



Call for Artists

Public Art Project

WMATA Eisenhower Avenue

Alexandria VA

WMATA and Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners (JLREP) are soliciting qualifications from accomplished artists or artist teams to create a site-specific public artwork for the new WMATA Regional Headquarters Facility at 2395 Mill Road, Alexandria VA. The building entry facade and lobby spaces have been identified as possible locations for the Artwork in order to create the best experience for WMATA employees, visitors and members of the public.

This Artwork selection will follow a two-phase process referred to as Phase 1 and Phase 2.

PHASE 1

Requires Artists/Artist teams to prepare and submit Qualifications as appropriate for the scope of work and Qualifications Submittal requirements as set forth in this solicitation. An artist selection panel led by WMATA and JLREP and comprising art and design professionals, will select at least three artists/artist teams as determined by this RFQ's evaluation criteria.

The selected Artists/Artist teams will each receive a \$1,500 design fee to prepare and submit a site-specific artwork proposal that will comply with the prescribed concepts. These Artists/Artist teams will then proceed to Phase 2 of the selection process.

PHASE 2

WMATA and JLREP will invite the selected Artists/Artist teams whose qualifications are deemed acceptable to receive detailed contract information for the purpose of submitting site-specific, Phase 2 artwork proposals. WMATA and JLREP expects the proposals to include all premiums required to complete the project on or ahead of the schedule listed in the present RFQ.

As part of the proposal, the Artists/Artist teams are expected to provide a site-specific design and the estimated costs for fabrication, installation, engineering/architectural coordination, technical, clerical and other services necessary as well as schedules required for the fabrication and installation of the artwork. The Artist or Artists team's experience and professional record should provide convincing evidence of their ability to successfully complete the project as proposed.

The Artist Selection Panel will rank each site-specific artwork based on the evaluation criteria listed in this RFQ and make a recommendation to the WMATA General Manager for approval. JLREP will then enter into negotiations with the top-ranked Artists or Artist team to finalize the contract award process. If JLREP is unable to reach agreement with the top ranked Artists or Artist team, they will end negotiations and begin negotiations with the next ranked Artists or Artist team.

BUDGET

The maximum budget for the site-specific art project is not to exceed \$250,000 all-inclusive of design (artist fee included), construction, and installation as well as other miscellaneous costs. The budget for artwork as outlined in this Call for Artists and is subject to the availability of funds.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The WMATA Eisenhower Avenue building is a 14-story headquarters facility that will consolidate several departments including the authority's Technology and Engineering groups. It will foster a culture that is safety-focused, customer-centric and technology-enabled, and create a rich, immersive employee experience. The building will feel welcoming, open and accessible, and the building's entry lobby is a light-filled, double-height space wrapping the southwest corner of the building.

PARAMETERS AND GOALS

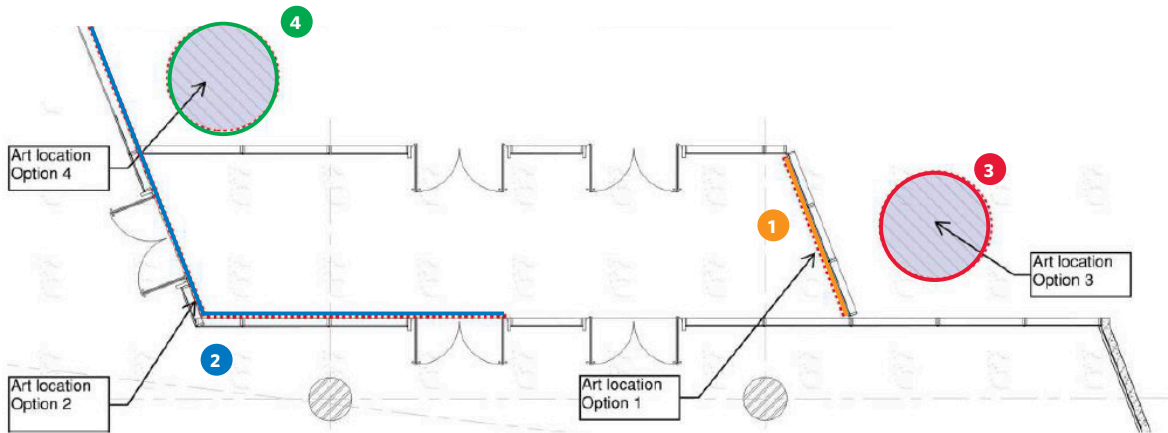
The Authority has a history of, and, an expectation for design excellence, and, through its Art in Transit Program, has been working to obtain unique, memorable, and engaging site-specific, public artworks. The Artists or Artist teams shall develop aesthetically attractive public artworks that capture the Authority's mission and reflect the artistic, cultural and/or historical interests of the surrounding communities. Consideration shall be given to creative uses of materials, massing, scale, form, texture, and detailing. Artworks shall be visually attractive, innovative, as well as durable. The selected site-specific artworks should impart a sense of pride within the local community and provide a stimulating and attractive environment for the people who will experience the artworks daily.

