

# **Public Art RFQ**

## **Natural Resources Agency and Health and Human Services**

### **Request for Qualifications - Public Art**

New Natural Resources Headquarters #143511  
and Health & Human Services Building #142510

### **Released August 15, 2019**

The State of California will implement a permanent Public Art Program in Sacramento in conjunction with two new build projects, the New Natural Resource Headquarters, and the Health and Human Services Building.

The Health and Human Services Building - under the design-build team ZGF and Rudolf & Sletten - and the New Natural Resources Headquarters - under the design-build team AC Martin Design and Turner Construction - are relocating to state-of-the-art buildings in the capital area of Sacramento. These new buildings will be two of the most energy-efficient and sustainable buildings in the country, boasting net-zero water efficiency and zero net energy, respectively.

Public art will be a visible part of both projects. The Public Art Program is directed by Dyson & Womack who will steer the program from its development to its realization in 2020.

### **PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES**

This open call to artists aims to inspire world-class public artworks that engage diverse voices, challenge perspectives, and improve our civic space. It is an opportunity to create within the rich contexts of the California Natural Resources Agency, California Health and Human Services, the City of Sacramento, for a progressive program of public art. The impacts of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and California Health and Human Services (CHHS) are directly visible and tangible to those living in California and beyond. The CNRA and CHHS challenge and set standards for environmental prosperity and social well being.

This Public Art Program is an opportunity to highlight local voices within the Sacramento art community, bringing this vibrant cultural scene into conversation with the global landscape of public art. Public art embodies a rich history of political and spatial critique. It is an active mode of creation that

responds to public space with demands, questions, a sense of justice, and a desire for wonder. Artists who work within public space understand the unique responsibility this entails, the power and pressure of working within the public eye. Public art is for the public, and in this way, it is an act of giving, one that can surprise, baffle, and in some cases, move the public to change. Today, public art continues to transform across mediums, forms, and activations. This open call for artists supports these developments now by embracing a contemporary, accessible concept of what public art is, who makes it, and who it is for.

The Sacramento Public Art Program has the potential to set an example for public art in public spaces for the State of California and beyond. This open call aims to support and inspire artists in the creation of world-class, aesthetically rigorous artworks that respond to natural and cultural resources, support public well-being and environmental sustainability, and locate California as an innovative creator of art in public spaces.

There are four unique public art commission opportunities open to artists through this open call Request for Qualifications (RFQ) / Request for Proposal (RFP) process. We encourage artists to take time looking at each opportunity and applying to the commission that best suits their interests and practice. Artists may apply to more than one commission opportunity but must apply separately to each. Artists are encouraged to submit Statements of Qualification (SOQ) with artwork samples and letters of interest relevant to the specific commission they are applying to, even when applying to multiple commissions. We encourage artists to engage critically with the mission of the California Natural Resource Agency and California Health and Human Services, as well as the vision outlined in the Public Art Plan.

## **ELIGIBILITY & CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Eligibility**

Artists age 18 and older may apply individually or collaboratively as a team. If applying as a team, please designate one artist as the lead contact. Any artist team selected through this RFQ must retain the same composition of individual team members until the completion of the commission.

### **Considerations**

- Artists who live and work within California or demonstrate a clear connection to California will be strongly considered.
- Artists or Artist Teams should demonstrate the professional capacity to oversee the design, fabrication, and installation of public artworks – highlight examples of experience collaborating with design-build teams, including engineers and general contractors where possible.

- Studio artists and artists from all career levels interested in pursuing public art projects are also encouraged to apply. Artists who have not previously worked in public art are invited to utilize the written responses to outline their knowledge of and interest in public art.
- Artist Teams that include non-artists highlighting partnerships across science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) fields are strongly encouraged to apply.
- We strongly encourage historically underrepresented individuals/groups to apply.
- Artists who demonstrate a clear understanding of sustainable methodologies within their art practice will be strongly considered.
- A person who is a current employee or member of the California Arts Council (CAC), a current employee of the California Department of General Services (DGS) Division of the State Architect, or a current employee of the Capitol Area Development Authority (CADA), may not be selected or commissioned pursuant to this RFQ.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

A three-member Art Panel will make the selection of artists. Representatives include; Anne Bown-Crawford, Executive Director, California Arts Council (CAC); Dan Kim, Director, California Department of General Services (DGS); Karen Ulep, Marketing and Creative Services Manager, Capitol Area Development Authority (CADA); with advise by Daphne Burgess, Community & Engagement Coordinator at the Crocker Museum.

