

## Call for Artists: Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

**Submission Deadline:** Proposals must be submitted by January 15, 2025 via Slideroom:

<https://dockingstateofficebuilding.slideroom.com>

### Docking State Office Building Reconstruction Project, Topeka, Kansas

**Project Overview:** The State of Kansas is seeking proposals to commission qualified artists or artist teams to design, fabricate, and install large-scale works of public art for the newly reconstructed State of Kansas Docking Building in Topeka, Kansas.

The selected artwork will be displayed in highly visible locations on the grounds of the Docking State Office Building within the state capitol complex. Each work of art should reflect the unique character and spirit of Kansas while engaging viewers with its creativity, innovation, and artistic excellence.

This RFQ is comprised of two separate projects: Project A, a sculptural interpretation of the state animal, the American bison, and Project B, an aerial installation representing the Kansas skies. Proposals for Project A and Project B will be reviewed and selected separately. Artists and artist teams may submit for a single project or both. The maximum budget for each project is \$300,000, all inclusive except for installation cost.

A shortlist of finalists will be selected from the RFQ to submit a full proposal and invited to present their proposal to jurors via the web the week of March 3, 2025. Presenting finalists will receive a \$5000 honorarium. Artists will be selected from the pool of presenting finalists.

Building Design Brief:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p5oGVBtzHR5FWsiOuJHL-hzBSstCraIU/view?usp=sharing>

### Project A: Outdoor Sculpture, The American Bison

**Inspiration:** The American Bison. As the state animal of Kansas, the powerful presence and historical significance of the American Bison represents the cultural heritage of the state and connection to the land. The American Bison is a symbol of Kansas's resilience and determination to overcome challenges, and the willingness to face adversity head-on in pursuit of dreams and ambitions, exemplified in the state motto "ad astra per aspera"; to the stars through hardship.

**Vision:** This large-scale public sculpture is intended to represent the spirit of Kansas, to serve as a landmark work of art in the state, and to enhance the aesthetic appeal and cultural significance of the Docking Building and its surroundings.

#### Parameters:

Location and site information:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JjCwC0Grbanh2qNH0sJGSnV3NgY-X\\_4y/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JjCwC0Grbanh2qNH0sJGSnV3NgY-X_4y/view?usp=sharing)

Primary material: any materials or media

Technical: The site can accommodate designs that include electrical elements, and can be customized to the specific requirements of the artwork.

**Requirements & specifications:** Must be resilient to the elements, extreme heat, extreme cold, precipitation, wind, and able to safely withstand public use and interaction.

**Budget Maximum:** \$300,000, all inclusive except for installation costs.

**Scope of Work:** The scope of work for this project includes, but is not limited to, the following:

**Conceptualization and Design:** Develop a concept and design proposal for the artwork that aligns with the vision and objectives of the project.

**Fabrication:** Fabricate the artwork using durable and weather-resistant materials suitable for outdoor installation.

**Installation:** Collaborate with the State of Kansas Contractor to coordinate and oversee the installation of the artwork at the designated site.

**Maintenance Plan:** Outline a maintenance plan outlining the necessary procedures for preserving the integrity and appearance of the artwork over time.

## **Project B: Indoor Aerial Installation, “Ad Astra Per Aspera”**

**Inspiration:** The Kansas Sky. The aerial piece is intended to represent Kansan’s ability to reach beyond our limits and embrace the limitless expanse of our own potential. In Kansas skies, we find not just beauty, but a reflection of our journey, where every cloud and every star is a reminder that even amidst challenges, a path forward is illuminated.

**Vision:** This indoor aerial installation is intended to be an interpretation of the Kansas State motto “Ad Astra Per Aspera”, to inspire and recreate the sense of awe in the Kansas sky, and to enhance the aesthetic appeal and cultural significance of the Docking building and its surroundings.

