

**Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**  
**Five art commissions at Springboard for the Arts' new home**  
**RFQ response deadline: July 27, 2020 11:59pm**

**Information session:**  
**July 1, 2020 7-8:30pm**



Seeking up to five artists/artist teams who live, work or have a connection to Minnesota to create permanent art for one of 5 commissions at Springboard for the Arts' new offices at 262 University Ave W, Saint Paul. This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will consist of a two-part process, with an initial response to this RFQ due on July 27, 2020. Finalists will receive a \$1000 stipend to prepare a full proposal. Artists/artist teams are not required to have previously completed a public art project, but successful applicants need to demonstrate their ability to lead and complete a project. Selected artists/artist teams will receive the indicated project support amount to cover all expenses related to creating and installing artwork for Springboard.

The timeline for design and installation of each commission will vary based on the design, site construction schedules, and our safety precautions related to COVID-19. As is, there is much unknown, however, we are starting the selection process now so that we can make commitments to artists and pay them for their work. Selected artists will need to be flexible, patient, and have good communication with us as we manage together timelines, schedules and process. Our commitment is to work with the selected artists, our contractors and advisors to get the work installed as close to on time as possible and with everyone's safety as our first priority.

### **Background**

Springboard for the Arts is a national leader in creative community development. Our approach is rooted in the principles of community organizing and focuses on a "lots of little" strategy that surfaces unrecognized leaders in communities, builds public narratives from a multiplicity of perspectives and voices; and creates low-risk opportunities for collaboration. This equity-based model centers the lives and experiences of the people in and of the place; values the relationships, partnerships, and creative capacity that artists and communities build together

and aims to build power and agency for individuals, neighborhoods and communities. Springboard is based in St. Paul and Fergus Falls, MN.

Our St. Paul office has been located in the Northern Warehouse building in Lowertown for the last 20 years. In 2020, we moved our St. Paul office to 262 University Avenue W, gaining street level access and creating expanded space for the community to use. Inside meeting and event space as well as outdoor gathering and green space will provide opportunities to connect with our immediate neighbors and communities, strengthening our existing relationships in Frogtown and Rondo and creating welcoming space for visitors from across the country. An essential part of making this new space creative and welcoming is making sure that the culture and work of artists is a part of the public spaces. To that end, we are seeking to commission art for multiple opportunities:

### **Available Commissions**

Artists may submit a response for up to 2 opportunities.

#### **1. Native Presence- installation, signage, or other on the exterior main entrance/plaza- \$20,000**

Create a permanently installed work of art that makes Native Presence visible and invites reflection from visitors on both the Dakota land that our new office and public space physically occupies and the larger region of Minnesota with 11 sovereign American Indian tribes. May be a visual/sculptural installation, signage/text-based work or other interpretation that is visible around the main entrance and public plaza but may also be integrated elsewhere on the exterior site. The plaza will be created from poured concrete and the surface has potential to be stamped or designed.



Springboard will facilitate any needed work with site contractors. This commission is for a Native artist/Native lead artist team with strong preference for Dakota artists.

Note: Springboard has created a Land Acknowledgement that we use for public events and presentations, we are open to selected artist/s incorporating this into the Native Presence commission.

#### **2. Mural on University side of fence - \$20,000**

Painted mural on majority of existing ribbed steel panel fence approximately 180' long x 12' high. Mural should span fence, but does not need to fully cover the entire area - we encourage a design that is commensurate with wall size and budget. Budget amount also includes any needed wall prep, finished mural should be painted to last 20 years.

Artist(s) who are able to incorporate community participation in design and/or painting process preferred.

Strong preference for an artist or artist team with a deep connection to Frogtown and/or Rondo neighborhoods of St. Paul. **Theme:** Creative People Power (can be interpreted broadly – i.e. with words or images or both).



**3. Pre-Owned Vehicle Sign repurposed as public art - total \$20,000 (includes \$5,000 contingency)**

Create new public art (not a sign) around existing infrastructure of former sign pole remaining from location's previous use as a used car lot. Public art may make use of all or part of existing sign parts (plastic sleeve/sign cabinet) or only the underlying infrastructure of metal pole.

Contingency of \$5,000 included in commission is to address technical issues that may arise with the re-use of the pole. We think existing pole has electricity but will work with selected artist to address technical and other issues. Unused portion of contingency will roll back into general project budget for artist to use. Strong preference for an artist or artist team with a deep connection to Frogtown and/or Rondo neighborhoods of St. Paul.