The Art Consultant will evaluate responses to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ), presenting a short-list of Artists or Artist Teams to the Art Panel for selection. Selected Artists or Artist Teams will be invited to respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP) with a stipend for the development and submission of a concept and design proposal. The Art Consultant and design-build teams will evaluate the submitted proposals, and the Art Panel will select the Artists or Artists Teams to award the commissions.

## **EVALUATION**

During the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) stage, responses, called Statements of Qualification (SOQ) will be evaluated across the following criteria. In addition, California based artists or artists who demonstrate a strong connection to California will be given priority in selection.

## **Artists Qualifications**

The Artist or Artist Team exhibits strong artistic quality as demonstrated by their past work. Sample artworks articulate appropriateness in creative expression to the commission and express the ability of the Artist or Artist Team to execute the project within the designated timeline and budget. Quality may also be assessed by the written responses conceptual engagement with the commission's context.

## **Sustainability**

The Artist or Artist Team shows a commitment to sustainability by demonstrating an understanding of environmentally sound fabrication methods, sustainable materials, and efforts to minimize or offset environmental footprints through their written responses or as evident in prior artworks.

## **Cultural Equity**

Cultural and racial equity will be considered when selecting Artists or Artist Teams, and when reviewing sample artworks in terms of the demographics of the chosen artists, the cultural communities served and the diverse perspectives represented within the artworks.

## **BUDGETS**

The Open Call RFQ budget totals \$960,000 across four open call commissions.

- **CNRA Auditorium Courtyard: \$400,000**
- **CNRA Lobby Wall: \$200,000**
- **CHHS O Street Entrance: \$300,000**
- **CHHS Café Restroom and Corridor: \$60,000**

Commission budgets are inclusive of Artist or Artist Team fees, artwork fabrication and installation, insurance, engineering, and artwork transportation. The commission budget does not include signage, the artwork lighting, foundations, or structural or MEP (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) connections required to install the artworks and will be funded through a separate budget.

## **PROJECT TIMELINE**

### **RFQ Timeline**

RFQ released	Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019
RFQ question deadline	Friday, Aug. 30, 2019, 5:00 PM (PST)
RFQ question responses posted	Friday, Sept. 6, 2019
RFQ submission deadline	Friday, Sept. 20, 2019 at 5:00 PM (PST)
RFQ selected artists notified	Friday, Oct. 4, 2019

## **RFP Timeline**

RFP provided to selected artists	Monday, Oct. 7, 2019
RFP question deadline	Friday, Oct. 25, 2019
RFP question responses posted	Friday, Nov. 1, 2019
RFP submission deadline	Friday, Nov. 8, 2019
RFP selected artists notified	Nov. 2019

## **Art Program Timeline**

Contracting and proposal refinement	Nov. 2019 - January 2020
Fabrication of artworks	February 2020 - August 2020
Installation of artworks on-site	June 2020 - October 2020

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Statement of Qualifications (SOQ)**

- Artist or Artist Team Contact Information (teams must provide info for each team member, and one artist must be identified as the lead contact for the team);
- Statement of Interest (max. 1000 words) that 1) articulates the Artist or Artists Teams interest in developing a public art proposal for the specific commission to which they are applying 2) provides context to their conceptual and aesthetic approach, highlighting prior artworks, projects, or commissions, and 3) outlines examples of their engagement with or interest in sustainability through their practice or conceptual frameworks;
- Resume/CV (pdf document upload) of Artists or Artist Teams (Artist Teams should provide separate Resume/CV for each team member); and
- Documentation of Past Projects (media file uploads of pdf, image, video, or audio files) with project notations that include title, year, dimensions, media/materials, and a brief description. Include project website, client, budget, and location information if applicable.

