

UrbanArt and Memphis City Schools are seeking an artist to create an art enhancement project for Central High School.



Project description:

In 2006 Central High School completed renovations including a new building that houses classrooms. UrbanArt is seeking an artist to contribute to the refurbishing of the school.

Though the renovations focused on the new building, the art committee determined that the best location for public art is in the lobby area between the original 1909 building and the 1960's addition. This area connects these two areas, as well as serving as an entrance to the gymnasium. Above the gym entrance is a brick area that spans three walls.

Possibilities for materials include a variety of mosaic applications such as handmade tiles, glass or cut tiles; forged or cut metal; painted materials applied to the wall, in addition to other materials. Artists might consider incorporating the brick into their design. The artwork should draw people into the gymnasium, while conveying the spirit of Central High School.



Artists might also consider creating an enhancement piece for the "front lawn" of the school. The original 1909 building faces Bellevue Boulevard, with a large lawn cut through with walkways, a round planter in front of the entrance, and a stone memorial fountain with benches.

This area would be ideal for a 3-dimensional artwork that will appeal to current and future students as well as vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Bellevue.



Goals of the project are to use public art to provide an interactive, visual stimulus enhancing students' reading, writing, computation, thinking and problem solving skills; to provide a welcoming and pleasing environment reaffirming the importance of schools; and to create a sense of ownership in the school.

Student involvement in the artwork's creation, and engagement with other facets of the production are also important elements to the overall process. Proposals should include participatory elements at some or all stages, whether in the envisioning, production, or the ongoing community interaction with the artwork.



Facts to keep in mind about Central:

- 2009 is the 100th year of the school.
- The mascot is the Warrior.
- The school colors are green and gold.
- It is an “optional” school, with focus on college preparation.
- “H” is a symbol of the school, which is often called “The High School.”
- School’s web site: <http://www.mcsk12.net/schools/central.hs/centralhomepage.htm>

Budget: \$145,000 for one of the above locations, or to be divided between the two.

Deadline for proposals to be received: 4:30 PM, Friday, March 6, 2009

Artist Eligibility: National

All professional artists residing in the United States, regardless of race, sex, religion, national origin, or handicap, are invited to submit proposals for this project. Preference may be given to artists living in the City of Memphis and to graduates of Memphis City Schools. Professional artists may include fine artists, architects, landscape architects and other design professionals provided they are not the project architect or an employee of the project architect. Artists should have experience or demonstrate skills in one or more of the following areas: working with students; public art projects; collaborating with others towards an artwork/art enhancement; working with community based organizations; and working with committees/boards towards an arts-related goal. It is the policy of the Board of Education to select a diverse group of qualified professional artists that represent a wide variety of artistic styles, media and subject matter to design public artworks that best meet the needs of the students.

Guidelines:

Please see <http://www.urbanartcommission.org/sampleddocuments.html> for more information about applying to UrbanArt projects and how the selection process works.

Please submit the following:

- Typed, one-page letter of interest that explains your general concept including theme and materials.
- A sketch may be included but must be no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches. Please do not send original artwork.
- Resumé (not to exceed 2 pages).
- DIGITAL images of your work – up to 10 digital images. Images must be JPEG format, 1920 pixels maximum on the longest side, 72 dpi, with compression settings resulting in the best image quality under 2MB file size. The selection panel may look at the first five images by each artist depending on the number of submissions received.
- Image identification sheet: a numbered list of the title, dimensions, materials, location, and date completed of each of the artworks you submit.
- List of three references, including current phone numbers and/or email addresses.
- Self-addressed, stamped envelope with postage sufficient for the return of your materials. Materials will not be returned without one.
- Send applications to:
UrbanArt Commission
2549 Broad Avenue
Memphis, TN 38112

For more information contact UrbanArt:
Elizabeth Alley, Director of Public Art
901-454-0474, ealley@urbanartcommission.org

Commissioning of artists by UrbanArt and the pursuit of all UrbanArt activities are implemented without preference to racial or ethnic origins, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, disability or age. UrbanArt reserves the right to modify this solicitation and to request additional information or proposals from any or all participating artists. UrbanArt Commission reserves the right to accept or reject, at any time prior to the commissioning of a work, any or all proposals when the acceptance, rejection, waiver or advertisement would be in the best interest of the project. In addition, UrbanArt may solicit proposals from artists not responding to this call and reserves the right to select an artist outside of the pool of artists responding to this call. UrbanArt staff shall be responsible for all correspondence and communication by and between applicants and members of selection panels. Discussion regarding these projects by and between any applicant and any member of a selection panel outside of regularly scheduled meetings during the selection process may be grounds for the disqualification of the applicant. Such determination shall be in the sole discretion of UrbanArt.