Timeline

Application opens April 1, 2025

Application deadline May 6, 2025

Notification of selected finalists May 30, 2025

Mandatory finalist orientation session June 2025

Finalist presentations August 2025

Anticipated notification of selected artist August 2025

Installation of artwork spring 2026

**Timeline is subject to change*

Once selected, the artist or artist team will work with Sterling Hayes, Director of Art in Public Places, to coordinate an installation schedule.

Questions/Follow up

Please direct questions or requests for additional information to Sterling Hayes, Director of Art in Public Places, at sterling.hayes@arts.ok.gov or (405) 308-0975.

The Oklahoma Arts Council administers the Oklahoma Art in Public Places Program in accordance with HB1824.

