

Request for Proposals:

Large-scale Sculpture to Promote Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling.

Background:

Washington County Public Health & Environment invites artists to submit proposals for consideration in the design and creation of a permanent art installation for the Washington County North Environmental Center currently under construction. The sculpture will educate the public about the importance of waste diversion (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). Proposals must include images of previous artwork (sculptures, paintings, drawing, architectural works, etc.) as well as a vision and rendering for the proposed art installation. The artwork must be composed primarily of repurposed or recycled materials to illustrate the message of reduce, reuse/repurpose, and recycle rather than throwing materials into the trash. The art installation should depict an aspect of the environment, recycling process, and/or reuse. The purpose of this art installation will be to remind people what waste reduction, material reuse, and recycling can look like in our everyday lives.

The selected artist(s) will be commissioned to create and install an original art installation and will receive a stipend of up to \$8000 pending project approval. Payment to through the standard county procurement process.

The enhancement of community space by integrating the creative work of artists improves the public experience and promotes vibrancy, creativity, and livelihood in the community. The presence of and access to community art enlivens the public areas of buildings and their grounds and makes them more welcoming. Art can illuminate the diversity and history of a community and point to its aspirations for the future.

Site description:

- The art installation will be displayed at the North Environmental Center, just east of the Washington County License Center in Forest Lake. The environmental center features a yard waste site, self-serve recycling drop-off for items like scrap metal and cardboard, a free product room for item reuse, and a drive-thru lane where residents can drop off hazardous materials, electronics, and other difficult to manage materials for proper disposal. The environmental center is highly visible and receives a lot of annual traffic.

Artist Proposal to Include:

- Letter of interest indicating your vision and approach for proposed art (limit one page)
- Visual support materials of previous work (10 pages max) – CDs, prints, website, jpegs
- Rendering including dimensions of proposed art installation and comprehensive list of materials that will be used to create artwork.
- Complete explanation for installation requirements.

Artwork Criteria & Requirements for Selected Artist:

- Artists in Washington County and neighboring counties preferred but proposals from artists within the State of Minnesota are welcome. Exceptional out-of-state proposals will also be welcomed.
- The installation must educate and remind the public about the importance of waste reduction (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).
- The art installation should depict an aspect of the environment, recycling process, and/or reuse.
- The installation must be freestanding, physical structure and fit within a 10 ft. x 10 ft. footprint and not exceed 15 feet in height.
- The installation must be secured so that it does not fall over.
- The installation should include an educational sign to interpret the message of the art.
- The installation must be durable enough to withstand rain, sun, snow, and high winds.

- The installation must be illuminated at night, ideally with LED and/or solar powered lights.
- The work should enhance the beauty of the North Environmental Center. The work will be in a highly visible location for residents and visitors to enjoy. The selected artist will work closely with the PHE to ensure the highest quality of art is represented.
- As a public space, the art should be engaging and pleasing for all ages and audiences.
- PHE will have the right to remove the artwork if it is offensive in any manner or does not adhere to PHE's standards.

Budget:

A \$8000 stipend for chosen artist, pending grant approval, of artwork. The stipend covers the cost of creation (labor and supplies) and transportation. The county will arrange installation independently.

Anticipated Timeline:

- Deadline for proposal submittal: May 24, 2024
- Proposed selection notification: June 7, 2024
- Commissioned art deadline submitted for final approval: June 21, 2024
- Installation completed by: September 8, 2024.

Contact:

- Direct questions to Ashley Marston at:
 - 651-275-7480 or ashley.marston@co.washington.mn.us
- Proposals and materials may be emailed to:
 - phe@co.washington.mn.us
 - The subject line must read: North Environmental Center Art Installation
- Proposals and materials may be mailed to:
 - Ashley Marston
Washington County Public Health & Environment
14949 62nd Street N
Stillwater, MN 55082
- Bid site for official posting located here. <https://www.co.washington.mn.us/bids.aspx>