

Request for Qualifications: *High Iron* Laramie, Wyoming

Deadline: Wednesday, March 20 by 5 PM MT

Information + Support Session: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 6 PM MT

Budget: \$6,000 per artist

OVERVIEW

Artists with personal ties to railroad history are invited to submit for consideration to create artwork centered on stories of ancestors who built the transcontinental railroad. Descendants of this labor or of Indigenous communities who were displaced because of this labor are encouraged to apply. Visual and performing artists are welcome to submit. Several artists may be selected.

Selected artist contributions will become part of a traveling public artwork, *High Iron*, which will connect former rail towns along the I-80 corridor in Wyoming. The project will begin its journey in Laramie, Wyoming in September 2024. *High Iron* will feature an interactive labor exhibition, an oral history collection station, and be the center of accompanying community programming. *High Iron* will shine light on buried narratives of an incredibly diverse state, a culture of care, and immigrant contribution. *High Iron* is a project of [Monument Lab's Re:Generation](#), supported by the Mellon Foundation.

Artwork format is not predefined. The *High Iron* team will work with selected artist(s) on how their work becomes part of the larger project housed in a modified railcar.

BUDGET

Budget is \$6,000 inclusive of artist fee, materials, and travel to and from Laramie, if required. Housing can be provided. If travel is a barrier for installation, please indicate in your application. Additional travel funds could potentially be secured.

SELECTION PROCESS

This call is being administered by the Laramie Public Art Coalition. An information and artist support session will be held virtually on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 6 PM MT. Artists can ask questions and receive guidance on applying. The recording will be available at laramiepublicart.org/opportunities following the event.

Link for information + support session:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81555170862?pwd=gY9ocfArMUZLbZtKQ5amQY7NJaPyX0.1>

The core artist team of *High Iron* will review applications based on connection to railroad history and artistic ability. Finalist interviews will be conducted via Zoom. The artists who interview will be paid \$100 for their time. Multiple artists may be selected to work with the *High Iron* team.

SCHEDULE

- RFQ released: Monday, February 19, 2024
- Information + support session: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 6 PM MT
- Submission deadline: Wednesday, March 20, 2024
- Finalists selected: By March 25, 2024
- Artist interviews: April 4, 2024
- Artist(s) selected: By April 11, 2024
- Flexible installation timeline between end of July to September 15, 2024

Timeline is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Selected artist(s) will work with the *High Iron* team to determine an installation timeline.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To submit your interest in the project, please email the following to director@laramiepublicart.org by Wednesday, March 20 at 5 PM MT:

- 1. Artist Statement:** Introduce yourself, your artistic practice, and the connection you have to the transcontinental railroad (Limit to 200 words)
- 2. Media:** Up to 5 media files of relevant completed artwork, including images, video, and audio. Label images/media: last name of artist, artwork title, installation date. JPEGs only for images. Please send video and audio as links, if possible.
- 3. Media script:** Short description of each completed artwork submitted as media. The media script should include the budget of the project, the location, and the artwork intent. (Limit to 100 words per artwork).

Contact director@laramiepublicart.org with any questions about submission requirements. We would love to help you apply, so please don't be shy.

High Iron

High Iron will be a traveling piece of public art—a modified train car—that will travel westward from Laramie, Wyoming, connecting former rail towns along the Interstate 80 corridor. It will house an interactive labor exhibit, an oral history collection station, and will be a center of accompanying community programming in each city it visits. *High Iron* will travel stories of ancestors who built the transcontinental railroad, shining light on buried narratives of an incredibly diverse state, a culture of care, and immigrant contribution.

Team Members include: Aubrey Edwards, Laura Zorch McDermitt and Conor Mullen.

Credits

High Iron is a project of Monument Lab's Re:Generation, supported by the Mellon Foundation.