

CALL TO ARTISTS

from WINNIPEG'S PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Public Art Opportunity WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY'S NEW MILLENNIUM LIBRARY

OPEN CALL TO ARTISTS:

Deadline:

Budget:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

15 November 2004

\$180,000 all-inclusive

ART OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The Winnipeg Arts Council is seeking artists or artist-led teams to submit first-stage proposals in a two-stage call for new, permanent art installations in Winnipeg Public Library's New Millennium Library, currently under renovation and scheduled to re-open to the public in September 2005.



**WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL**

The Winnipeg Arts Council is an arms-length agency of the City of Winnipeg.



Winnipeg Public Library's New Millennium Library: PUBLIC ART PROJECT

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Winnipeg's Centennial Library, built in 1977, is currently undergoing an exciting, major renovation to improve public library services for the citizens of Winnipeg. The City has undertaken project design and construction for the expansion of the Centennial Library, which is being renovated to support the enhanced services, programs and collections that today's library users are requesting. The main branch of the Winnipeg Public Library is being developed into a modern information facility and meeting place that reflects Winnipeg's unique cultural identity.

The project will contribute significantly to the renewal of downtown Winnipeg and bring abundant benefits to the city. In addition to bringing more people downtown, the new Library will provide enhanced services to children and young adults, ensure greater access to technology, and showcase historical information and resource material on Winnipeg and Manitoba.

The renovation is designed by Patkau Architects and LM Architectural Group. The architects' biggest challenge was to change an introverted and inward-looking layout into an extroverted concept, in which the building opens outward toward the adjacent park. One of the most exciting features of the design is the new fourth floor and terraced reading room. It will be a grand, spacious room, full of daylight and with spectacular views, unlike any library space in the city.

The new Library incorporates many elements in an effort to enhance "green building" concepts. Plans call for reusing and recycling products as much as possible to reduce the need for new systems. Features include a new glass wall that provides solar heating, a raised pedestal floor for better ventilation on the fourth floor, and the interconnection of all floors through new reading terraces, resulting in enhanced day lighting and ventilation.

As one of the major public buildings in downtown Winnipeg, this central branch of the Library must be accessible to all. The architectural design includes many features that improve accessibility, including two new large public elevators, a simplified floor plan that eases way-finding through the collections, generous aisle widths and travel routes throughout the Library for ease of movement, and access to the reading terraces from all floors.

Renovation completion is scheduled for the spring of 2005 with expected re-opening to the public in September 2005.

ARTWORK GOALS

The Library renovation is transforming a primarily inward-looking building into a more vibrant public space that reaches out to the community both through the architectural design and through expanded programming. Similarly, the artwork created for this

public space should engage all Library users and the larger community in the role of the Library and should reflect its context in Winnipeg in the 21st century. The proposed artwork should express the ideas of our time and may explore notions of information gathering, access to information, literacy, culture, diversity, and the geographic reality of Winnipeg.

ARTWORK DESIGN PARAMETERS

The selection committee will consider a variety of media and scales, relative to and appropriate to the spaces available for consideration. The artwork should be constructed of permanent, durable materials that are resistant to theft, vandalism, weather and environmental conditions consistent with a public space. The installed artwork must meet the safety standards of the City of Winnipeg.

ARTWORK LOCATIONS DESCRIPTION

Three locations, all visually accessible from both inside and outside the Library, are available for consideration by artists. One or more of the sites will be developed as a public art project depending on the proposals received. The sites are:

Feature Wall (interior space)

This is a two storey high wall which is the main element of a new two storey high entrance hall to the Library. The space connects the Library entrance and the second storey skywalk and also contains a coffee bar and a gift shop. The wall is 24 feet wide and 28 feet tall. Two or three dimensional artwork may be considered for this site, although three dimensional work should be no greater than a few feet in depth.

