

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Request for Qualifications

MATTAPAN BRANCH LIBRARY OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

EXTERIOR ART PROJECT

Release date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2009

The Boston Public Library and the Mattapan Branch Library Public Art Committee invite artists/designers working in all media to forward qualifications for the Mattapan Library Branch Exterior Art Project at the new 21,000sf branch library designed by William Rawn and Associates, which was completed in 2009. The branch is located at 1350 Blue Hill Avenue in Mattapan, MA. The Urban Arts Institute at Massachusetts College of Art and Design (UrbanArts) is facilitating the artist selection process and project implementation. Funding is made possible through a grant from the Edward Ingersoll Browne Trust Fund of the City of Boston.

Eligibility

This project is open to all artists/designers residing in New England. Artists/designers with experience in the areas of public art and community involvement processes are encouraged to apply.

Background

From the moment that the award winning architectural firm of William Rawn Associates was selected to design the New Mattapan Branch of the Boston Public Library, it was envisioned that a potentially iconic art element could also be created to further enhance this, a landmark cultural civic structure in the geographic heart of Mattapan. The building's exterior features a striking, contemporary design, with clean lines and a wonderful play of granite, glass, masonry and wood.

Exterior Art Project Concept

The concept of the art project is intended to be

- Three-dimensional in nature;
- Of a highly durable material that is graffiti resistant;
- Reflective of the Mattapan area's cultural and/or historical development;
- Thought provoking and/or interactive in nature;
- Reacting to and/or interacting with light.

Site Selection

The library offers several siting opportunities for the exterior art project. The following four preliminary sites (see photos below) are under consideration and will be finalized in collaboration with the selected artist/designer:

1. Main entrance area on Blue Hill Avenue – opportunity for freestanding work
2. Brick façades of the Community Meeting Building
3. Façade or landscaped area along the parking lot
4. Fenced in lawn at the intersection of Blue Hill Avenue and Babson Street

Budget

The selection process will be based on interviews with approximately three finalist artists/designers. The overall project budget for planning and implementation of the project is not to exceed \$65,000, which is being provided by the Browne Fund, in addition to funds for the artist selection process.

Useful Websites

Mattapan Branch Library

<http://www.bpl.org/branches/mattapan.htm>

http://www.rawnarch.com/boston_public.html

Mattapan History

http://www.bostonhistorycollaborative.org/BostonFamilyHistory/neighborhoods/neigh_matt.html

Artist Selection Review Criteria

- Artistic excellence, including both clarity of concept and an ability to produce well-developed and professionally realized art projects;
- Willingness to work collaboratively with a group of community residents;
- Artistic engagement with issues such as social history, the urban landscape, community identity, or the environment, or an interest in working in a community environment;
- The ability to work well with a diverse range of people, including community residents, city planners, and other arts professionals;
- Broad thinking, creative vision, and self-directedness.

Timeline

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| Wednesday, April 15, 2009 | Release Call for Entries/RFQ |
| Friday, May 15, 2009 | RFQ deadline |
| Week of May 26, 2009 | Art Selection Committee review of applicant pool |
| Monday, June 1, 2009 | Finalists announced |
| June 2-15, 2009 | Finalists visit site/committee member(s) available by appointment. |
| Tuesday, June 16, 6-8pm | Finalist interviews with the Art Selection Committee. |
| By Thursday, June 25, 2009 | Announce Artist/Designer |
| July 10, 2009 | Request for Proposal released to Artist/Designer |
| Tuesday, September 15, 6pm | Proposal presentation at Mattapan Branch Library (open community meeting) |
| October 2009 | Community review |
| Monday, November 2, 2009 | Presentation to Boston Art Commission |
| January 2010 | Design finalized |
| Winter/spring 2010 | Fabrication |
| Summer/fall 2010 | Installation |

How to Apply

If you are an artist already represented in the UrbanArts Artist Registry, simply send an email to let us know that you would like to be considered for this project. Images need to be submitted in digital format. If you are uncertain about the format of your materials on file at UrbanArts please send an email to christina.lanzl@massart.edu

If you are NEW to the UrbanArts registry, we invite you to forward your materials for consideration. Please send:

1. Resume with current contact information.
2. Up to 16 clearly labeled digital images of relevant past work. 35 mm slides will not be accepted. Artists may send information formatted as follows:

CD ROM with JPEGs. Acceptable digital images must be:

- Formatted to read in Adobe Photoshop
- Pixel dimensions per image approximately 600Hx800W
- Image resolution 72-300 pixels per inch (ppi)
- Maximum file size per image – 1MB
- Name each image: lastname_firstname_imagenumber.jpg
- Include a 1-page, 8 ½ x 11” thumbnail printout/digital file of images with corresponding image numbers

3. A corresponding, numbered, annotated image list with title, media, dimensions, location, brief description and date of the work, project budget, and project partners, if applicable.
4. One or more references of relevant past projects with contact information, including email and telephone number(s). Include a youth or community reference, if available.
5. Optional: Additional support material, including press clippings or other relevant information on past projects.

No faxes or emailed entries will be accepted. Materials will not be returned. Entries will become part of the UrbanArts Institute's Artist Registry for consideration in future projects.

Participants are solely responsible for the timely arrival of their entries. Participants, by virtue of entering the competition, agree to save harmless the organizers, sponsors and anyone else involved with the competition for any delay, damage or loss, real or perceived.

Contact

Christina Lanzl, Project Manager, UrbanArts
christina.lanzl@massart.edu
617.879.7973

Call to Artists is posted at <http://www.urbanartsinstitute.org> - click Opportunities or <http://www.bpl.org/branches/mattapan.htm>

SEND MATERIALS TO
ATTN: Mattapan Branch Library Exterior Art
Urban Arts Institute
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
621 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115-5801

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Site Photos



Main façade, 1350 Blue Hill Avenue



Community Room façade, parking lot entrance



Main library entrance



Rear entrance area