The Portland Building Small Works Collection - Call for Artwork

The Regional Arts & Culture Council in partnership with the City of Portland invites artists from the Greater Portland Metropolitan Area to submit artwork for direct purchase for the new Small Works Collection at the Portland Building, located at 1120 SW 5th in Downtown Portland. There are three art sites, each with a different curatorial focus. Total budget: roughly $150,000 (not including framing, etc.)

Application Deadline: Wednesday, October 16 at 5:00 p.m.

About the Portland Building

The iconic Portland Building, designed by the late architect Michael Graves, is an internationally recognized example of the Postmodernist movement in architecture and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Resting above the main entrance is the beloved Portlandia sculpture by artist Raymond Kaskey. Renovations to the building have been underway since 2017 and accomplished with a thoughtful approach to its significance as “a defining moment in the emergence of postmodern.” 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. The completion of the renovation is expected in January 2020.

¹ Michael Graves's Portland Building: Power, Politics, and Postmodernism, Meredith L. Clausen, University of Washington
ARTWORK ZONES – background on overall approach
The new artwork purchased and commissioned for the renovated building will be located in public zones on the 1st and 2nd Floors, with each zone having its own curatorial focus. Two projects have already been commissioned for the building at this point and a third is underway. Previous selections include Refik Anadol who is creating a data driven media sculpture for the 4th Avenue "Living Room" area; the team of Cystral Schenk and Shelby Davis who are creating carved topographic wooden sculptures for the Service First Area; and, a third project for the new Event Space which is currently in the selection process.

The Small Works Collection is the fourth phase of art selection for the building. Locations identified for the artwork are indicated on the attached floorplans, which also includes the locations of the other commissioned artwork.

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.

Artwork for the Small Works Collection
There are three art zones for this collection, each with it’s own curatorial focus:

- Zone One, 1st Floor - Sublime Landscape
- Zone Two, 2nd Floor - Cityscape, works on paper
- Zone Three, 2nd Floor - Social Landscape of Portland, the life experience of living in Portland, the cultures, multiplicity of viewpoints, one, fun and quirkiness of the residents.

Please refer to the attached zone drawings for details and size limitations.

Selection Criteria
Types of artwork that qualify for this opportunity are prints, paintings, photographs, drawings, textiles, collage, bas-relief, mosaic, glass, ceramic, and metal, that can be hung on a wall. The artwork selected will also reflect both the Citywide Racial Equity Goals and Strategies and the criteria established in the Percent for Art Guidelines.

Selection Process
A panel of artists, curators, community members and City of Portland representatives will select artwork for purchase in a two-part process. First, digital images are submitted & reviewed. Next, shortlisted artists who have work selected for further consideration will then be asked to deliver the actual artwork to RACC for a first-hand review and final selection. (The selection panel reserves the right to select artwork by an artist who does not directly apply to this call for submission, if appropriate.)

Portlandia, Raymond Kaskey, 1985
How to Apply
All application materials must be submitted online. To submit, applicants will need to create an account, or log into their existing account, in the RACC Opportunity Portal at racc.org/apply.

Eligibility
Artists or artist teams from the Portland Greater Metropolitan Area are eligible to apply.

Application Requirements:
Artist Statement: In 1000 characters or less, provide a brief description of the artworks submitted.

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

Images: Submit up to 6 artworks and provide up to two images per artwork. File size of submitted images should be a jpeg and no larger than 5MG each. For each artwork, provide the title, media, dimensions, year completed, and purchase price. Conceptual information is optional. (Note: If you are submitting a series that consists of more than six images, please include images that best represent the series and provide additional information regarding the series in the conceptual information field.)

Applications must be submitted online by 5:00 p.m. PST.

Budget: $150,000
The overall budget for these purchases is approximately $150,000, framing and installation not included.

Artist Info Session: Sept. 18, 2019, 6:00-7:00pm
Location: Louiza PDX (2808 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Suite B)

Applications Due: October 16, 2019
Shortlisted artists notified: Early November 2019
Artwork review: Late November 2019
Purchases finalized: December 2019

Framing:
Submitted artwork can be framed or unframed, however, please do not frame your artwork for the purpose of this call. Also, consider the potential for your submission to be framed behind glass or acrylic.

RACC may reframe purchased artwork if a submitted frame does not meet the public collection standards. If a frame is an integral part of the submitted artwork, please state that in the “Conceptual Information” field of that submitted piece.

We’re Here to Help!
- Questions about the online portal and application materials?
  Contact: Salvador Mayoral, 503.823.5865, smayoral@racc.org
- Questions about the opportunity?
  Contact: Kristin Calhoun, 503.823.5401, kcalhoun@racc.org
- Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm

If you don’t have a computer or online access, please don’t hesitate to contact RACC project staff for assistance.
Also, if you prefer these materials in another language please contact RACC project staff for translation services.
Portland Building Renovation
2nd floor

Legend

- Zone 2: “City Scape”
- Zone 3: “Social Landscape of Portland”
- Orange: Portland Building Installation Space
- Purple: “Living Room” artwork installation
Zone 1

Location: 1st floor, adjacent to the carved topographic artworks of Crystal Schenk & Shelby Davis

Curatorial Focus: Sublime landscape

Method: Direct purchase of existing artwork preferred, commission will also be considered

Size: Artworks that fit the following dimensions will be prioritized-

- 96" W x 72" H x 4" D or smaller
- 244cm W x 183cm H x 10cm D or smaller
Zone Two

**Location:** 2nd floor adjacent to a meeting room

**Curatorial Focus:** City Scapes, the built environment and spatial relationships. Works on paper that are not too distracting in their subject matter or composition. Artwork for this zone will be hung salon style with various sizes of work by various artists.

**Method:** Direct purchase of existing artwork only

**Size:** Artworks that fit the following dimensions will be prioritized-
- 40"W X 30"T X 4"D or smaller
- 102cmW X 76cmT X 10cmD or smaller
Zone 3

Location: 2nd floor adjacent to 4th Avenue atrium to 1st floor

Curatorial Focus: Social Landscape of Portland, the people, cultures and uniqueness of our residents. All media. Artwork for this zone will be hung salon style with various sizes of work by various artists.

Method: Direct purchase of existing artwork only

Size: Artworks that fit the following dimensions will be prioritized-

- 40"W X 30"T X 4"D or smaller
- 102cmW X 76cmT X 10cmD or smaller