Request for Qualifications

STEM building

Submission Deadline: November 29, 2019
Total Budget: $250,000
Project Description

The new STEM building unites classrooms and collaborative spaces for science, technology engineering and math. The students will share more than just the state of the art building and facilities, along with ideas, projects, and research that advance UNK’s mission and benefit the entire state.

The 80,000 square foot building, set to open spring 2020, will house the following programs: construction management, industrial distribution, interior design, aviation, cyber systems, mathematics and statistics, physics and astronomy and engineering.

Timeline

*subject to change.

RFQ open: Sept 11
Submission deadline: Nov 29
Finalists notified: Dec 9
Selected artist(s) notified: Feb 28
Artwork installed: Nov 2020
Site and Concept Overview

The STEM building Selection Committee is interested in receiving submissions for two separate public art projects within the central atrium of the building. The building includes a north and a south wing, and each house classrooms and practical learning spaces. The central part of the building connects the north and south wings. The first floor acts as a passageway through the building, with large glass entrance vestibules on the east and west sides. The intent for the central spaces on all three levels is for collaboration, study space, open-air classrooms and critiques, and a space to witness the process of learning and creation while walking through the building.

The STEM Selection Committee is most inspired by the notion that all the programs in this building are united by the hard work of research, trial and error, repetition that goes into every discovery, creation and invention that improves the world around us. The artwork for both projects, detailed below, should use this notion as an overall concept. While the building and artwork leads students, faculty, and guests through the building, it leaves them with an understanding of the concept and inspired about the path of discovery and creation. The committee is not particularly interested in artwork that specifically or literally addresses the included programs.
Project #1, $200,000 | large-scale sculptural piece in the two-story West Atrium, which is separated from the courtyard by a multi-paned glass wall and doors. The committee is interested in the idea of the West Atrium artwork continuing into the courtyard on the other side of the glass wall for an exterior 3D sculpture. There is an opportunity of the art to incorporate some practical options like seating. A third, optional 3D component could expand to the East Atrium, which is more narrow and long but extends vertically between the first and second floor. The artwork should align with the overall concept and unify the building and the experience walking through the building.

*Professional artists or artist teams throughout the US are eligible to apply.

Project #2, $50,000 | includes various wall locations for 2D artworks for the walls in the central atrium and collaborative spaces on the first, second, third floor. The Selection Committee is seeking work that already exists and/or samples of representative work along with a statement of what could exist. Artists may submit individual works or series of works. All submitting artists should be able to propose work that aligns with the overall concept.

If the work is already completed, please include the size of the artwork and if applicable, the frame. The number of works commissioned depends on the price for each piece; please only submit works priced between $1,000 and $15,000.

*Professional artists in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Iowa, Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota are eligible to apply.
Selection Process
The STEM Public Art Selection Committee, in consultation with the Nebraska Arts Council, has full oversight for the selection of an artist for this project.

Professional public artists or artist teams throughout the United States are eligible to apply for Project #1; professional artists from Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota are eligible to apply for Project #2.

The committee reviews RFQ submissions on SlideRoom. Finalists will present proposals in Kearney, NE, and will receive travel and proposal stipends. Proposal presentations should include completed concept, design, budget, etc.

West entrance to STEM

Budget
A maximum of $250,000 is available for the selected artist or artists’ team (All travel and lodging, equipment rental, supplies and fabrication for the final design and commission will be responsibility of the artist/artists team).

Selection Criteria
- Statement of personal connection to project
- Clarity of conceptual approach
- Evidence of ability to complete quality projects based on prior work samples and references

Application Requirements
Submit materials on SlideRoom, the online review system used in this process, via this portal: nebraska.slideroom.com
Technical assistance: slideroom.com/support.html

Visual Support Materials
Image descriptions: Include date, budget, dimensions, medium with each corresponding image on SlideRoom.
Images: Ten digital images of relevant completed artwork.
Upload images as jpg files, <1220px @ 72dpi.
Video: Optional video demonstrates moving parts, time-based work, functionality. Upload mov, wmv, flv files, < 5 min. each.

Required Materials
CV/Resume: Limit to three pages.
Three Professional References: Complete contact information for references with a deep knowledge of your artwork and work methods. Ex: Commissioning organization, architect, etc.
Statement of Interest: Describe how your personal style or past projects relate to this project. Describe briefly your interest and concept for this project. Use 500 words or less.
Application Fee: $10 via the secure payment system on SlideRoom.

Contact
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