

DWIGHT FOSTER LIBRARY PUBLIC ART FORT ATKINSON, WI 2010 Request for Proposal

Issue Date: May 14, 2010

Due Date: **June 4, 2010, 4:00 p.m. CST**

Architects: Uihlein/Wilson Architects, Milwaukee, WI

Return To: Dwight Foster Library Arts Committee via artscommittee@fortlibrary.org

Request for Public Art Submissions which may include:

- Large or small art creations (interior or exterior pieces)
- Art integrated into design features

Notice and Instructions to Proposers

All proposals must be received via **email by 4pm on Friday June 4, 2010**. Send to artscommittee@fortlibrary.org. Images should be at least 300dpi in jpg format. If you need to submit multiple emails please put your name in the SUBJECT line. The following information must be completed and submitted with your proposal.

1. Proposer Application & References (Section B) (*1 page*)
2. Current resume (*no more than 3 pages*)
3. Written preliminary concept/approach statement (*1 page*)
4. 10 to 15 images of relevant work (*300dpi jpgs. Include Title, Media, Size*)
5. Addenda (i.e. any certifications, samples, information, etc.) (*no more than 3*)

Your submission should be no more than 5 pages, not including your images or addenda. Images should be labeled with by your last name and first name in numbered order as you'd like them to be viewed (i.e. *doejohn1.jp, doejohn2.jpg, etc*). Failure to provide these documents with your proposal submittal will disqualify your proposal. Proposals may be modified or withdrawn prior to the time specified for the opening of the proposals.

For RFP questions, contact Cynthia Holt 1. 262.470.7747

For technical specification questions, contact Connie Meyer at 920-563-7790.

SPECIFICATIONS/PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Dwight Foster Library in conjunction with the Library Arts Committee is accepting applications from artists (individual or teams) for public art opportunities at Fort Atkinson's Dwight Foster Library expansion and renovation. This project provides an opportunity for artists to create site-specific public art features that affirm the character of Fort Atkinson and the library. The final decision of selecting artists will be that of the selection committee and will be based on the submitted ideas and other criteria identified below.



Area & Building Description:

Downtown Fort Atkinson is located in Jefferson County, a rich rural area with plenty of natural resources but also easily accessible to urban centers like Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago. Fort Atkinson is known as an area rich in the arts, agriculture, parks and waterways.

The Dwight Foster Library is located on the corner of East Milwaukee Ave and Merchants Avenue, in the heart of downtown Fort Atkinson just a block away from Main Street and the Rock River. The original library was designed by Claude and Starck Architects and built in 1916. Additions were made in 1931 and 1983. The library's architectural style has been described as incorporating Mediterranean and NeoClassical elements into a library reminiscent of architects Claude and Starck's Prairie School designs. Large brackets supported the wide overhanging eaves of the clay tile roof. A central NeoClassical entrance projected from the front façade. Terracotta details such as a pediment, colonettes, arches, and bracketed sills accented the stucco exterior. The terra cotta entrance was moved in 1983 and will be moved again as a part of this expansion project.

The library's history can be read at the library's website: <http://www.fortlibrary.org> or directly at: <http://www.tinyurl.com/historyofDFPL>.



The library in 1916



South View of the Library (architectural rendering by Mark Paschke of Uihlein Wilson Architects)

Additional building plans can be viewed on the Building Project page at www.fortlibrary.com

Project Description & Scope:

Conceptual Considerations: The selection committee is interested in artwork that is dynamic and reflects the possibilities of the future while honoring local history. Artwork will be viewed favorable that may:

- Reflect community assets (i.e. Agriculture, Modern poetry, natural resources/waterways, Latino community, etc)
- Provide a cohesive aesthetic that compliments architectural features
- Address the broader concept of discovery as a metaphor using whimsy and fun
- Address the commonalities between 2D/3D and literary arts (i.e. interaction with words)
- Compliment the experience of reading, investigation and other key features of the library experience
- Reconnect with "The Wisconsin Idea"
- Be sustainable, utilizing local materials and reflecting responsible stewardship;
- Utilize light and how it changes throughout the day
- Utilize layers of images or imagery or projections
- Be as timeless and bears repeated viewing over time
- Include a poetic and intellectual quality
- Be nonrepresentational, but not so abstract as to be unrecognizable by library users
- Serve, as an ambassador- the artwork needs to be appealing and accessible to non-arts people
- Be complex enough to allow viewers to learn from it over time and provides a sense of discovery
- Work within the budget and timeline provided

