



**RIVER FALLS CREATES EXHIBIT SELECTION COMMITTEE: Call for Artists**  
River Falls Police Department Project RFP  
February 2024

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The City of River Falls, WI is accepting proposals from artists or teams of artists who would like to be considered for a free-standing exterior installation located at the River Falls Police Department building, 2815 Prairie Drive, River Falls.

In, 2021, the department moved to its new home at 2815 Prairie Drive. Rather than building a stand-alone station, the City turned a 15-year-old newspaper building into a state-of-the-art police station creatively reusing an existing structure to meet the needs of a modern-day police force. Improvements to the existing building include the expansion of the building to add a garage space large enough to house all squad vehicles, spacious locker rooms, welcoming front lobby, secure booking area, sizeable and well-ventilated evidence room, and lots of natural light. The project saved taxpayers \$3 million over what was originally budgeted to build a new building to meet the needs of the department. More information about the project is available by watching this [video](#).

The City is seeking proposals for an exterior public art structure to enhance the area for the future. The artist(s) will design, fabricate and install the artwork in proximity to the River Falls Police Department building, preferably on the east side next to the new walking/biking trail. The artwork should be made of durable materials suitable for outside elements and change in temperature and as impervious to vandalism as possible. The artwork shall require little or no maintenance.

As part of the proposal, the artist(s) will include information on the design, fabrication, and installation of the artwork.

The artist(s) should visit the proposed installation site prior to submitting a proposal. Please contact Sara Kasel at (715) 425-2946 or at [skasel@rfcity.org](mailto:skasel@rfcity.org) with any questions.

**ABOUT THE CITY**

The City of River Falls is in the beautiful St. Croix Valley just 30 minutes from the Twin Cities and is home to 16,000 residents. The City houses the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Chippewa Valley Technical College, an eclectic and vibrant downtown, and several international companies. The River Falls City Council has established a percent for art program, "River Falls Creates," to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors. The objectives of the program include:

- Increase the understanding and enjoyment of public art by River Falls residents
- Promote public interaction with public spaces
- Provide unusual and challenging employment opportunities for artists
- Encourage collaborations between artists and architects, and artists and engineers
- Support artist participation in planning public projects.

**ELIGIBILITY**

This call for artists is open to established and emerging artists 18 years of age or older.



## **SELECTION PROCESS and EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The River Falls Creates committee, with representation from the downtown Business Improvement District (BID) will recommend a finalist for the City Administrator's formal approval. The committee will review all eligible artist submissions with preference given to creative and site-specific proposals that the committee believes to be best for the location. Submissions from local artists are highly encouraged.

Submissions are evaluated by the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence and originality as evidenced by the representations of past work images and other supporting materials
- Proposed artwork's concept/vision and appropriateness of medium, style, and previous experiences as they relate to the project goals, site setting, and Wisconsin climate
- Experience with projects of a similar scale and scope
- Ability to create site-specific or site-reactive works
- Availability and track record that showcases ability to fully complete projects on time from conceptualization through installation of the project as required

## **BUDGET**

Artist is responsible for all associated expenses related to design and installation of the artwork, including an appropriate concrete pad. Please include an itemized project budget in your proposal. The awarded project will need not exceed \$36,000.

## **INSTALLATION**

Our preference for installation is prior to September 30, 2024, if feasible. Artist availability to meet that preference will not impact proposal selection.

Duration of installation is considered permanent, considering the life of the artwork. The City of River Falls will retain ownership of the artwork or decommission at its discretion.

## **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Submission deadline is **Friday, April 26, 2024 at 12 noon.**

The following should be addressed to River Falls Creates Committee and submitted through Sara Kasel at [skasel@rfcity.org](mailto:skasel@rfcity.org) or by mail to:

Sara Kasel  
River Falls City Hall  
222 Lewis St.  
River Falls, WI, 54022

1. Resume (including contact information)
2. Artist statement
3. Written proposal – proposal should be clear, specific, and outline the plan and timeline for the artwork as well as installation.
4. Budget including all installation costs
5. Images or current related work and at least one rendering of the proposed project