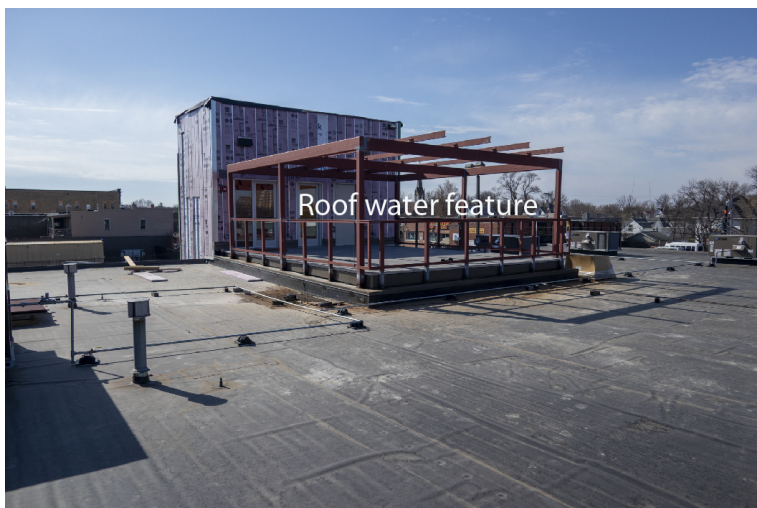
**4. Watershed signage (tank and rain garden), tank/drain treatment - \$20,000**

Artistic signage or other visual elements to highlight and educate about the stormwater runoff system including storage tank and rain garden and its connection to the watershed. This includes: making visible rooftop rain collection systems (in or outside building), paint/mural/signage on the rainwater storage tank, other art that highlights rain garden. **Themes:** water conservation, water quality and environmental justice. Artists from greater Minnesota encouraged to apply.

**5. Roof water feature - \$10,000**

Water feature on the Ecolab Roof Deck. Can be visual/sculptural installation, kinetic, passive or other interpretation that uses stormwater. The piece should be sustainable (i.e. not plumbed to building water or electricity) **Themes:** water conservation, water quality and environmental justice. Artists from greater Minnesota encouraged to apply.





### **Project details and parameters**

- Artists/artist teams are not required to have previously completed a public art project, but successful applicants need to demonstrate their ability to lead and complete a project.
- Art must be permanent (should last for minimum 20 years).
- Project budgets are all inclusive and will cover artist time, fabrication, engineering consultations, installation and any other expenses. Springboard will facilitate work that involves their own site contractors and collaborate with artist(s) on site installation.
- Artists may apply for a maximum of two opportunities.

### **Timeline:**

**RFQ info session** - Zoom meeting- recorded and posted after. Sign up link at:

<http://www.springboardforthearts.org/rfq>

July 1, 2020, 7-8:30pm

### **Responses to RFQ due**

July 27, 2020 11:59pm

### **Finalists notification (invitation to create full proposals)**

August 14, 2020

### **Finalist full proposals due**

September 8, 2020

Sept 14-18 Finalist presentations/interviews.

### **Selected Artists notified**

Within two weeks following full proposal deadline.

### **Design completed, work finished/installed. Public celebration**

2020-2021- TBD

## **Eligibility**

- Artists/artist teams of any discipline who live, work or have a connection to Minnesota.
- Artists/teams are not required to have previous public art experience, but will need to demonstrate ability to complete a large project.
- Artists/teams who work in mediums other than visual art are encouraged to apply if they are interested in creating permanent public art.

**Note on artist teams:** By artist team we mean up to 3 lead artists working together on the artistic aspects of the commission. If you are planning to hire or include a technical consultant or fabricator, they would not be considered part of the artist team. Teams will pick lead artist to create SlideRoom account and submit team application.

## **Selection Criteria**

Responses to RFQ will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Quality of artist's past work as demonstrated in the submitted materials.
- Indication that artist has expertise (art related or other) to undertake project or can demonstrate a plan for accessing outside expertise to successfully complete project.
- Artist's experience or demonstrated ability to create art that responds to a specific community theme.

## **Selection Process**

From submitted responses to the RFQ, a panel of artists and representatives from the community and Springboard will select artist finalists. Finalists will receive a stipend of \$1000 to create a full proposal to be presented to the panel. One artist/artist team will be selected per commission to create the art.

