

**The City of Bellingham, WA is Seeking
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
from an
Artist or Artist Team for Interior art Installations at a New Public
Works Operations Building**



Exterior view of Public Works Operations Building

Artwork Opportunity

The City of Bellingham, WA is seeking an artist or artist team to design, fabricate and install artwork for an interior installation located at 2221 Pacific Street in Bellingham, WA. The new steel framed (exposed) building will host office space, and support spaces, for the Public Works and Parks Operations Departments. The main entrance is open to the public and is located on the corner of Pacific Street and Carolina Street. The lobby will have two stories of glass façade, allowing light and views to the interior space. Inside that glass façade is a two-story public lobby space with a few potential artwork location(s), outlined below.

Up to \$240,000 is available for design, materials, fabrication, and installation of the artwork.

Submission Due Date: Noon on January 5, 2024

Submit PDF via email to:

City of Bellingham
Attn: Shannon Taysi
360-778-8360
staysi@cob.org

Late submissions will not be considered.

Background

The second phase of a new Public Works Operations building will be located on the corner of Pacific Street and Carolina Street. The glass enclosed lobby abutting Pacific Street had been identified as the ideal location for artwork.

The inclusion of artwork in public places reinforces the City's status as a regional arts destination, increases quality of life and attracts tourism and visitors to the area. The primary goal of this project is to have large scale artwork visible from the street for the pedestrians to view as well as for visitors to the lobby. Additionally, there will be one or two smaller pieces in the lobby.

Opportunity Locations

The new Pacific Street Operations Center (Phase 2) will primarily provide additional office space for growing City departments. A large public lobby will also enhance public access and the presence of the building. The lobby contains a double height curtain wall, which allows for ample natural light and views (both in and out of the building). The lobby entry is covered with a large canopy with integrated lighting and supported by steel columns. The lobby itself is also double height, giving the space some dimension and lending itself well to art installations. Public Works and Parks Operations staff will be the primary users of the facility. Types of work these teams are responsible for include engineering, road maintenance, build bridges, street and traffic light installation/maintenance, city water and sewer services, stormwater, park maintenance, trail development and environmental protections. Artist and Artist Teams will want to consider these elements during development of proposals if selected as a semi-finalist.

Below are the three locations within the interior public lobby that have been identified for artwork installations. The City is requiring artwork to be installed in location number one. This installation will need to be prominent and visible from the exterior of the building to pedestrians as well as to visitors to the lobby. Additionally, the artist or artist team should utilize at least one of the other two locations, if not both, with smaller works. See attached graphics showing these locations.

1. Ceiling Hung - The double height lobby consists of double height curtain wall, presenting an opportunity for artists to hang a piece from the ceiling in full view of the public (from both interior and exterior). The roof structure (which this piece would be hung from) consists of 30" deep open web steel joists spaced 6.5' on center, with metal decking above. All components are painted white. If this location is chosen, it is recommended that a lighting strategy be provided as a component to the piece.
2. Feature Wall (behind feature staircase) - The feature staircase is being designed by the architect (heavy timber wood risers on steel supports stringers/supports with glass guards and wood handrails). The wall beyond the feature stair is an opportunity for an art installation and is visible from both the interior and exterior of the building. A steel

hollow structured sections (HSS) grid substructure will be provided from main floor to the underside of the roof structure. If this location is not selected by the artist a perforated metal panel or metal mesh will be attached, facing the public, with a large amount of transparency allowing natural light into second floor office space. However, the artist may substitute that metal panel/mesh with custom paneling of their own, attach an art piece, or both. Directional lighting onto wall will be provided from above.

3. Back wall in double height lobby - The wall will be drywall, painted white. There will be enough blocking/substructure in the wall to accommodate up to 3,000 pounds. Additional weight is possible but would require the evaluation of the structural engineer of record. Directional lighting onto this wall will also be provided from above.

The current maximum weight for all 3 locations is 3000 pounds. Weight exceeding this is possible but will require extra evaluation by the engineer of record.

