

# CALL FOR ARTISTS / REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

Washington State University (WSU) and  
Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)



LMN Architects | photo by Adam Hunter

**Due:** Friday, April 2, 2021, 4 PM (Pacific)  
**Budget:** \$200,000 (inclusive of design, fabrication, installation, and tax)

## Overview

This is an exciting opportunity for a visionary artist or artist team to create a unique artwork inside or in proximity to the new Plant Sciences Building at Washington State University in Pullman, commissioned through ArtsWA's Art in Public Places program. The artwork may be interior or exterior, or both.

## Contact

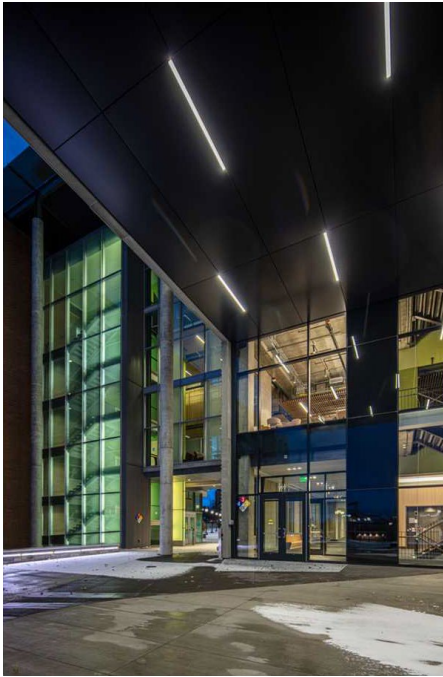
Mike Sweney, Art in Public Places program manager: 360.228.4080, [mike.sweney@arts.wa.gov](mailto:mike.sweney@arts.wa.gov)

## Site visit requirements

None required for submission. You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with [WSU](#), the [Plant Sciences Building](#), and [State Art Collection works on campus](#).

## Submissions

Digital materials to [mike.sweney@arts.wa.gov](mailto:mike.sweney@arts.wa.gov) by **4pm, Friday, April 2, 2021**. You should receive confirmation of your submission within one business day. If you are unable to submit electronically, contact us to discuss possible accommodations.



## Background on the Plant Sciences Building

Opened in the fall of 2020, this is the state-of-the-art home on the Pullman campus for collaborative research supporting regional and global agriculture. The four-story, 82,400-square-foot building supports Washington's \$51 billion food and agriculture industry by providing a modern research venue for faculty, staff, and students in the Institute of Biological Chemistry, WSU's Molecular Plant Science Program, and portions of the Departments of Horticulture, Plant Pathology, and Crop and Soil Sciences. Located on Stadium Way, it is part of a larger Research and Education Complex across the street from Martin Stadium, in the heart of the campus. WSU is in Pullman, in eastern Washington and in the heart of the Palouse, a region of grand rolling hills and acres of wheat, barley, and canola fields. WSU is one of Washington's two state public universities dedicated to excellence in research, specifically focused on its Land Grant heritage.

## WSU vision for the art

Through a process managed by ArtsWA, the WSU Art Committee will select an artist or artist team to create a work that engages the building, campus, students and broader community, and reflects on the natural world. Possible approaches include curriculum taught within the building, the Palouse, or climate change. The artwork may be interior or exterior, or both.

## Budget

**\$200,000**, inclusive of design, travel, structural engineering, materials, fabrication, installation, artist fee, applicable taxes, contingency, and other associated project costs.

## Commission and agreement

The artwork will be commissioned through ArtsWA and will become part of the State Art Collection. Installation will be coordinated through ArtsWA and WSU. An agreement between ArtsWA and the artist or artist team will formalize budget, schedule and artwork design.

## Eligibility

You must be an established professional artist residing in the United States or British Columbia. You are strongly encouraged to apply if you have a connection to WSU, Eastern Washington and the inland Northwest, or the tribal peoples of this region. Neither ArtsWA nor WSU

discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, or gender identity. Artists with current ArtsWA public art contracts are ineligible.

## Selection process

The WSU Campus Art Committee is made up of local stakeholders including WSU faculty and staff, facilitated by ArtsWA. The panel will review submitted materials of all applicants and select an artist or artist team to create a proposal and artwork for the Plant Sciences Building. (The WSU Campus Art Committee may also consider artists from ArtsWA's roster.)

The criteria used by the WSU Campus Art Committee will include:

- **appropriate materials:** evidence of your ability to execute artwork utilizing durable materials that are appropriate for a public space
- **site responsiveness:** evidence of your ability to create artwork that addresses the physical and/or community context of its placement
- **artistic excellence:** evidence of some or all of the following—mastery of skills and techniques, professional approaches to process and presentation, and communication of a unique vision or perspective

## Submissions

Please prepare and submit the following:

1. **a letter of interest** outlining your approach to public art and summarizing your interest in this project. Describe any experience with projects of a similar scope and include anything that might help us differentiate you as a candidate. Provide your name, address, phone number, and email address. Not to exceed one page, PDF or DOC format.
2. **a professional resume/CV** (limit 2 pages). Artists working collaboratively may submit a resume/CV for each member, PDF or DOC format.
3. **8 images of past works**, preferably created within past 5 years. 1,000 pixels on the long side, 72 pixels/inch minimum. Each file size less than 1 MB, named uniquely, JPG format.
4. **brief descriptions (1-2 sentences) for each image**. Also include title, dimensions, materials, date, location, budget/cost, and commissioning entity (if applicable).
5. **three professional references** from past projects. Include name, title, and contact information.

## If selected, you will

- design and propose an artwork for review and approval by ArtsWA staff, professional conservator, structural engineer, and the WSU Campus Art Committee
- travel to the project site up to three times during the proposal/design process to meet with the Campus Art Committee and ArtsWA project manager (in light of COVID-19, it is understood that some meetings may be held remotely)
- work within the fixed budget
- maintain registration as a Washington State vendor and adhere to applicable state permitting and licensing requirements, including those relating to contracting and the paying of Prevailing Wages
- enter into contracts with ArtsWA and fulfil the requirements, including paying applicable taxes

## Anticipated timeline

- RFQ distributed: Week of February 22, 2021
- all materials due: Friday, April 2, 2021, 4:00 PM Pacific Time
- first WSU Campus Art Committee review: mid-late April 2021
- second/final Art Selection Committee review: May 2021
- notification to selected artist: late May 2021  
(committee may decide to interview 2-3 finalists before making selection)
- artist site visit (may be held virtually): early June 2021
- design: June 2021 through January 2022
- fabrication: March 2022 through October 2022
- anticipated artwork installation: October-November 2022



**Due date and time: Friday, April 2, 2021, 4PM (Pacific)**

To avoid technical problems, please submit well in advance of the deadline.  
**Late submittals will not be accepted.**

## Art in Public Places Vision Statement

Art in Public Places is uniquely positioned to advance and support art and artists across Washington. Our goal is to build and care for a dynamic contemporary art collection that is accessible and valued. We seek impactful and lasting artworks that reflect Washington's diverse communities.

## Land Acknowledgement

The Washington State University Pullman campus is located on the homelands of the Nimíipuu (Nez Perce) Tribe and the Palus people. We acknowledge their presence here since time immemorial and recognize their continuing connection to the land, to the water, and to their ancestors.