



## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

LA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE SEEKS AN ARTIST TO CREATE PERMANENT ARTWORK FOR  
**MLK, JR. CHILD AND FAMILY WELLBEING CENTER**

Project Budget: **\$80,000 Total Artwork Budget**

Project Location: MLK, Jr. Child and Family Wellbeing Center  
1741 E. 120<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90059

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**DATE ISSUED:** June 6, 2019

**DUE DATE:** **July 29, 2019**



Fig. 1: Illustration of MLK, Jr. Child and Family Wellbeing Center

### OVERVIEW

The LA County Department of Arts and Culture's Civic Art Program (Civic Art) seeks an artist or artist team to create an artwork to contribute to the Child and Family Wellbeing Center at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center campus. The Child and Family Wellbeing Center will house a medical clinic for children who have experienced abuse, or are children in the foster system, as well as an autism clinic, child psychiatry services, and a Family Justice Center. The commissioned artwork must be sensitive to the complex historical and political contexts that define Willowbrook and the MLK, Jr. Medical Center campus. The artist(s) should foster a sense of community and humanity, be innovative in their approach, and create something to be experienced by patients, staff, and visitors alike.

### MLK, JR. CHILD AND FAMILY WELLBEING CENTER

Deadline: July 29, 2019

LA County Department of Arts and Culture, Civic Art Program

**PROJECT WILLOWBROOK:  
CULTIVATING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTS AND CULTURE**

The MLK, Jr. Medical Center campus is located in the community of Willowbrook, located south of Watts and west of Compton, covering 3.74 square miles.

Project Willowbrook: *Cultivating a Healthy Community through Arts and Culture* was a year-long creative exploration of Willowbrook lead by Civic Art. The project identified artists, cultural assets, and resources that are unique to Willowbrook and its adjacent communities.

For more information regarding the Project Willowbrook: *Cultivating a Healthy Community through Arts and Culture* initiative, please visit <https://www.lacountyarts.org/willowbrook/>



Fig. 2: Illustration of main lobby showing location of artwork placement on interior courtyard/ lightwell rear walls.

**BUDGET**

The all-inclusive artwork budget is \$80,000. This budget includes artist fees, liability insurance, artist travel, and all costs associated with the design, engineering, fabrication, permitting, delivery, and installation of the artwork.

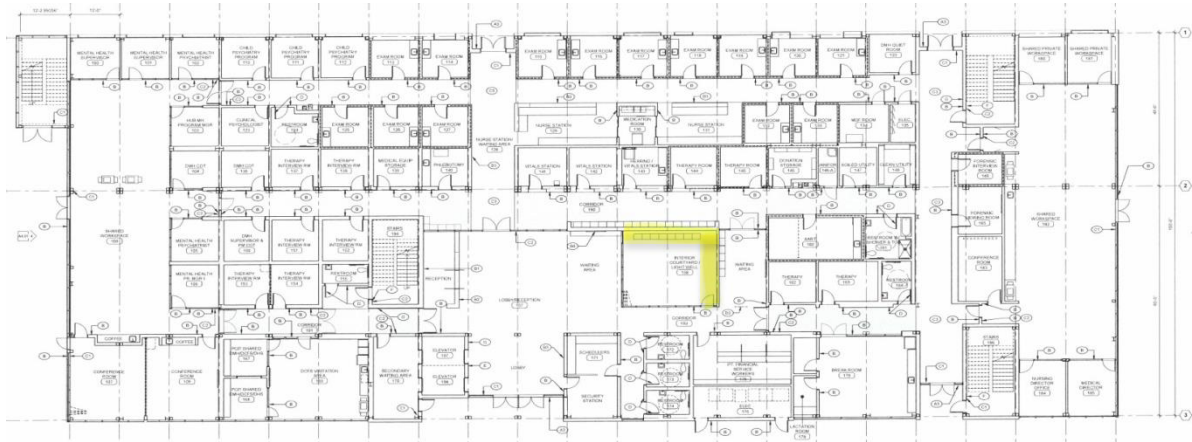


Fig. 3: First floor overhead plan showing location of the artwork placement on the interior courtyard/ lightwell walls.

### GOALS and LOCATION of Artwork

The artwork should embody the spirit of Dr. King, and becoming a metaphor for community perseverance and healing while also creating a welcoming, humanizing, and uplifting atmosphere for the patients, visitors, and staff. Artwork should contribute to a healing environment in harmony with the programs and services provided at the center and contribute to a vision that recognizes the power and journey of recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

The artwork will be located in the main lobby within the interior courtyard lightwell. The artwork is to be placed on the two back walls. The back walls are facing two glass walls, creating an enclosed space and open view to the artwork. The lightwell spans the three floors of the center, with a glass ceiling enclosing the space and providing protection from the elements (See figures 2 and 3).