## **QUESTIONS**

Questions regarding the RFQ should be submitted online at [www.publicartCA.dysonwomack.com](http://www.publicartCA.dysonwomack.com). All questions and answers regarding the RFQ open call and process will be shared publicly.

The deadline for submission of questions is Friday, August 30th, 2019, at 5:00 PM (PST). Responses will be posted on Friday, September 6th, 2019.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

All Statements of Qualification (SOQ) must be submitted electronically through the online SOQ submission platform available at the Public Art RFQ website, [www.publicartCA.dysonwomack.com](http://www.publicartCA.dysonwomack.com) by Friday, September 20, 2019, at 5:00 PM (PST).

Artists and Artist Teams may apply to one or more of the four open call public art commissions but must submit a unique SOQ to each. Artists and Artist Teams may only apply once to each specific commission opportunity.

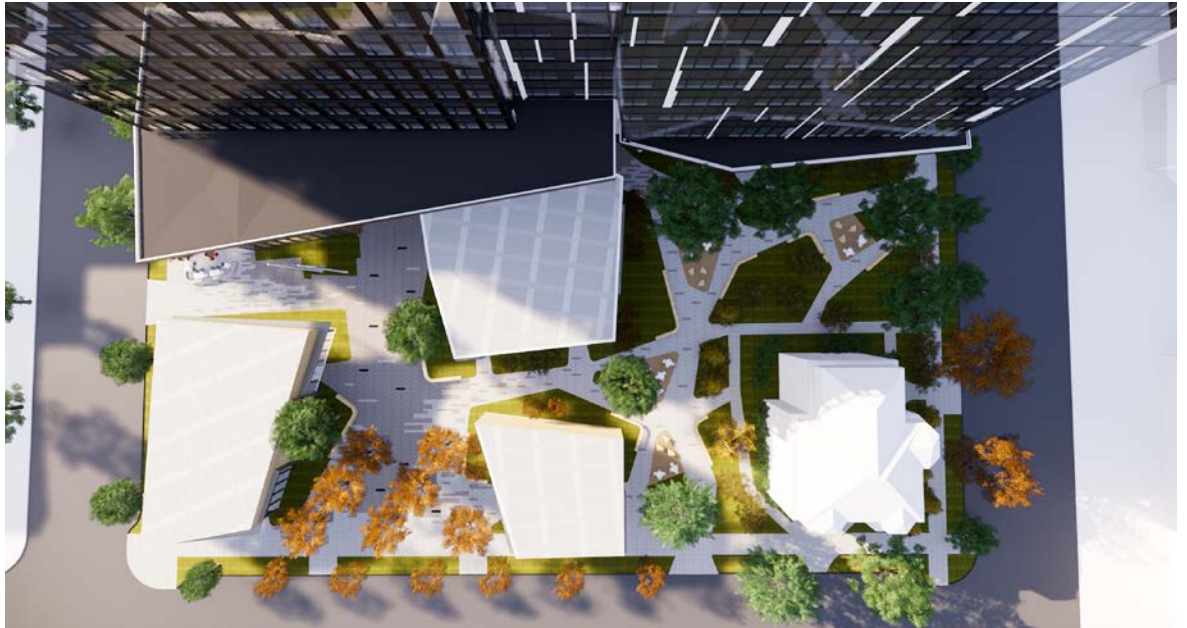
We strongly encourage applicants to review all materials and supporting documents available before responding to this RFQ. SOQs submitted late, or through any other means than the application portal, will not be reviewed.