The Artist Selection Panel seeks a pool of applicants with a successful history of public art and collaboration with public agencies and/or design build projects.

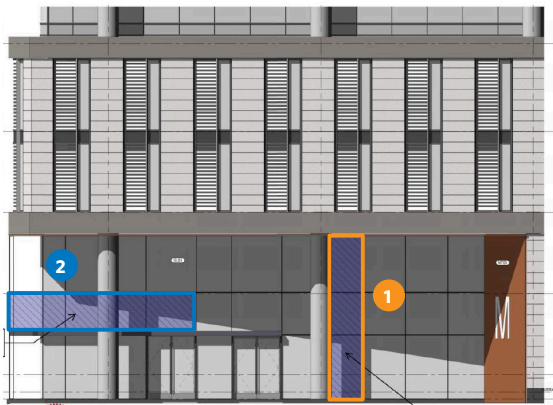
DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Select finalists will be asked to consider the following principles when developing their design:

- Quality of the work and durability of materials
- Enduring aesthetics
- Site-specificity/relationship to existing architectural, natural, and social features:
 - Gateway or landmark to a traveler's journey
 - Consideration of the Authority's role and history
 - Relationship to other artworks in the city
 - Future development plans for the area
- Appropriate scale—Artwork proportional to scale and volume of the space
- Visibility and Public accessibility
- Safety/Structural and surface soundness
- Resistance to theft, vandalism, weathering and excessive maintenance
- Low maintenance with minimal ongoing maintenance and operational costs
- Space activation
- Technical feasibility
- Suitability for a diverse public
- Abiding by the principles of Universal Design



Partial plan and elevation of building entry and vestibule



CHALLENGES AND LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS

The design team has identified the following key areas at the building entry facade and lobby (outlined below) as potential sites for the artwork.

Location Option 1

The angled, two-story east wall of the entry vestibule. Viewed from both sides

Location Option 2

The band of glazing located above the entry doors. Viewed from both sides

Location Option 3

A free-standing or suspended artwork inside the lobby, east of the vestibule

Location Option 4

A free-standing or suspended artwork inside the lobby, north of the vestibule

The artwork must be visible from both inside and outside of the building. If the artists/artist team chooses a location that is not immediately connected to the outside, the artwork will also need supplemental artificial light so that it remains visible at night.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS SUBMITTALS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Artists/Artist Teams shall submit the following during each phase of the selection process:

PHASE 1

Prepare and submit qualifications material that include:

- A. Statement of Interest that briefly outlines the Artists or Artist Team's interest in the present RFQ and experience working on similar projects (2000 characters maximum).
- B. 1-2-page current résumé that highlights the Artists or Artist Team's professional accomplishments. If applying as a team, please submit one résumé per team member.
- C. Résumés should be PDF files formatted as follow: file name to be artist last name. and first initial (i.e.: Smith.J.pdf). Résumés should be limited to 1-2 pages.
- D. Up to 10 digital images of previously completed artworks in PDF format, along with a list of the images specifying the title, media, location and year created for each work.