Second Floor Balcony (exterior space)

The second floor balcony overlooks the garden and Smith Street to the south east. The balcony is 20 feet, six inches deep and 44 feet long. The height varies from 14 to 26 feet as the balcony is located under a sloping section of the terraced reading room. The balcony is constructed of concrete and the backdrop wall is glazed. Artwork for this space must take weathering into account because it is an entirely exterior space.

Terraced Reading Room (interior space)

The jewel of the Library renovation, the reading terrace space is four stories high and connects all levels within the Library. Adjacent to the terraces is an integrated staircase that provides circulation between floors. In order to foster a greater sense of community within the Library and to make a strong connection to the exterior, the entire edge of the terraced reading room is glazed, opening up the Library to views of the adjacent park and city streets. Artwork for this area would have to be of a significant scale in keeping with the scale of the space itself. A work suspended in the upper reaches of the space may be feasible. The terraced space is 67 feet high at the main floor and 23 feet high at the fourth floor and is 28 feet, four inches deep.

SITE LOCATION PLANS

Please refer to the attached architectural plans and drawings for further information on the sites.

BUDGET

\$180,000 is the total amount available for all related expenses of this Public Art project, including (but not limited to) artist fees, site preparation, technical consultation, fabrication, insurance, shipping, travel, installation, license fees, documentation, etc.

Depending on the proposals and estimated budgets received, one or all of the sites may be developed within this total budget.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This is a national competition open to professional artists* residing in Canada. Artist and/or artist-led teams are encouraged to apply. Selected artists must have/provide Workers' Compensation Board coverage and liability insurance.

**The Public Art Policy defines a professional artist as a person who is critically recognized as an artist; possesses skill, training and/or experience in his or her artistic discipline; is active in and committed to his or her art practice; and has a history of public presentation.*

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Artists wishing to be considered must submit a complete package. Artists in a team should submit their proposal as one package but should include supporting materials and a curriculum vitae for each artist. Please submit seven copies of all application documents typed or written in black ink on white, **letter-sized paper (8½" X 11")** as outlined below. Please **DO NOT staple applications or bind them in any way** in folders, binders or plastic covers. Only one copy of support material is required. Applications must include the following:

1. Seven copies of the completed application form (included at the end of this document).
2. Seven copies of a written description of preliminary concept not more than one typewritten page in length. Proposals should outline the concept as related to the artwork goals and site context as described in this brief. The proposal should state the probable form the artwork may take including scale, format, medium, colour and surface quality.
3. Seven copies of a preliminary budget and implementation plan that demonstrates the feasibility of the project. Budget details will be refined in the second stage of the competition.
4. Seven copies of a curriculum vitae that includes a brief statement of artistic activities for the past twelve to eighteen months. Please limit the CV to a maximum length of three pages.
5. Optional: Seven copies of two-dimensional materials, such as drawings or renderings that will describe or bring clarity to the proposal may be submitted. The material should be limited to two pieces, be no larger than 8½" X 11" in size, and should not be mounted. **Please send copies only, not original artwork.** Models, maquettes and other three-dimensional materials **will not be accepted** at this stage.
6. Support Material: Up to twenty (20) slides (per artist) of representative work. Slides of works that are site-specific, use similar forms, materials or techniques relating to the artist's concept would be most helpful to the committee. The slides must be in 35mm format with 2" X 2" paper or plastic mounts labeled in ink with artist's name, title of work, date and identification number. Please put an arrow to indicate the top of the image. If your work cannot be adequately documented with slides only, CD-ROMS, DVDs, VHS tapes, and audio tapes, appropriately cued and up to ten minutes in length, will be accepted. **All support materials must be accompanied by seven copies of a typewritten**

documentation list with artist's name, title of work, medium, dimensions and date. If site-specific, the location should also be indicated.

