



Art in State Buildings

Request for Qualifications | Vermont Department Mental Health Recovery Residence, Essex

The Vermont Arts Council (Council) in association with the Vermont Department of Buildings & General Services (BGS) announces their search for a Vermont artist or artist team for the design, fabrication, and installation of a permanent work(s) of public art at the Department of Mental Health Recovery Residence in Essex. The artist(s) selected for the commission will conceptualize and identify appropriate aesthetic treatments for proposed project elements. The artist(s) must be able to work in collaboration with an Art Selection Committee (Committee) made up of the representatives from BGS, the architect for the project, the departments responsible for the site, and the community.

Site Information and Design Specifics

Project Goals

The proposed artwork should create a welcoming environment that brings joy and tranquility to the site and reflects one or more of the goals of the project to:

- celebrate family, friendship, and healthy living
- celebrate wellness and achieving full potential
- enrich the lives of the diverse residents, staff, and visitors at the site

Who May Apply

Visual, craft, or design artists (or artist teams), in all media, including landscape architects and interior designers, at least 18 years of age and legal residents of Vermont are eligible to apply. Arts Council staff and trustees, Department of Buildings & General Services staff, Art Selection Committee members and their family members are not eligible to apply. Proof of Vermont residency may be required from finalists. Artists must be in good standing with taxes and child support payments (if applicable) and must have appropriate auto and business insurance.

Submission Process

All materials must be submitted through the Council's [online granting system](#). There is no submission fee. You will be asked to submit nine images of completed work, a statement of interest in the project, and a résumé with references.

Selection Process and Estimated Timeline

August 10, 2021: submit your questions about the project

August 30, 2021: deadline for submissions

September: site visit provided for selected finalists

October/November: finalists present concepts to Committee at open public meeting via Zoom

November: artist selected for design contract

December: design finalized and approved

January 2022: fabrication of artwork begins

Summer 2022: artwork installed

Budget and Expectations

An honorarium of \$500 will be provided to each of the 3-4 finalists to develop a presentation to be given to the Art Selection Committee and the public via a Zoom meeting. The presentation will include a preliminary concept for the site including potential locations for the work(s) of art, keeping in mind the realities of the project budget, the project goals, the concept of “site specific” work, and potential strategies for community engagement and/or input in the design of the artwork. After a short period for collection of public comment on the finalist concepts, the Committee will select one of the finalists to develop the concept into a final design. (The Committee reserves the right not to select a concept or finalist if it does not meet the project criteria or goals.)

The selected artist (or artist team) will be awarded a \$3,000 planning and design grant contract. Funds will be used to pay the artist (or team) for their time in developing the specific details of the design, including materials, dimensions, location, and Committee/community input, as applicable, in the development of the design. The design will include a detailed budget that will outline all costs for how the \$40,000 commission funds will be spent including but not limited to artists fees, materials, travel expenses, general liability and auto insurance transportation, and installation of the art. This may include approval of the design by a licensed structural engineer, and/or other permits, etc. The final design, once approved by the Committee, will be forwarded to an Art in State Buildings Legislative Advisory Committee for their final approval.

Selection Criteria

The artist will be selected by demonstrating:

1. High artistic quality of past work

2. Effective communication and collaboration skills, including:

- ability to collaborate with design professionals, engineers, community leaders, and/or artists
- ability to communicate clearly
- ability to work within a team context
- willingness to become familiar with the community

3. Effective project management skills, with demonstrated ability to:

- attend project meetings
- research client needs and propose an appropriate design
- access appropriate resources when necessary
- develop an appropriate and realistic budget
- complete projects on time and within budget

Once selected, the artist must design and create artwork that:

- is of high artistic quality
- is appropriate to the project site
- is of durable design and uses durable materials
- requires minimal maintenance
- provides maximum resistance to vandalism
- reflects one or more of the project goals identified by the Committee

Nondiscrimination

The Council does not discriminate against any qualified individual on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression,

genetic bias, disability, citizenship, veteran status, or other category protected by applicable state or federal law.

Questions?

Inquiries about the program or the project are encouraged. [Send an email](#) to Michele Bailey or call her at 802.402.4614 by **August 10**. Responses may be summarized and shared on our website. Voice and relay calls are welcome.

Inquiries about using the online application system can be made by [sending an email](#) to Meredith Bell or by calling 802.402.4478. Voice and relay calls are welcome.