

**CALL TO ARTISTS
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY**

Artwork for Interior – Children’s Area

Issue Date: May 27, 2021

RFQ Submission Date: June 30, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. EDT

Award Amount: \$5,000



1. INTRODUCTION

The District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) is issuing this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to engage individual artists, designers, and art/design teams (Artists) to respond to this RFQ for Call to Artists. The Artists shall respond with professional qualifications in addition to proposals for the design of a permanent work of public art for the interior of the children’s area in the newly constructed Southwest Neighborhood Library, located at 900 Wesley Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The new Southwest Library opened on May 15, 2021. The new building was designed and built by the team of Perkins + Will Architects and Turner Construction.

The library’s modern design blends seamlessly with the mid-century modern architecture for which the neighborhood is known. The site is adjacent to a park and playground, and the new design creates an intentional connection between the park and the library. A dramatic zig-zag roof and spruce columns at the entrance lead to a two-story “marketplace” area featuring a large-scale black-and-white historic photograph of the waterfront that greets visitors when they enter the building.

The building has a tree house feeling, with natural spruce ceilings and floor to ceiling windows that overlook the copious trees that surround the property. White shelving and blue and gray finishes add to the minimalist interior design.

The children's area of the new building is light-filled, with floor-to-ceiling windows and low shelving throughout the space. Blue-gray carpet, soft blue chairs, and a natural spruce bench provide a soothing, welcoming atmosphere for our younger customers.

The new library features include:

- LEED Platinum Certification for environmentally sustainable design including solar panels and a green roof.
- Expanded spaces for children, teens, and adults.
- Lots of natural light.
- A variety of comfortable seating options.
- Meeting room for 100+ people.
- Three (3) conference rooms for 12 - 20 people.
- Four (4) study rooms for 1- 4 people.
- STEAM Lab with the latest technology.
- An outdoor porch overlooking the adjacent park.

To learn more about the renovations, including summaries of community input received, please visit dclibrary.org/newsouthwestlibrary.

3. PROJECT GOALS

To further enhance the new Southwest Library and contribute to a dynamic neighborhood, DCPL is seeking to commission a work of art, which will be rendered digitally and affixed as a vinyl wall treatment. The artwork will achieve the following goals:

- Create a vibrant, inspirational and welcoming piece of art that complements the interior design of the building.
- Respond to the community's desire for artwork at the Library that reflects their neighborhood and community.
- Connect to the neighborhood's rich history.
- Foster an emotional connection with visitors, particularly young children and their parents and caregivers, who will frequent that area of the library.
- Contribute to an inviting community space with engaging art to promote frequent visits and increase community ownership and investment in the Library.

4. SITE LOCATION & ARTWORK FOOTPRINT

The proposed artwork will be sited on the first floor, on a wall on the south side of the building, in a space in the children's area dedicated to our youngest library customers (birth to three (3) years of age), identified with a red line in the drawing below. The wall is approximately 4' tall and 25' wide, with a floor-to-ceiling window interrupting the wall one (1) foot from the left side. The selected artwork will be horizontally oriented and will

span the entire length of the wall. On the drawing below, a red line marks the location of the wall.

The product of this contract will be a digital file, produced in a format TBD and delivered to DCPL at a date determined upon contract signature. **DCPL will take responsibility for fabrication and installation of the vinyl wall treatment, with consultation by the artist.**

A site visit is possible and encouraged – please contact Ryan McCoy at ryan.mccoy2@dc.gov to arrange for a date and time.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES / CURIOSITY + STIMULATION



FLOOR PLAN / LEVEL 01



1. ENTRY
 2. MARKET PLACE
 3. FRONT DESK
 4. MULTI-PURPOSE
 5. STAFF SPACE
 6. CHILDREN'S OUTDOOR
 7. CHILDREN'S SERVICES
 8. MEP
- ➔ PUBLIC ENTRY
➔ STAFF ENTRY



5. **BUDGET**

The budget for design is \$5,000. The budget is inclusive of all artist design fees.

6. **ELIGIBILITY**

This RFQ is open to all artists, designers, and art/design teams aged 18 or older. While US citizenship is not required, the lead artist/designer must have a social security number or Federal Tax ID (EIN) in order to receive payment.

7. **SELECTION PROCESS**

The DCPL selection committee representing diverse interests and expertise, will review images submitted by artists/teams and conduct a thorough review of applications and proposals based on the evaluation criteria in Section No. 9. Then the contract will be awarded to the responsible Contractor whose offer is most advantageous to DCPL based upon that criteria. Thus, while the points in the evaluation criteria indicate their relative importance, the total scores shall not necessarily be determinative of the award. Rather, the total scores shall guide DCPL in making an intelligent award decision based upon the evaluation criteria.

8. **RFQ APPLICATION DETAILS**

1. Applicants shall include their Name, Address, Phone, Email Address, and (optional) website of artist or team leader.
2. Proposed Artistic Approach. Please answer the following prompts (250-500 words each):
 - a. Describe your artistic approach to this project. You are encouraged to also provide sketches of your proposed design.
 - b. Explain how this opportunity furthers your artistic practice.
 - c. Describe your connection to the Southwest neighborhood and/or the District generally, and how this project will demonstrate this connection.
3. Artist or Team Biography (250 words) highlighting relevant credentials and experience, especially projects in Ward 6, Washington, DC and/or the Southwest neighborhood.
4. Resume (Teams should include all resumes in a single PDF).
5. Five (5) Work Samples (high-quality JPGs). Samples should reflect capacity for this opportunity with the majority of projects completed in the last five (5) years.
6. Image Script for Work Samples.

7. **OPTIONAL:** Up to six (6) items of support material (e.g. publicity, letters of support, programs, awards, etc.)

9. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The artists shall respond to the following evaluation factors:

Evaluation Factors	Points
<p>Factor 1 - Artistic Quality</p> <p>Level of excellence demonstrated in previous work samples, including overall coherence, clarity, and visual impact; innovation; emotional impact; accessibility to a broad audience. This factor will be evaluated based on proposed approach and past work samples.</p>	25
<p>Factor 2 – Demonstrated Professional Accomplishment in Chosen Field</p> <p>Including exhibition history, awards, honors, and publications, demonstrated proficiency and technical knowledge of the medium(s) in which the artist regularly works, and aptitude for planning and collaboration with partners as indicated by past project information. This factor will be evaluated based on resume and past work samples.</p>	25
<p>Factor 3 - Proposed Artistic and Public Engagement Approach</p> <p>Including demonstrated understanding of project goals. This factor will be evaluated based on information provided in the proposed artistic approach.</p>	25
<p>Factor 4 - Connection of Past Work to D.C. Culture and/or History</p> <p>Including potential for resonance with local communities and experience working on projects related to D.C. culture, community, and/or heritage. This factor will be evaluated based on artist biography, relevant community projects, and statement of connection to Southwest.</p>	25
<p>Total Points</p>	100

Questions shall be submitted to the Contract Specialist Latoya Beard at latoya.beard1@dc.gov by 5:00 pm EDT on **June 9, 2021**.

RFQ application materials shall be submitted as a single PDF file to procurementdcpl@dc.gov by 5:00 pm EDT on **June 30, 2021**.