### **Parameters:**

Location and site specifications:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JjCwCOGrbanh2qNH0sJGSnV3Nqy-X\\_4y/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JjCwCOGrbanh2qNH0sJGSnV3Nqy-X_4y/view?usp=sharing)

Suggested material: any material or media, including glass, tyvek, digital media, fiber optics

Technical: the site can accommodate designs that make use of electric and digital elements, and can be customized to the specific requirements of the artwork.

**Requirements & specifications:** Must be resilient to building conditions and able to safely withstand public use and interaction.

**Budget Maximum:** \$300,000, all inclusive except for installation costs which will be covered by the State of Kansas.

**Scope of Work:** The scope of work for this project includes, but is not limited to, the following:

**Conceptualization and Design:** Develop a concept and design proposal for the artwork that aligns with the vision and objectives of the project.

**Fabrication:** Fabricate the artwork using durable and weather-resistant materials suitable for outdoor installation.

**Installation:** Collaborate with the State of Kansas Contractor to coordinate and oversee the installation of the artwork at the designated site.

**Maintenance Plan:** Outline a maintenance plan outlining the necessary procedures for preserving the integrity and appearance of the artwork over time.

### **Eligibility:**

- **Artist or Artist Teams:** Applicants must be individual artists or artist teams, which may include collaborators from various disciplines, such as architects, designers, or engineers.
- **Residency Requirements:** There are no residency requirements for applicants. Proposals that reflect the region's cultural identity are a priority.
- **Experience:** Applicants must have experience in creating public art or large-scale artworks, site-specific installations, or previous participation in similar public projects. Portfolio submissions should demonstrate the ability to execute projects of similar scale, complexity, and public visibility.

### **Submission Guidelines:**

Submit RFQ materials by January 15, 2025 at: <https://dockingstateofficebuilding.slideroom.com>

RFQ's for Project A and Project B will be reviewed and finalists selected separately. Artists and artist teams may submit for a single project or both. Interested artists or artist teams will be asked to submit the following materials:

1. **Resume / Vitae:** Submit for all artists who will work on the project
2. **Cover Letter:** A brief introduction outlining the artist's interest in the project, relevant experience, and connection to the subject.
3. **Artist Statement:** A statement explaining the artist's conceptual approach and its connection to the goals and objectives of the project.
4. **Project Vision:** A description of the artist's vision for the project and its connection to project goals and objectives.
5. **Portfolio:** Examples of previous work demonstrating the artist's capabilities and experience.
6. **References:** Contact information for at least three professional references familiar with the artist's work.

### **RFQ Review Criteria:**

**Experience:** previous experience working on public art installations or similar projects, creating works that match the scale of the current project, and experience working with communities or integrating local culture into their work.

**Artist Statement:** alignment of the artist's work with the goals of the current project.

**Project Vision:** alignment with the goals of the current project, feasibility within the constraints of space, timeline and budget; approach to involving or reflecting the community in the work,

**References:** quality of references from previous clients, project collaborators, or commissioners that highlight the artist's qualifications and professionalism

**Artistic Excellence:** evaluation of the artistic quality of the artist's past work as evidenced in their work samples / portfolio.

All RFQ's will be evaluated based on the review criteria. A shortlist of finalists will be selected to submit a full proposal and invited to present their proposal to jurors via the web the week of March 3, 2025. Presenting finalists will receive a \$5000 honorarium.

### **Final Proposal Review Criteria:**

**Artistic Merit:** Creativity, originality, and aesthetic appeal of the proposed artwork.

**Conceptual Clarity:** Clarity and coherence of the concept and its relevance to the project objectives.

**Feasibility:** Technical feasibility of the proposed design, including fabrication and installation requirements. Environmental impact, use of sustainable materials and energy will also be considered.

**Durability:** Ability of the artwork to withstand outdoor conditions, maintain its integrity and remain safe for public interaction over time.

**Experience:** Demonstrated experience and qualifications of the artist or artist team in creating large-scale public artworks.