All artwork must take into account the broad age range of the visitors in regards to their safety, and be easily maintainable.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

June 25, 2019	RFQ Process Workshop (optional)
<b>July 29, 2019</b>	<b>Deadline for RFQ Submissions 5:00 pm PST</b>
Summer/Fall 2019	Finalists Interviews/ three Artists Selected to Develop Proposals
Fall 2019	Artist and Artwork Proposal Selected
Winter, 2020	Artwork Final Design Complete
Winter, 2020	Fabrication Start
Spring, 2020	Artwork Installation Complete

### ELIGIBILITY

This RFQ is open to professional artists residing in Southern California (defined as Ventura to San Diego Counties) who have had experience with permanent public art projects. Artists who have not had permanent public art project experience are encouraged to apply in artist teams with the appropriate experience. Artists who have artwork in the County's [Civic Art Collection](#)

will be eligible if this project has a higher budget than the previously commissioned project or if the artist has not done a civic art project with the Department of Arts and Culture for five years.

### **RFQ PROCESS WORKSHOP (OPTIONAL)**

Potential applicants are invited to discuss the RFQ process with the Civic Art Staff at the June 25 Artists' Civic Art Application Process Workshop. This workshop will cover the application process and strategies for successful portfolio submissions for a range of upcoming Civic Art opportunities. Questions raised in the workshop will be posted publicly on the Department of Arts and Culture website by July 8.

Date and time: June 25, 2019 at 6:30pm

Location: Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture  
1055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RSVP: Workshop RSVP required by June 24 at 5:00 pm  
Please RSVP to [CivicArt@arts.lacounty.gov](mailto:CivicArt@arts.lacounty.gov)

SUBJECT LINE: Artists' Civic Art Application Process Workshop RSVP

### **RFQ SELECTION CRITERIA**

Civic Art strives to create artworks which reflect aesthetic and technical quality, innovation, site-specificity, and civic engagement. The selected artist or artist team will be required to participate in a rigorous design process. This process includes research through site visits and design meetings, conservator review, structural engineering, budget tracking, and timeline management.

Artists will be selected on the basis of their qualifications, as demonstrated by the quality of their past work and suitability of their artistic expression for this particular site. Artist applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

<b>Artist Selection Criteria</b>	
Artwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Proven artistic merit and strong professional qualifications that demonstrate the artist's ability to achieve the guiding principles of Civic Art: aesthetic and technical quality, innovation, site specificity, civic engagement, and the ability to transform a space and user experience</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Ability to create artwork for the location as indicated in this RFQ</li></ul>
Function/Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Artist or artist team demonstrate ability to effectively assess the spatial and technical conditions of an architectural space and propose an integrated, easily maintainable, permanent artwork</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Experience completing a prior public artwork or completing artwork utilizing permanent materials such as metal, stone, tile, or concrete.</li></ul>



Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Artist or artist team demonstrate ability to execute project within project timeline <input type="checkbox"/> Artist to demonstrate ability to work within the given budget <input type="checkbox"/> Artist or artist team to demonstrate ability to work with a multidisciplinary team, for example, government agencies, architects, and engineers
Budget	<input type="checkbox"/> Artist or artist team must demonstrate affordability of project in preliminary budget and final budget prior to fabrication. <input type="checkbox"/> Artist or artist team demonstrates prior project(s) completed within budget projections.

**Only artists who meet these criteria should apply.**

### **TO APPLY**

Application materials must be received on or before **July 29, 2019 | 5PM PST**. Any application materials received after the specified date and time will be rejected, considered non-responsive, and returned to the artist unopened.

Submit the following materials:

1. Resume including name, mailing address, phone number(s), fax, email, and web page (if applicable). Include a team bio if applying as an artist team. Resume should not exceed three pages.
2. A maximum two-page letter of interest, addressing:
  - ☐ Why this project interests you;
  - ☐ How you have worked with a government agency, designers and/or local residents to develop an artwork;
  - ☐ Your experience with restricted site conditions, strict technical constraints and materials requirements, including specifications for size, strength, and engineering capacities;
  - ☐ Your artistic practice, your sources of inspiration and your method for developing high quality, innovative and timelessly meaningful artwork.
  - ☐ For artist teams: your respective roles and history of collaboration.

***Only letters which specifically address these points will be considered.***

3. Up to ten images of your relevant work (refer to Artist Selection Criteria)
  - ☐ Submit digital images in .JPEG format, PC compatible, no larger than 1920X1920 (do not zip or stuff your files). Each image must be unlocked and downloadable.
  - ☐ Label each image with artist's last name, first name, and a two digit number which corresponds to the annotated image list (For example: JonesJane01, JonesJane02).
4. An annotated image list, that indicates:
  - ☐ Title, date, medium, and dimensions
  - ☐ Location of artwork
  - ☐ Brief project description (maximum 100 characters)
  - ☐ Project budget
  - ☐ Commissioning agency or client, and project manager, if applicable.

