



MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – SUSPENDED SCULPTURE | REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Release Date: Monday, February 24, 2020

Budget: \$350,000

Deadline: Monday, April 6, 2020 at 11:59 pm

Eligibility: Any artist currently living and working in the United States. Artists are invited to apply as a team if desired.

BACKGROUND

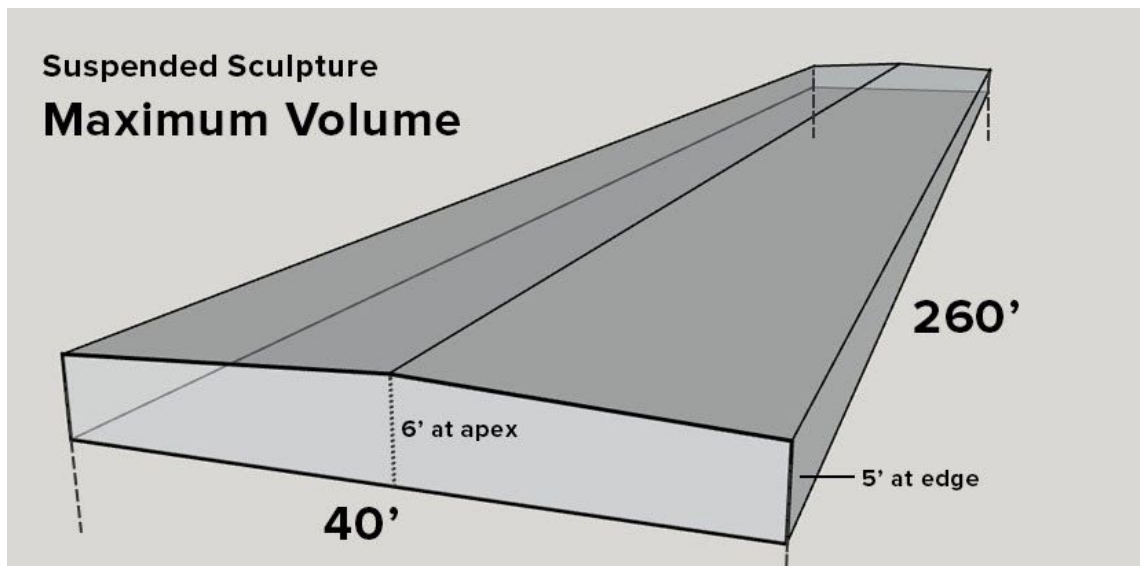
The Memphis International Airport is being reimagined as the facility undergoes an important renovation. A dramatic enhancement of the B concourse is currently underway, and will be completed by April 2021. Memphis's aviation industry dates back to 1927, when city Mayor Watkins Overton formed the Municipal Airport Planning Commission. The Commission broke ground on a 200-acre tract of open countryside seven miles from Downtown, and the Memphis Municipal Airport opened for regular passenger and mail service in 1929. The current terminal, a modern design by architect Roy P. Harrover, was dedicated in 1963. The growing facility changed its name to Memphis International Airport, and in 1974, the building expanded into its current configuration.

The renovated concourse B pays homage to Harrover's mid-century modern design, with sweeping vaulted ceilings and minimalist furniture, along with updates like large windows, natural wood accent walls, and a contemporary color palette. This modernization will provide visitors and Memphians alike with an inviting experience, and a taste of what Memphis has to offer.

As part of the overall reimagining of the airport, \$1.5 million has been allocated to produce new site-specific public art projects at key locations throughout the facility. These projects include a large suspended sculpture, a permanent exhibition of 2D work by local artists, and three art glass installations.

SITE SPECIFICS

The project site is located at the southeast end of the new concourse, and serves as the focal point for the renovated facility. The sculpture will also be visible from the exterior of the concourse to arriving and departing passengers. The space can accommodate a low-profile hanging sculpture(s). The available area is approximately 40' wide by 260' long by 5' high. The sculpture(s) will be suspended from the structure above the ceiling by steel cables. Exact weight requirements and anchor locations will be discussed with finalists; artists are advised to consider lightweight materials for this project.



SCOPE OF WORK

UrbanArt Commission (UAC) is partnering with the Memphis Shelby County Airport Authority (MSCAA) to produce a large-scale, suspended sculpture in the southeast area of the redesigned Concourse B. The selection committee expresses an interest in a public art piece that will:

- Create a bold, statement project that will draw airport users through the facility
- Respond to the aesthetic of the reinvented concourse, which features warm tones and natural wood, light and sophisticated, minimalist contemporary furniture, vaulted angular ceilings, and natural light from long curtain-wall windows

The commissioned artist/s will be expected to engage with the local artist community at some point during the design or fabrication process to share their experience executing this project and artistic practice. Possible engagement opportunities could include a public talk, a site visit during installation, and/or participation in the creation of behind-the-scenes videos. The UAC team will support and facilitate this opportunity in collaboration with the selected artist.