Funding

The City has established a budget of up to \$240,000 for all elements of artwork to be installed in the locations (one identified above and either location two, three or both within the lobby). The city is seeking a turnkey solution, as such all costs associated with the chosen artwork will include any and all expenses related to the planning, design, and installation of the artwork, including incidentals such as: food, lodging, per diem, travel, engineered drawings and calculations, overhead and profit, bonding and insurance, supervision, labor, equipment and materials, communications, reproduction, mock ups, etc.

Preparation Costs

The City of Bellingham shall not be responsible for qualification submittal preparation costs, including oral interviews (if held), nor for costs including attorney fees associated with any challenge to the selection process and/or award of contract and /or rejection of qualification submittal. By submitting a submittal of qualifications each proponent agrees to be bound in this respect and waives all claims to such costs and fees.

Required Qualifications

The selected professional artist or artist team will develop, fabricate and install artwork at the described site. To be considered for this Request for Qualifications, the artist or team must meet the following criteria:

- Experience in design, fabrication and installation of large-scale artwork, preferably work on larger capital projects for government agencies.
- The ability to furnish all supplies, materials, permits and equipment necessary for the design, execution, fabrication, transportation and installation of the artwork at this location.
- Ability to perform the requested work within the timeline outlined below.
- The ability to provide proof of required insurance and an endorsement listing the City as additional insured during the duration of the project. Coverage shall include but is not limited to:

○ Workers Compensation	Statutory Amount
○ Automobile Liability	\$1,000,000
○ Broad Form Comprehensive Liability	\$1,000,000/occurrence
	\$2,000,000 aggregate

Project Timeline

January 5, 2024	Request for Qualifications deadline
Week of January 22, 2024	Semi-finalists contacted
March 22, 2024	Deadline for semi-finalist submittals
Week of April 1, 2024	Semi-finalists interviews/meetings
Late April/Early May, 2024	Final artist/artist team announced
May 2024	Contracting
First Quarter 2025	Installation

Selection Process

- A Jury comprised of stakeholders, Arts Commission members, staff and a Council Member will review all Request for Qualification submittals and rank them based upon the criteria outlined below.
- The Jury will select no more than five semi-finalists from the Request for Qualification submittals.
- Semi-finalists will receive a packet of specifications regarding site locations, design criteria and any design limitations or requirements.
- The semi-finalists will be requested to submit a conceptual idea for consideration, likely in the form of a 3D model or 3D illustration.
- Semi-finalist will be asked to present in person their design proposal. Specifications on requirements of design proposal will be outlined in more detail upon selection as a semi-finalist.
- Selected semi-finalists will receive a stipend of \$1500 for travel and design fees following the submission and presentation of a design proposal.
- The Jury intends to select the final proposal and enter into a contract with the selected artist or artist team.
- The City reserves the right to terminate negotiations with any artist should it be in the City’s best interest.

To Apply

Application materials must include:

- A signed Letter of Interest that addresses your approach to this project and understanding of this public art project, by a person duly authorized to bind the Artist or Artist Team
- Resume(s), include name, address, phone number, e-mail address and website for all members of the team, along with descriptions of previous work and/or relevant employment
- Description of previous public art installations, include technical skills, challenges and successes with each project
- Description of schedule management and ability to meet the timeline proposed
- Web links or color images of previous relevant work with annotated image descriptions
- Two professional references, including name, email, phone number and relationship to reference (each team member will need to provide)

Ranking Criteria

Qualification submittals will be evaluated and ranked on the following criteria and point range for each project.

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| • Artist / Artist Team qualifications & experience | 0-30 points |
| • Quality of previous artwork | 0-30 points |
| • Description of approach/project understanding | 0-20 points |
| • Schedule and project management expertise | 0-20 points |
| • Total possible score | 100 points |

The City of Bellingham reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, and to waive any irregularities or information in the evaluation process. The final decision is the sole decision of the City of Bellingham

Materials must be received by Noon on January 5, 2024 E-mail all materials in PDF format to staysi@cob.org. Late submissions will not be considered.

Please keep in mind this is a Request for Qualifications only, not a request for proposals or art projects. Specific proposals will be requested of the semi-finalists selected through this process.

The City of Bellingham promotes equal opportunity and shall not discriminate against any person based upon race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, nationality or disability.