## **RFQ Documents and Resources**

- Public Art RFQ
- Public Art Plan
- RFQ Addendums (as issued)
- RFQ Questions and Answers (when released per the project timeline)

## **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

Dyson & Womack reserves the right to decline all SOQs submitted in response to this RFQ, terminate the selection proceedings and shortlist of finalists, recommend Artists or Artist Teams for commission opportunities other than the commission to which they applied, or to combine, eliminate, or otherwise amend the commission opportunities at any time. Artists identified through this RFQ process are not guaranteed a commission or opportunity to develop a public art project or proposal. Release of this RFQ in no way binds Dyson & Womack, the projects design-build teams, or the State to the commissioning of any Artists, Artist Teams or artworks.



## **CNRA Auditorium Courtyard: \$400,000**

### **Commission Site Opportunities**

- Outdoor environment.
- Opportunities for interactive, informative, and iterative pieces.
- Ideal for experimental pieces that encourage playful exchanges, discovery, and inquiry.
- The artwork will be visible from inside the Natural Resources auditorium and from 7th and O street.
- Opportunities for the work to be experienced during transitions in night and day, across seasons, and through time.

### **Commission Site Considerations**

- The artwork supports the interactive nature of the space.
- The artwork should consider the full expanse of the courtyard.
- The artwork should consider the viewability from indoors and outdoors.
- The artwork should support individual and communal viewing.

## **Curatorial Notes**

Located off 7th Street and facing towards O Street, the artwork activates the Auditorium Courtyard gathering space. The commission is an opportunity for artworks that encourage play, discovery, and discourse. The artwork may be visible from within the building's interior, from the auditorium window and the north lobby.

The artwork should consider how visitors and employees interact within the courtyard utilizing playful and inventive approaches to amplify this public space.

## **Application Guidelines**

- Artist or Artist Team Contact Information (teams must provide info for each team member, and one artist must be identified as the lead contact for the team);
- Statement of Interest (max. 1000 words) that 1) articulates the Artist or Artists Teams interest in developing a public art proposal for the specific commission to which they are applying 2) provides context to their conceptual and aesthetic approach, highlighting prior artworks, projects, or commissions, and 3) outlines examples of their engagement with or interest in sustainability through their practice or conceptual frameworks;
- Resume/CV (pdf document upload) of Artists or Artist Teams (Artist Teams should provide separate Resume/CV for each team member); and
- Documentation of Past Projects. A max of fifteen (15) media files may be uploaded inclusive of images, PFD's, and time-based media files such as video, or audio files. Time-based media files may not exceed 5 minutes in total duration. Each media project notation must include the project or artworks title, year, dimensions, media/materials, and a brief description. Include website, client, budget, and location information if applicable.





## **CNRA Lobby Wall: \$200,000**

### **Commission Site Opportunities**

- Indoor climate-controlled environment.
- Opportunities for 2D, text, or relief wall pieces of a large scale.
- Opportunities for pieces that engage close and distant viewing.
- Opportunities to integrate with the architectural design of the building.