5. Three professional references, with title, phone, and email addresses included.

The preferred method for submitting materials for the RFQ is to upload your files to a file sharing service such as DropBox.

#### **DropBox Link Instructions:**

1. Sign in to DropBox.com, or sign up for an account if this is your first time using Dropbox.
2. Create a folder using the following naming convention "FirstInitialLastName-Application" (example: JJones-Application). If you are applying as a firm, use your firm's design instead of FirstInitialLastName (example: JonesStudio-Application).
3. Upload the files per our application materials guidelines
4. Once you have created your folder and uploaded your application materials, share viewing privileges with the Arts Commission by hovering your cursor over the folder you want to share and click "Share."
5. The next prompt or pop up screen will ask if you want to create a link (if you haven't already designated your folder from the start as a "Shared Folder"). If a link hasn't been created, click "Create a link." If a link was already created click "Copy link."
6. Paste the Dropbox link into the body of an email addressed to:  
[CivicArt@arts.lacounty.gov](mailto:CivicArt@arts.lacounty.gov), SUBJ: MLK Child and Family Wellness Center

**Do not send the requested materials as attachments to an email.**

#### **SELECTION PROCESS**

This Project Coordination Committee (PCC) for this RFQ is composed of an Arts Deputy, an Arts Commissioner, a representative from the Departments of Health Services, Public Health, Child and Family Services, the architect, and an arts professional. Civic Art staff serves as a non-voting advisor to the PCC. Artists **should** send images that can be understood by an audience that is not professionally versed in the arts. Artists **should not** send art proposals in response to this RFQ.

The civic artist will be selected through a two phased process:

1. Artists' responses to this RFQ will be evaluated anonymously by the Project Coordination Committee (PCC) with facilitation by the Civic Art Project Manager. Up to three finalists and one alternate will be shortlisted for the second phase.
2. Finalists will be invited to develop a conceptual design proposal and presentation to the PCC. With guidance from Civic Art, the PCC reviews artist applications, conducts finalist interviews, selects the artists or artist teams, and reviews the project from design development through artwork installation.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For questions about this RFQ, please contact Pat Gomez, Civic Art Project Manager, at [PGomez@arts.lacounty.gov](mailto:PGomez@arts.lacounty.gov). For additional information about Civic Art, please visit the Civic Art Program online at <https://www.lacountyarts.org/experiences/civic-art>.

- *Do not send original artwork.*

- *Late applications will not be considered.*
- *If artists are applying as a team, the team must be declared at the time of application in the letter of interest. Include team bio, outline roles and responsibilities of each member, and brief resumes for all team members with application. Please submit a minimum of 10 images per team of completed or proposed projects, not per artist.*
- *The Department of Arts and Culture reserves the right to accept or reject any and all responses received, or commission an artist through another process.*
- *All artists who submit their materials for review will receive written notification of the results of the selection process, including identification of the selected artist(s).*
- *This request for qualifications does not constitute an offer to contract or a promise for remuneration, recognition, or any other thing. Submission of any materials in response to this request for qualifications will not constitute an express or implied contract. The information contained and/or any program or event described herein may be changed, amended, modified, canceled, revoked, or abandoned without notice at any time and for any reason in the sole discretion of the Department of Arts and Culture or the County of Los Angeles.*
- *Artists will not be eligible for more than two County projects at any given time.*
- *Priority will be given to artists who have had no prior commission of the same or greater budget with the Civic Art.*
- *If artwork proposal and/or design are selected, artist will be required to enter into a contract with the County of Los Angeles. Because the artwork will be located on public property, and because the County of Los Angeles is a public entity subject to laws, rules, and regulations which are not necessarily applicable to private persons or companies, the Department of Arts and Culture has prepared a form agreement for use in connection with artwork commissioned for Civic Art. A copy of the form agreement can be found on the Department of Arts and Culture's website, at [www.lacountyarts.org/civcart\\_opportunities.htm](http://www.lacountyarts.org/civcart_opportunities.htm). If artist (or artist team) is selected, they acknowledge that they are willing and able to enter into a contract in the form made available on the Department of Arts and Culture website. The Department of Arts and Culture reserves the right to revise or change its form agreement at any time, for any reason, and to require artists to use the revised form for contracting purposes.*

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Project Coordination Committee:** Representatives from involved County departments, the Chief Executive Office, and the Department of Arts and Culture.

**Artwork:** The work as ultimately conceived, designed, fabricated, and installed by the artist after consultation with and approval by the Project Coordination Committee and applicable jurisdictional agencies.

**Artist Team:** A professional collaboration of individual artists and consultants who do not necessarily operate under a single entity.