Locations: The selection committee is interested in art for the interior or exterior of the main Dwight Foster Library building. Below are listed several possible locations. The selection committee is open to locations identified by the artists also.

1. The main entrance located on the ground floor
2. The long hallway and glass area leading to the bathrooms and community rooms; located on the ground floor
3. The central library reference desk area; located on the upper level
4. The Children's Room; located on the south wing facing new windows including its "nature themed" tree area and story time room
5. The stairwell exposing original architecture leading from ground floor to the reference desk
6. The Lorine Niedecker Poetry room, possibly including newly exposed vaulted ceiling
7. The study/silence area; located in the north wing and oldest part of the building circa 1916
8. The main entrance exterior
9. The south garden exterior
10. Donor recognition areas (i.e. entrance, sides of book shelves, etc)

Materials:

The selection committee is interested in materials that support the artist's concept. In addition, the materials should be sustainable, local, and reflect responsible stewardship as much as possible. Materials that make use of language, light and/or historic architectural features ameliorating visual artwork will be considered. Materials should be permanent, and require low maintenance.

Design Opportunities The renovation and expansion of the Dwight Foster Library is on a fast track; demolition began in March 2010 with completion scheduled for January 2011 or sooner. Because design decisions are currently being made, we will be looking at public art opportunities that can be applied or incorporated into existing structure and surfaces.

Opportunities could include but are not limited to: design/landscaping of entrance to facility, interior/exterior railing design and fabrication, interior tree design, bike rack design, carpet design, tile design, linoleum design, interior glass design, end panel design, signage, donor recognition, special lighting design, and murals.

Specifications

The renovation and expansion of the library hopes to bring continuity to the architecture of the building as well as highlight its historic features. The artwork should not obstruct but should enhance the features of the facility. The library design attempts to honor the most beautiful and historic areas of the library while adding new space that reflects but does not attempt to duplicate the past. There are many areas of opportunity for an artist to create something of beauty that could find an important place of its own in the library's next chapters. Artwork that reflects the traditional aspects while engaging natural and/or modern motifs will be considered favorably. **Wisconsin and local artists are highly encouraged to apply.** In addition, there are also ongoing discussions about temporary, changing visual art exhibitions, artist in residence programs that may occur as part of the library's future outreach programming.

Selection Process:

Artists will be selected as finalists for interviews to be given in mid/late June. It is anticipated that three to five individuals and/or teams will be invited to interview with the Library Arts Committee. The committee, however, recognizes that both smaller and larger artistic submissions may be valuable additions to the library, therefore, this number may fluctuate. A maquette, sketches and/or a concept paper will be required at the interview stage, along with a detailed budget. Based on the initial submittal and interview a selection will be made. Contract negotiations will proceed after the selection. It is expected that all costs of the commission will be covered by the Art Budget.

Selection Criteria:

Artistic Merit

Relevant experience

Utilization of key conceptual criteria

Capacity to complete project on time within budget

Eligibility:

Individual artists or an artist team may apply for this project.

Budget:

Total Public Art Budget: \$50,000**

***This is the anticipated budget designated for public art at the Dwight Foster Library. It is expected that all costs of the commission (fabrication, installation, design fees, support) will be covered by the Art Budget.*

Deadline to Apply: Friday June 4, 2010 4pm**Timeline:**

May 14, 2010: RFP issued

June 4 2010: RFP deadline

June 8: Finalist Selected

Mid June: Project Orientation Meeting

June 22: Interviews with Finalists

Late June/Early July: Artists selected; contract signed

January 2011: Work Completed and Installed (*may be adjusted according to construction timeline*)