7. An addressed and stamped envelope with sufficient postage for return of support material.

DEADLINE

Complete proposal packages must be received on or before **15 November 2004** by 5:00 pm. (This is not a postmark deadline). All supporting materials must accompany application. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be accepted. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted. The Winnipeg Arts Council will not be responsible for applications lost in transit. While all reasonable care will be taken in the handling of materials, the Winnipeg Arts Council cannot take responsibility for lost or damaged materials.

Please send complete proposal packages to:

Tricia Wasney, Manager-Public Art
Re: New Millennium Library Project
Winnipeg Arts Council
102-555 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1C3

SELECTION PROCESS and CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee of qualified persons. The committee will review proposals on the basis of:

- Outstanding potential of the artwork concept
- Qualifications and professional experience of the artist(s)
- Ability of the artist(s) to work collaboratively with design and construction professionals
- Quality of work, originality, excellence and appropriateness of artistic expression to the proposed project
- Fulfillment of artwork goals as described in this brief
- Sensitivity to the site and context of proposed artwork
- Demonstrated and assessed ability to successfully execute the project under the criteria developed and with the budget and timeline set out
- Durability of materials and ability to meet all safety requirements.

The proposals will also be reviewed by a committee of technical experts who will advise the selection committee, when needed, on matters related to financial feasibility, durability, structural integrity, safety and maintenance.

The selection committee may recommend a short-list of artists who may be invited to present a more in-depth proposal for further review. An honorarium of \$2000 for proposal development, plus any travel arrangements necessary to meet with the committee, would be extended to the finalists. A final recommendation would then be made from the short-listed artists, if appropriate. Entrants will not be reimbursed for any costs relating to Stage One submissions.

The artist(s) selected for the final commission will be required to enter into an agreement with the City of Winnipeg which will contain provisions including but not limited to right of ownership and use, warranty and insurance.

Please note that the Winnipeg Arts Council is not compelled to award the project based on the submissions.

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE

Nov 15, 2004:	Deadline for receipt of completed proposals
Dec 1-15:	Selection Committee and Technical Review of first-stage proposals
Dec 15:	Short-listed artists contacted
Mar 4, 2005:	Short-listed artists' second stage submissions due
Mar 17-20:	Selection Committee and Technical Review of short-listed artist submissions
Mar 31:	Announcement of selected proposal
April-October 2005:	Detailed design, fabrication and installation period
Nov 2005:	Artwork opening.

For additional information or questions please call:

Tricia Wasney, Winnipeg Arts Council, (204)943-7668 or e-mail at twasney@winnipegarts.ca

Art Selection Committee:

Rebecca Bellmore, Visual Artist

Jane Bridle, Youth Services Librarian, Winnipeg Public Library

Anthony Kiendl, Director, Visual Arts and the Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff Centre

Wanda Koop, Visual Artist

Elaine Margolis, Community Volunteer

John Patkau, Project Architect, Patkau Architects Inc

The Winnipeg Arts Council reserves the right to choose to not recommend any application, proposal or finalist and to terminate or re-advertise any project.

For any Call To Artists updates please check the web site at www.winnipegarts.ca.

Public Art Opportunity:
Winnipeg Public Library's New Millennium Library
Call to Artists APPLICATION FORM: First Stage

Attach one copy of this form to the top of each application copy.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Signature of applicant _____

Checklist:

- Application form (this page) – seven copies
- Written concept description – seven copies
- Budget and draft implementation plan – seven copies
- Curriculum vitae and statement of artistic activities – seven copies
- Two-dimensional drawings to support proposal (optional) – seven copies
- Support material of representative work (slides, etc.) – one set
- Support material documentation list – seven copies
- Self-addressed stamped envelope for return of support materials.

Send submissions to: Tricia Wasney, Manager-Public Art
Re: New Millennium Library Project
Winnipeg Arts Council
102-555 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1C3

*Complete proposal packages must be received on or before 5:00 pm **15 November 2004** (not a postmark deadline). Incomplete, late, faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.*

Please let us know how you found out about this opportunity _____

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