PHASE 2

To prepare and submit a site-specific artwork proposal (the "Proposal"), which shall be sufficiently clear and detailed to enable the Art Review Panel to understand and evaluate it without assistance from the Artist. The Proposal shall include:

- A. Drawings/renderings to illustrate the proposed, site-specific Artwork and its integration into the building.
- B. The location of the Artwork and the size, materials,
- C. Colors and finishes of the Artwork, including installation considerations, shall also be indicated.
- D. A written explanation of the proposed Artwork and the design approach for integrating the Artwork into the building. Include, as applicable, a general description of architectural, engineering, and other professional work which will be needed to implement the Proposal.
- E. A detailed preliminary estimate of the total cost of the Artwork, which is currently estimated at (and not to exceed) \$250,000, including the Artist's fee under this agreement. The artist fee must not exceed 20% of the proposed artwork budget. The cost estimate shall include, as applicable, Artist's fee and the following: Artist, subcontractor and vendor costs: engineering, materials, fabrication, crating, storage, shipping to the site, all insurance, installation, artist's supervision of the installation, and documentation. The cost estimate shall be supported by written estimates from vendors for all cost- significant products/services. The Project includes survey, design, and construction of the Project
- F. The Artists/Artist team must detail their experience, and the experience of possible sub-contractors, on projects of similar size and complexity, and constraints. Provide a list describing similar projects completed by the artist and contractor within the last 10 years or currently in progress. Each list of projects shall include:
 - Name and location of project
 - Name of the owner
 - Name and phone number of contact person
 - Value of contract
 - Percentage of Contract that was self-performed
 - General description of the project

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Each RFQ submission will be reviewed and evaluated individually by the Artist Selection Panel in accordance with the procedures and criteria highlighted in this RFQ. Qualifications will be evaluated by their strengths, weaknesses, and deficiencies against the evaluation factors and these attributes will be communicated to the Applicants for follow-up action as appropriate. The Applicants shall describe in detail the means and methods of prosecuting the work described in this Statement of Qualifications.

The Artist Selection Panel will be using the following criteria to evaluate each artists/artist team submission during stage 1 and stage 2 of the selection process:

- **Quality of the Work:** High quality artwork as determined by recognized art professionals, arts administrators, developers and designers qualified to evaluate contemporary artist portfolios, credentials and/or proposals.
- **Site-specificity:** An artist's concept and the physical artwork are integrated into the project and should relate to the project site, immediate landscape, urban fabric, and/or surrounding communities.
- **Durability of Materials:** Artworks in public spaces may be subject to a variety of harsh conditions including but not limited to impact from pedestrian traffic, build-up of soot and grime, a range of climate conditions, and potential vandalism. Durable materials should be used that attain the optimum degree of maintainability and proven ability to withstand the specific environmental conditions of the area. Artwork should need minimum maintenance.
- **Originality of approach and methodologies** used to convey meaning through art
- **Artist's ability to complete the project** in view of past commissions and resume

In addition to the above criteria, the Artist Selection Panel will consider the following when ranking the finalists during stage 2 of the selection process:

- Review each project for its feasibility
- Review evidence of the artist's ability to successfully complete the work as proposed.

Each project will be reviewed for the following factors including, but not limited to: project budget, time line, community engagement, knowledge of applicable regulations, construction and design guidelines, artistic excellence, originality and creativity of proposal.

PROJECT SOLICITATION SCHEDULE

The solicitation schedule for this project is as follows:

Stage 1

Request for Qualifications posted
May 15, 2020

Q&A period
May 18-June 26, 2020

RFQ closed, Qualifications Due
June 28, 2020

Qualifications evaluation/Select Finalists
July 10, 2020

Stage 2

Release additional info to Finalists
July 17, 2020

Site-specific Design Proposal due date
July 31, 2020

Semi-finalists interviews/presentations
Week of August 17th, 2020

Project award decision
August 28, 2020

Note: We reserve the right to adjust the timetable as necessary during this Call for Artists submission process.

STAGE 1 PROPOSALS MAY BE SUBMITTED DIGITALLY OR HARD COPY TO:

WMATA_EisenhowerAve@Gensler.com

Public Art Project
WMATA Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria VA
c/o Gensler

2020 K street NW
Washington DC 20006
USA

Questions may also be submitted to:
WMATA_EisenhowerAve@Gensler.com