### **Selection Process:**

- Submitted RFQ's will receive an initial review for completeness and eligibility.
- All complete and eligible RFQ's will be reviewed by a panel of jurors.
- Finalists will be selected for each project and invited to present a full proposal including conceptual design, project budget, timeline, installation and maintenance plan to the panel of jurors. Presenting finalists will receive a \$5000 honorarium.
- Following final presentations, jurors will select the artist or artist team to be awarded project contracts.

### **Jury Description:**

The jurors responsible for selecting artists will include a diverse group of professionals with expertise in various aspects of public art, design, and community engagement. The goal of the panel is to ensure a well-rounded and thoughtful evaluation process. The panel will include, but is not limited to:

- Individuals with expertise in urban design and site-specific considerations
- Professionals who can provide technical insight into the feasibility of the proposed designs
- Representatives from the community where the sculpture will be installed
- Individuals with expertise in curating public art projects
- Professional artists
- Administrators or representatives from the State of Kansas
- Experts who can offer insight into the historical and cultural significance to ensure the artwork honors the area's cultural context
- Professionals who focus on ensuring that the project reflects diverse perspectives
- Professionals from area museums, art institutions, or cultural organizations

### **Project Timeline:**

**October 16, 2024: RFQ Release Date.** The RFQ will be made available to artists through various public art platforms.

**January 15, 2025: Artist Submission Deadline.** Artists must submit required documentation via Slideroom by 11:59 PM.

**January 16- February 6, 2025: Panel Review of Submissions.** The panel of jurors will review all submissions and shortlist finalists based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ.

**February 7, 2025: Finalists Notified.** Shortlisted finalists will be notified via email and provided with a request for a detailed proposal.

**February 10-28, 2025: Final Proposal Development.** Finalists will develop a detailed proposal including a conceptual design, project budget, timeline, installation and maintenance plan and upload their proposal to Slideroom. Artists will be paid an honorarium of \$5000 for their proposals.

**March 3-7, 2025: Finalist Presentations and Final Artists Selection.** Finalists will present their proposals to the selection panel via video conference. Following presentations, the panel will deliberate and make a final selection. The chosen artists will be notified and contract negotiations will begin.

**March 10-28, 2025: Contract Finalization.** The artist and State of Kansas officials will finalize contracts, including terms related to budget, project scope, and timeline.

**March 31-September 30, 2025: Design Development, Fabrication and Installation.** Artists refine their designs, work with subcontractors or fabricators as needed to produce the artwork.

**July-August 2025: Site Preparation and Coordination.** Clark Huesemann will coordinate with the artist and site officials to prepare the installation site.

**September 1-September 30: Artwork Installation.** Artwork will be delivered and installed, with the artist working with the site contractor to oversee installation. Any additional landscaping or site work will also be completed during this time.

**September 24, 2025: Final Inspection and Approval.** A final inspection will be conducted by the artist, Clark Hueseman, site contractor and relevant state officials to ensure the sculpture meets all specifications.

**October, 2025: Public Dedication.** Community members, press, and stakeholders will be invited to an event to celebrate the completed artwork.

**Ongoing from October 2025: Maintenance Plan Initiated.** A maintenance plan, including routine inspections and necessary repairs, will begin to ensure the longevity of the sculpture.

### **Submission Deadline:**

Proposals must be submitted by January 15, 2025 via Slideroom:

<https://dockingstateofficebuilding.slideroom.com>

**Questions and Contact Information:** For inquiries or additional information regarding this Call for Artists, please contact: Margaret Weisbrod Morris at [dockingbuilding.publicart@gmail.com](mailto:dockingbuilding.publicart@gmail.com), 785-218-3707.

### **Important Notes:**

- The State of Kansas reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received, to waive any informality in the selection process, and to negotiate with any qualified artist or artist team.
- Submission of a proposal constitutes acceptance of the terms outlined in this RFQ.
- The selected artist or artist team will be required to enter into a contract with The State of Kansas outlining the terms and conditions of the project.

**We look forward to receiving your proposals and thank you for your interest in contributing to the cultural enrichment of the Docking State Office Building and The State of Kansas.**