### **Commission Site Considerations**

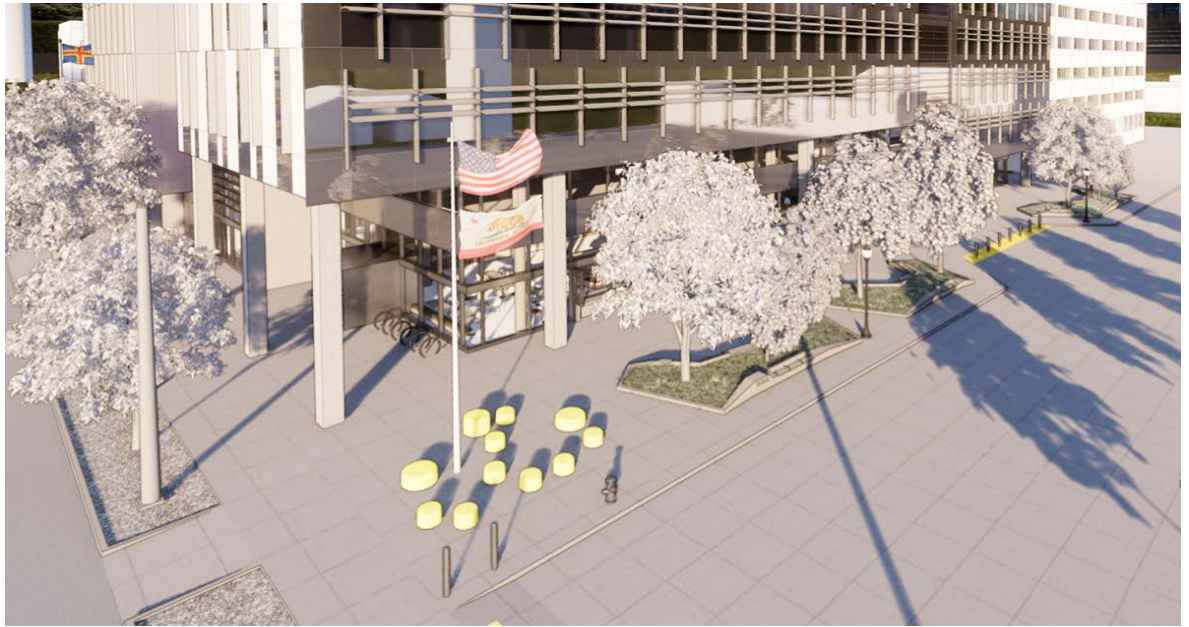
- The artwork may command attention within a busy lobby.
- The artwork may rely on form or content to respond to the context of the Natural Resources Agency.
- Employees daily and actively utilize the site.
- The artwork should engage the transitional and multi-level nature of the infrastructure.

### **Curatorial Notes**

The CNRA Lobby Wall commission comprises a two-story corner wall open to natural light in a climate-controlled environment. Proposals may work across both or one of the corner wall elevations, traveling around the wall space utilizing the expansive canvas. The artwork can be viewed across distances, heights, and locations within the lobby. The commission is ideal for diverse media but is not open to digital artworks.

## **Application Guidelines**

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## **CHHS O STREET ENTRANCE: \$300,000**

### **Commission Site Opportunities**

- Opportunities for interactive or digital or light pieces, ceiling artworks, hanging artworks, or sculptural works.
- Artworks may enhance the pedestrian experience.
- Artworks can address and promote civic discourse within public space.

### **Commission Site Considerations**

- The site is actively traversed by employees entering the building as well as the general public.
- The site is visible from the roadway.
- The artwork must consider the pedestrian experience.

### **Curatorial Notes**

The commission encompasses the 12th and O Street corner as it approaches the 12th Street café entrance as the street enters a more pedestrian thoroughfare. Artworks may address a variety of surfaces and spaces within this commission. Opportunities include the open sidewalk and street corner, the underside of the

exterior canopy, the exterior concrete walls, and the exterior elevation running ten vertical stories.

Artists are encouraged to respond creatively to this expansive commission site, paying particular consideration to the relationship between the artwork, the site, and the individual viewer. Artists need not address all available spaces and should make a strong case for the area they wish to utilize. Artworks should invite the public to interact with the site, respond to the day and night viewership, and act as an aesthetic or cultural locator at the site.

### **Application Guidelines**

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## **CHHS CAFÉ RESTROOM AND CORRIDOR: \$60,000**

### **Commission Site Opportunities**

- Indoors and temperature controlled.
- The site provides an opportunity for artists interested in creating site-specific work, infrastructural, or utility modification.
- Opportunities for artists working in critical content and equity.

### **Commission Site Considerations**

- Employees and the public daily and actively use the site.
- The artist should consider the experience of viewing artwork in an intimate public setting.
- Artworks may consider the use of innovative materials or designs that engage the built environment.

### **Curatorial Notes**

Public art is a public service. The café restroom and corridor commission allows artists to expand this dialogue within the broader context of public services. The commission area includes the corridor adjacent to the bathrooms and the restrooms themselves, though artists may choose to situate artworks in all or only some of the available space.

Artworks may engage themes of equity, access, and hospitality as this relates to our humanity and is played out in public spaces. Artists should generate innovative approaches to the commission that welcomes all individuals through a memorable engagement.

### **Application Guidelines**

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