The Portland Building Event Space Public Art

The Regional Arts & Culture Council in partnership with the City of Portland invites artists from the Greater Portland Metropolitan Area who do not currently have artwork in the City’s Public Art Collection to submit qualifications for the new Event Space at the Portland Building. There is a pre-application information session at RACC on Tuesday, July 16, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Deadline is Wednesday, July 24 at 5:00 p.m.

BACKGROUND

The Portland Building is one of the City’s primary municipal buildings, and it is undergoing significant restoration and renovation. The Portland Building is an icon, an internationally recognized example of the Postmodernist movement in architecture, designed by the late architect Michael Graves and opened in 1982. The building design, which incorporates the beloved Portlandia sculpture by artist Raymond Kaskey over the 5th Avenue entry, is also a demonstration of the City of Portland’s support for public art, urbanism and cultural expression.

Some of the proposed changes will address the way the building feels and improve its connection to the surrounding streetscape. Other changes will address the failing mechanical systems of the building. Through the reconstruction, the Portland Building will become more welcoming and friendly to occupants and visitors and will move beyond its current status as an architectural icon as it transforms into an integral part of the community. This new public art funds generated by the renovation will act in concert with the building changes to create a more open, welcoming and brighter facility for the thousands of people who work in and visit the building.
To meet the City's 2% for Art requirement, which is administered by the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC), the City created an Art Plan to commission and purchase artwork for the building. Artwork opportunities reflect the programming goals of the various City bureaus housed in the building—whose combined presence in this single facility promotes new service delivery models and collaborative, inter-departmental working relationships. The sites for artwork represent the Public Art Selection Panel’s desire that the artwork address certain qualities summarized by a list of key words: inclusionary, collaborative, transparent (of government work and services), educational, resonant with Portland’s many communities, complex and multi-faceted, integrative, confluent, flexible, and regenerative. The artwork selected will also reflect both the Citywide Racial Equity Goals and Strategies and the criteria established in the Percent for Art Guidelines.

The Portland Building is a designated landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Renovations to the building have been done with a thoughtful approach to its significance as “a defining moment in the emergence of postmodern architecture.”1 In selecting artwork for the building, the Public Art Selection Panel may take into consideration the artwork’s relationship to the ideas of the Postmodernist movement.

ARTWORK ZONES - overall approach

The new artwork will be located on the 1st and 2nd floors, within the most public zones inside the building. The artwork plan was developed by the City to offer opportunities for artists with varying levels of experience and diverse practices. This request for qualifications is specifically for the Event Space in the northwest corner of the building. Two projects have been commissioned for the building at this point. Artist Refik Anadol has been selected for the 4th Avenue "Living Room" area, which is on axis with the front door, to create a data driven media sculpture. As visitors enter the building, there will a new area known as the Service First Area in the southwest corner of the building. The team of Cyrstal Schenk & Shelby Davis have been selected to create an installation of carved wooden sculptures for this zone. There will be a subsequent call for artwork for a curated small works collection for the 1st and 2nd floors, among other projects.

1 Michael Graves’s Portland Building: Power, Politics, and Postmodernism, Meredith L. Clausen, University of Washington
EVENT SPACE OPPORTUNITY:
A NEW GATHERING SPACE FOR COLLABORATION & CELEBRATION

In keeping with the renovation project goals to create more openness in the Portland Building, both in feeling and in function, a community event space is planned for the northwest corner of the 1st floor. Designed with its own after-hour entry, the space can be used for a wide variety of functions during daytime and evening hours. A large wall defines the area and can be seen from the exterior portico and streetscape. This wall is the proposed site for an artwork that can animate the space during non-event periods as well as create an artful backdrop for event gatherings. By designating this area an artwork location, it will be possible to bring high-quality materials; a sense of hand and human scale; and pattern, narrative and color to the space to enliven it and amplify its connection to community.

This is an outstanding opportunity for a studio artist versant in 2-D work to gain experience developing a site-specific artistic response to the physical parameters and uses of a space. The focus of artist selection is on artists who are not currently represented in the public art collections in the Portland with a permanent artwork.

The maintenance and longevity of the work must factor into the design. As a multi-purpose event space, the use of robust materials that can stand up to the constant reconfiguration of furnishings, catering and food service uses, and large crowds.

**Budget: $75,000**

The artist fee for this project will be $20,000 with a fabrication budget of $55,000. The artist will create their work in their chosen medium and if that medium is not inherently robust enough will work with the environmental graphics artist on the design team to execute the work in a permanent medium.

**Schedule:**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Artist Info Session at RACC</td>
<td>July 16, 2019, 6:30 - 7:30</td>
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<td>(411 NW Park Ave.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications Due</td>
<td>July 24, 2019, 5:00p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artist Selection</td>
<td>August 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design Development</td>
<td>Summer/Fall 2019</td>
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<td>Installation Completion</td>
<td>December 2019</td>
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See video fly-through First Floor: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XmiN847m4&feature=youtu.be
Model screen capture- view of Event Space from the corner of SW 5th and Main
NOTE:
Final coordination with arch details are required. Fabricator required to notify project team if wall blocking is required.
HOW TO APPLY

Eligibility
Artists or artist teams from the Portland Greater Metropolitan Area who do not currently have artwork in the City Collection are eligible to apply.

Note: If applying as a team at least one member of the team must meet the eligibility requirements. One person will need to apply on behalf of the team and list all collaborators.

How to Apply
All application materials must be submitted online in the RACC Opportunity Portal. Applicants will need to create an account, or log into their existing account.

All materials are due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Application Requirements
Statement of interest: In 3000 characters or less, provide a statement as to why you are interested in this opportunity and why you believe it to be a good match for your work.

Resume/CV: Upload up to a two-page PDF that outlines professional accomplishments.

Images: You can submit up to 8 artworks and provide up to two images per artwork of past work or work that you would like considered for this opportunity. File size of submitted images should be no larger than 5 megabytes each. For each artwork please provide title, media, dimensions, year completed, and purchase price. Conceptual information is desirable but optional.

Questions?
Contact: Salvador Mayoral smayoral@racc.org, 503.823.5865 for questions related to the application process or the application portal
Kristin Calhoun kcalhoun@racc.org, 503.823.5401 for questions about the project

Selection Process
A panel of artists, curators, community members and City representatives will select the artist(s) for this opportunity. One or more artist/team may be paid to create a specific proposal for this site. The selection panel reserves the right to select artwork by an artist who does not directly apply to this call for submission, if appropriate.