CALL FOR ARTISTS

Threshold Arts Request for Proposals

Project Background

Threshold Arts is accepting proposals from professional artists and teams of artists for a commission to install permanent and temporary public artworks in The Castle, downtown Rochester's mixed-use arts and cultural community center.

Threshold Arts offers private art studios, group studio space, a traditional photography dark room, a space for audio recordings and acoustic music lessons, a makers workshop, a gallery with rotating exhibitions, and additional resources to the arts community in Rochester. Artists will work in a community-focused atmosphere, providing an environment for collaboration and engagement with other creatives and the community at large. Artists will work together to guide the programming of the artistic spaces.

Eligibility

This call is open to all independent artists and artist teams who are legal residents of the state of Minnesota, age 18 and over, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines. Teams must include at least one visual artist.

Artwork Goals and Criteria

The artwork commissioned for this site should:

- Achieve a cohesive and unique aesthetic experience that compliments The Castle's iconic architecture, history, and role in the community.
- Facilitate opportunities for community engagement.
- Contribute to the local, regional, and national dialogue on Rochester public art.
- Be designed for viewing by visitors of The Castle during all hours of operation.
- Be constructed of durable materials and permanent in nature.
- Have a strong visual impact and draw people to The Castle.
Selection Process

This Request for Proposals is being undertaken to enable Threshold Arts to identify the most qualified artist(s) for this opportunity. An artist selection panel of regional art professionals, stakeholders, and representatives of the community will review eligible artists’ applications, determine a shortlist of finalists, and select one artist or team of artists. The selected artist or team of artists will be recommended to Threshold Arts for final approval to enter into contractual agreement for this project.

Selection Criteria

- Artistic merit as demonstrated in submitted work samples.
- Quality of written materials.
- Proven ability to collaborate with stakeholders and design team members.
- Demonstrated ability to present and articulate all conceptual material and logistical aspects of proposals for public art to diverse stakeholders including but not limited to: artist selection panel, building owners, community stakeholders, and local press.

Prospective Artwork Location & Details

A) **Turret Gallery**: Exhibit a body of work in the third floor Turret Gallery. [Gallery layout and dimensions available here.](#)

B) **Elevator**: Create a sound and light installation in the building’s principal elevator. Approximate dimensions are: 5’ deep x 6.5’ wide x 7.5’ tall.

C) **Stairwell**: Create a body of work to be installed on three walls along the main stairwell. Approximate dimensions are: 20’ wide x 10’ tall (along three stairwells).

D) **Third Floor Lobby**: Create a bold, colorful, abstract mural to span the width of the West wall in the third floor lobby, with the potential to extend to the adjacent North and South walls. Approximate dimensions:
   - **West wall** - 20’ wide x ~20’ tall, minus two doors spanning 6.5” x 8’ each, architectural beam begins at ~12’ height.
   - **North wall** - 10’ wide x 20’ tall, minus one door spanning 3’ x 7’ and bar opening at 42” x 36”.
   - **South wall** - 10’ wide x 20’ tall.

Additional lighting and scaffolding will be available for installation.

Timeline

A) **Turret Gallery Exhibition**: Variable (generally four to six-week exhibitions), applications ongoing.

B) **Elevator**: Rotates quarterly, applications ongoing.

C) **Stairwell**: Rotates quarterly, applications ongoing.

D) **Third floor lobby**: Rotates annually, applications, applications ongoing.

Honorarium

This honorarium shall cover artist fees, travel, design, materials, fabrication, transportation of artwork, etc… Threshold Arts may have additional resources available for installation. The selected artist will be required to work closely with Threshold Arts to design within the total available project funds.
A) Turret Gallery exhibition: $500
B) Elevator installation: $500
C) Stairwell installation: $250
D) Third floor lobby mural: $1,500

To Apply
Applications must be submitted to threshold@castlecommunity.org and include a project description, budget, 5-10 work samples, an artist biography, and a current CV.

Site History
The Castle was built in 1915 and served as Rochester Minnesota’s Armory until 1978 when the City of Rochester renovated the building into a three-story complex to house the Rochester Senior Citizen Center. In late 2016, the Senior Center moved to a new facility (125 LIVE). In May of 2017, Castle Community, LLC submitted a proposal to the City of Rochester to purchase the building and invest in its renovation to become an arts and culture community center. Castle Community, LLC was selected to purchase the building in July 2017, took ownership in December 2017, and began construction in July 2018.

The Castle celebrated its Grand Opening in February of 2019 and includes a restaurant – Cameo at the Castle, an independent bookstore, an art retail store, a coffee and juice bar, and is the home of a nonprofit arts organization – Threshold Arts – which manages an indoor public commons, artist studio spaces, a visual art gallery, a community conference room, and a 4,500 sq/ft event hall which will host concerts, theatre, weddings, banquets, community gatherings, and other programming.
Site Photos/Floorplan

Site visits are available upon request. To arrange a tour of the space, please contact Naura Anderson: threshold@castlemidway.org or (507) 218-7214.

Stairwell Install Locations

Approximate dimensions are: 20’ wide x 10’ tall (along three stairwells).

Third Floor Lobby

**West wall** - 20’ wide x ~20’ tall, minus two doors spanning 6.5” x 8’ each, architectural beam begins at ~12’ height.

**North wall** - 10’ wide x 20’ tall, minus one door spanning 3’ x 7’ and bar opening at 42” x 36”.

**South wall** - 10’ wide x 20’ tall.
Turret Gallery

See dimensions below. Wall height is 10’. West wall is exposed brick, North, East, and South walls are plywood-backed painted drywall.