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## **Request for Qualifications**

### **Springboard for the Arts' new offices**

SlideRoom submission due July 27, 2020, 11:59pm

## **Application Submission Process**

1. Read RFQ for background, eligibility and application process.
2. Complete and compile items A-E listed below (narrative, work samples etc.) to prepare for submitting to SlideRoom.
3. Find the RFQ and link to online application at: [www.springboardforthearts.org/rfq](http://www.springboardforthearts.org/rfq)
4. We will be in touch if there are any questions about your submission.
5. Questions via email will be answered on a best effort basis: [peter@springboardforthearts.org](mailto:peter@springboardforthearts.org)

## **Application Assistance**

Applicants who need technical assistance with uploading or formatting files, or who would like the submission reviewed can schedule a half-hour phone call or videoconferencing session by emailing: [resources@springboardforthearts.org](mailto:resources@springboardforthearts.org).

Springboard is committed to improving access to our programs and services for persons with Limited English Proficiency: <https://www.lep.gov/>. If you need language assistance with this application, contact: [peter@springboardforthearts.org](mailto:peter@springboardforthearts.org)

## **Application Questions**

### **A. Applicant info**

- Contact information: name, email, phone, address—you will enter this when you create a SlideRoom account. (Teams- pick one lead artist to create account)
- Provide detail about your eligibility-- live, work or have a connection to Minnesota.
- Indicate which opportunity (up to 2) you are applying for.
  - Native Presence
  - Mural
  - Sign
  - Watershed
  - Water Feature

**Slideroom will prompt you to list above info for additional artist team members if applicable.**

**Note:** other artist team members must also meet eligibility requirements. Technical experts are not considered artist team members.

Instead of written responses, we also welcome video submissions to the Narrative questions. We will be making decisions based on your answers, not the quality of the video.

See time limits for each question. Record videos using a laptop, tablet, phone or camera and upload them to YouTube or Vimeo. (Here you can find instructions for Youtube

<https://support.google.com/youtube> and Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/join> Be sure to make the videos Public or Unlisted on YouTube.)

### **B. Narrative**

#### **1. Artwork and approach (2000 characters including spaces, video response- 3 minutes max)**

Describe your medium(s), and approach to art making. Talk about how that would relate to an approach for the opportunity you are applying to. Note: Do not propose a project idea at this time, but simply discuss general ideas on how you would think about this. If you are applying for more than one opportunity, address both opportunities in this answer.

#### **2. Experience creating public art (2000 characters including spaces, video response- 3 minutes max)**

Describe your previous experience creating public art OR if this is your first public art project, describe how you imagine your artform(s) could translate to permanent public art and technical experts or fabricators you would need to work with. Address your ability to manage projects, multi-task and work independently - art-related or not.

#### **3. Why this opportunity? (1000 characters including spaces, video response-2 mins)**

Tell us why you are interested in this opportunity and commission. Add any other info you feel is relevant for the panel to know.

**4. Commission specific questions. Please answer the relevant question/s for the commission/s you are applying for.**

- **Native Presence-**

-Explain your connection to a specific Native nation or community. For example, "I am \_\_\_\_\_" (enrolled member, of lineal descent, citizen, or other designation) "of \_\_\_\_\_" (name of Native nation, community, or cultural group) and "My connection to Native community is \_\_\_\_\_" (600 characters or less, video response-1 min).  
*We acknowledge that there are multiple identities and relationships to Native nations and that disruptions of connections have taken place as part of colonization. Express your connection in terms that make sense to your lived experience.*

- **Mural-**

-Explain your connection to the Rondo/Frogtown community/neighborhood in 1-2 sentences. For example, "I live in \_\_\_\_\_" or "I grew up in \_\_\_\_\_."

-Briefly describe how you have incorporated community participation in a design and/or art-making process. (600 characters or less, video response-1 min).

- **Sign-**

-Explain your connection to the Rondo/Frogtown community/neighborhood in 1-2 sentences. For example, "I live in \_\_\_\_\_" or "I grew up in \_\_\_\_\_."

**NOTE: There are no specific questions for Watershed signage or Rooftop water feature commissions.**

**D. Resume** – maximum 2 pages—please upload in PDF format for each team member if applicable.

**E. Work Samples**—you will add these in SlideRoom along with title and image description text.

Individual artist applicants can upload up to 8 work samples. More than 8 will not be shown to jurors. Teams of 2 artists can upload up to 10 work samples. Teams of 3 artists can upload up to 12 work samples.

Visual work: Submit .jpeg images— Images must be under 5 MB.

You can upload images with any dimensions, as SlideRoom resizes images larger than 1280 x 1280 x 72 ppi.

Text work: Submit in .pdf format. 1 page = 1 work sample (ex: 4 page file = 4 work samples).

Audio/Video work: Provide full URL links (i.e. YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud). 1 minute = 1 work sample (ex: 4 minute video = 4 work samples).