



Oklahoma Art in Public Places Request for Proposals (RFP)

Project: Oklahoma State Capitol Visitor Entrance Lobby Ceramic Wall Artwork

Deadline: April 5, 2021

Overview and Project Description

Artists and artist teams are invited to submit qualifications and a brief proposal for the design and installation of wall hanging ceramic artwork for an Oklahoma Art in Public Places project at the Oklahoma State Capitol. The Oklahoma Arts Council, in partnership with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, are seeking an artist or a collaborative artist team to create artwork in the Lobby of the new Visitor Entrance of the State Capitol. The Capitol is located at 2300 N Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The location for the public art will be in a publicly accessible area where arriving visitors enter and exit the security checkpoint.

The Oklahoma State Capitol is a neo-classically themed building inspired by the United States Capitol. It was designed by Solomon Andrew Layton and completed in 1917. The exterior is composed primarily of Indiana limestone with a base of Oklahoma pink granite. The interior features marble floors and stairwells, recently renovated public spaces, and a new color scheme designed to highlight the many intricate architectural details. Enoch Kelly Haney's colossal statue *The Guardian* stands prominently atop the Oklahoma State Capitol dome where it was lifted on June 7, 2002. Inside the new Visitor's Entrance, a nine-foot replica of *The Guardian* is on view, which was donated by Nancy Payne Ellis and her children.

Theme and Intent

The vision for this project is a large-scale ceramic artwork of lasting value and museum quality to be displayed in the lobby of the Visitor Entrance of the State Capitol. Potential themes include but are not limited to Indigenous place names and languages, maps or boundaries including Indian Territory, Oklahoma Territory, and the proposed State of Sequoyah, botanicals native to Oklahoma, and connection to land. The artwork will be original art appropriate for indoor display and able to withstand conditions of regular sunlight, and variable temperature and humidity. The art will enhance the lobby with a distinctive aesthetic experience both highly visible and welcoming to visitors.

This opportunity is specific to the walls at the southwest corner of the lobby. There are two wall areas with existing art hanging systems where the artwork will be displayed. Please reference the attached images. The lobby is open to the public and can be viewed by interested artists if additional context is needed. We encourage applications from artists and collaborative artist teams that possess a working knowledge of traditional Indigenous craft, symbolism, and history of Indigenous populations in pre-statehood Oklahoma. Applicants will incorporate that knowledge into a vibrant and meaningful wall-hanging artwork that conceptually connects to the original inhabitants of Oklahoma.

We have identified the following Native American populations as having the strongest historical and cultural connections to what would become Oklahoma prior to any forced removals. This listing utilizes the name currently in use, which may differ from the name listed historically: the Caddo Nation, the Quapaw Nation, the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, the Pawnee Nation, the Osage Nation, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, The Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, the Comanche Nation, the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Kiowa Tribe. We offer this list as a suggestion or a starting point, but acknowledge that this is a complex conversation, one that warrants reflection, research, and discussion by any artist or collaborative team seeking to engage in this space and create artwork to honor these peoples.

Project Funds

The artist or artist teams will receive \$15,000 to create the artwork. Artists will be responsible for design, fabrication, delivery, and installation of the artwork within the given 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 living in Oklahoma who are a citizen or an enrolled member of a federally recognized or Oklahoma recognized American Indian tribe. Applicants will be asked to provide documentation of their Native American citizenship or ancestry.

Application Requirements

Artists will complete an application form at https://arts.ok.gov/Our_Programs/OAIPP/Calls_for_Artists.html 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.

Applications will not be accepted after the April 5, 2021, 11:59 p.m. (CDT) deadline

Application materials include:

- a. Statement of Interest
 - i. A statement of interest will include a brief summary of artistic focus and professional career, especially as your background relates to this project.
 - ii. A brief description of the concept to be proposed, should the applicant be selected. Can include materials, colors, etc.
 - iii. Letters cannot exceed two pages.
- b. Sketch
 - i. A sketch of the proposed artwork indicating placement, materials, colors, and size.
- c. Resume/CV
 - i. 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.
- d. Documentation of Native American citizenship or ancestry
- e. Five images of relevant previous work, per member of team with a maximum of fifteen images

- i. Files can be up to 2mb. Images should be at least 72 dpi.
 - ii. Please number images 1-5, etc., in the file name using this system, #LastName,FirstName.jpg
- f. Image descriptions
- i. Please include title, medium, dimensions, and year for each artwork. You may also include a brief statement about each work (2 sentence maximum).
 - ii. Number your descriptions, corresponding to the image file names.

Selection Process

RFP applications will be reviewed 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.
- Availability to participate in the design, approval, and implementation of the project as required.

The list of qualified artists will be presented to the Art Standards Committee for the Capitol Preservation Commission. The Committee will identify up to 3 finalists who will be invited to develop concept proposals after attending a mandatory orientation session. Each finalist will be paid an honorarium of \$500 for the development and presentation of a full design proposal.

Timeline

Application opens March 5, 2021

Application deadline April 5, 2021

Notification of selected finalists April 20, 2021

Mandatory finalist orientation session April 30, 2021

Finalist proposal materials due June 3, 2021

Anticipated notification of selected artist June 30, 2021

Installation of artwork January 2022

Once selected, the artist or artist team will work with Jarica Walsh, Director of Art in Public Places, to coordinate an installation schedule that allows for safe physical distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Questions/Follow up

Please direct questions or requests for additional information to Jarica Walsh, Director of Art in Public Places, at jarica.walsh@arts.ok.gov or (405) 521-2030.



