



## Request for Qualifications New Mobile, Artist-Created Tool

RFQ Deadline: Thursday, November 1, 2018 | 11:59 pm

(optional) Make Your Art Mobile Workshop: Saturday, October 20, 2018 | 1:00 – 3:30pm

West Central Initiative and Springboard for the Arts seek one artist, or artist team, to create a mobile tool to prompt interaction about livability in West Central Minnesota. This opportunity is for one commission of \$10,000. Artists living in the 9-county region of West Central Minnesota (Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin counties) are eligible to apply.

### Background

Springboard for the Arts, based in St. Paul and Fergus Falls, is a nonprofit economic and community development organization serving individual artists in the Upper Midwest and beyond. Springboard's Community Development Program supports, organizes and empowers artists to build reciprocal relationships with their communities, resulting in vibrant, creative, and equitable places. For more information about Springboard for the Arts, please visit [www.springboardforthearts.org](http://www.springboardforthearts.org)

West Central Initiative (WCI) is a regional community foundation serving nine counties in west central Minnesota: Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin. Its number-one goal is to strengthen the economy of the region so that its families, communities and businesses thrive now and for generations to come. WCI does this using the tools of economic development, community development and by promoting philanthropy. For more information about WCI, visit [wci.org](http://wci.org).

### Project details

Springboard for the Arts' **Ready Go** is a collection of artist-created, mobile tools that are purpose-built to pique curiosity, prompt interaction and facilitate engagement. Artists (and their corresponding tools) are available for hire by community-invested organizations seeking new and creative ways to interact with their communities, employees and customers. **Please visit the Ready Go website at [www.readygoart.com](http://www.readygoart.com) and browse the existing artist-created, mobile tools. It's the best way to learn what it's all about!**

The goals of this Ready Go project are to address livability opportunities and challenges in west central Minnesota. As a component of West Central Initiative's **Live Wide Open** campaign, which encourages people to move to, return to and stay in west central Minnesota, we hope to prompt interaction and conversation about what it means to live and work in west central Minnesota, help all community members feel more welcome, and bridge relationships across differences. **Learn more about Live Wide Open at [www.livewideopen.com](http://www.livewideopen.com).**

For this particular commission, we seek one artist or artist team to create a new Ready Go mobile art tool designed around the needs of West Central Initiative (as outlined above). Artist/artist team will create something that works to fulfill WCI's goals but can also function for any user once it is added to the Ready Go site. The \$10,000 commission includes all aspects involved in creating a mobile tool that will be added to the Ready Go roster, including: design, fabrication, programming development, tool testing (including supplies needed), Ready Go roster listing and artist payment.

## **Project Timeline**

October 20, 2018:

Ready? Go! Make Your Art Mobile Workshop

This optional workshop will cover the practical and conceptual strategies to translate your art into a mobile tool that can be used to engage community and prompt interaction. The workshop will also be a chance to learn details about this RFQ application process and to learn about West Central Initiative's work in the region. 1:00 – 3:30pm at West Central Initiative (1000 Western Ave, Fergus Falls, MN)

November 1, 2018, 11:59pm

RFQ deadline

Early December 2018:

Finalists will be selected and provided a stipend for creating their design

Early February 2019:

Finalists will present design concepts to a selection committee. The commissioned artist will be selected and notified within 1 week.

March 1 2019 – May 31 2019:

The artist will fabricate their approved Ready Go tool.

June 2019

The artist will use their Ready Go tool during events in West Central Minnesota one day per week in June (4 events total).

July 2019 – December 2020

Upon completion of this project, the artist retains ownership of the mobile tool they created. The tool will be added to Springboard for the Arts' existing roster of tools at [www.readygoart.com](http://www.readygoart.com), promoted by West Central Initiative, and the artist will be available for hire by community-invested organizations seeking new and creative ways to interact with their communities, employees and customers.

Commissioned artist(s) must commit to having their mobile tool available for hire on the Ready Go site for at least 18 months.

## Eligibility

Artists and artist teams who live in the **9-county region of west central Minnesota** are eligible (Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin counties). Prior experience with creating mobile art is not required.

## Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Evidence from past work in the submitted materials that indicates artist's ability to create a unique and engaging artwork.
- Quality of artist's past work as demonstrated in the submitted materials.
- Feasibility/technical considerations.

## Selection Process

A committee made up of representatives from West Central Initiative staff, a representative from Springboard for the Arts, and regional community leaders will help select the artist. After reviewing proposals, representatives will interview finalists and make a selection.

- Proposals received by 11:59pm, November 1, 2018
- Finalist presentations of design concepts: February 5 – 7, 2019
- Commissioned artist notified of selection by February 15, 2019

The new mobile art tool must be completed by June 1, 2019 and be ready for use during 4 events with West Central Initiative in June 2019. Those who cannot meet these deadlines are asked not to apply.

## Application Submission Process

Applications must be submitted electronically via the form at <http://springboardforthearts.formstack.com/forms/westcentralmnrfaq>

The application includes:

1. **Description of past work.**
2. **Description of Art Project Vision.** Please note: We do NOT want you to write a proposal for the mobile art tool; we just want to get an idea of what materials and approach you may use.
3. **Artistic Resume.** Please limit your document to 2 pages per artist; for example if you're a team of 3 artists, your resume should not exceed 6 pages.

4. **Work Samples:**

- Artist/artist teams may include a TOTAL of up to eight jpg files AND up to 5 minutes of audio or

video.

- **For audio and sound files:** Please provide website link(s) to your work samples via the question below. You must upload your work samples using Dropbox, Soundcloud.com, Vimeo.com or YouTube.com.

- **For jpg files:** Please upload your files below. Files should have a resolution of 72 ppi with 1920 pixels on the longest side. Combined file sizes cannot exceed 20 MB. Name your files using the following format:

1\_Artist Last Name.jpg;

2\_Artist Last Name.jpg, (and so forth.)

5. **Work Samples Narrative.** Provide the following information for each work sample: Title of artwork, year completed, materials, dimensions, location where installed and a brief description if needed.

Questions via email will be answered on a best effort basis—email [dominic@springboardforthearts.org](mailto:dominic@springboardforthearts.org)