The artist selection committee will select three finalists based on their applications, professional qualifications, ability to work within a budget, ability to meet deadlines, and experience completing previous public art projects. Artists with limited experience creating large-scale public art projects are advised to consider applying with a team to provide skills or experience not demonstrated by an artist's portfolio. The commissioned artist/s will be selected based on the strength of their proposal following RFP invitation, and previous experience with the design of large-scale sculpture projects. Applicants are expected to have the technical capabilities to design and install such projects, which includes managing subcontractors and providing maintenance instructions for the completed piece. The finished project should require little to no regular maintenance. The artist/s selected shall be expected to collaborate closely with engineers, architects, airport administration, and any other necessary parties for the successful installation of the project. Please note that commissioned artists are permitted to work with outside contractors to fabricate and install the actual work of art.

UAC is committed to equity and inclusion in our work, both in the artists and organizations supported through the development of public art. People of color, differently-abled persons, indigenous peoples, LGBTQ+, seniors, and women are strongly encouraged to apply.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Darrell Thomas	CEO, Thomas Consultants, Inc.; MSCAA Board of Commissioners
Pamela Clary	Executive VP, ComCap Partners; MSCAA Board of Commissioners
Gregory Fletcher	MSCAA Board of Commissioners
Richard Lou	Professor and Chair of Fine Art, University of Memphis
Faith Morris	Chief of Marketing & External Affairs, National Civil Rights Museum
Whitney Hardy	Founder, 3RDSPACE
Maggie Russell	Visual Artist
Lucy Woodson	Founder, Worlds Away
Jim Keras	Owner, Jim Keras Automotive; MSCAA Board of Commissioners
Brenda Duckett	Community Leader
Metcalf Crump	Owner & Architect, The Crump Firm
Brian Bullard	Owner & Architect, UrbanARCH Associates
James Hay	Director of Development, MSCAA
Glen Thomas	Director of Strategic Marketing & Communications, MSCAA
Scott Brockman	President & CEO, MSCAA (non-voting)

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Pamela Clary – Executive Vice President, ComCap; MSCAA Board of Commissioners
Gregory Fletcher – MSCAA Board of Commissioners
Richard Lou – Professor and Chair of Department of Fine Art, University of Memphis
Faith Morris – Chief Marketing & External Affairs Officer, National Civil Rights Museum
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James Hay – Director of Development, MSCAA
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PROJECT TIMELINE

Monday, February 24, 2020	RFQ released
Wednesday, March 11, 2020 (5:30 – 7 pm)	Information session hosted by UAC

Thursday, March 26, 2019 (3 – 7 pm)	Office Hours hosted by UAC
Monday, April 6, 2020	RFQ deadline
Friday, April 25, 2020	Notify finalists of RFP invitation
Monday, June 1, 2020	RFP deadline
Week of June 1, 2020	Finalist presentations to committee
September 2020	Final designs complete
April 2021	Installation complete

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Budget \$350,000; Design \$86,375, Fabrication \$259,125, all-inclusive. Total project budget includes \$1,500 honoraria for up to three finalists to support the development of proposal designs.

FINALIST REQUIREMENTS

Each finalist will be asked to prepare a schematic design, followed by a presentation to the artist selection committee. Each finalist will receive a \$1,500 honorarium for an original design developed specifically for the site. One of three finalist positions will be reserved for a Memphis-based artist.

GUIDELINES

Please submit the following materials online by following the “Memphis Airport Suspended Sculpture” link at uacmem.org/calls-to-artists:

- Completed application form
- A typed letter explaining your interest in the project and your general approach/concept to its design and production. *Please do not submit design proposals at this point.*
- Up to 20 images of past work including title of work, date, medium, budget and project partners, if any.
- Résumé or CV, not to exceed 2 pages.
- List of three professional references, including current phone and email.

1. To apply to an open Request for Qualifications (RFQ) or Request for Proposals (RFP), go to uacmem.org/calls-to-artists. Click on the opportunity that you are interested in to view more details.
2. Clicking on the Submit button will redirect you to our Submittable page, which contains all of our current open opportunities. Click the Submit button next to the opportunity that you wish to apply for, or if you are already within an opportunity, scroll down to the Create your account / Have an account? Sign in form.
3. If you already have a Submittable account, click the Have an account? Sign in tab to sign in to your account.
4. If you don't have an account, you must create one to apply. Create your free account by filling out the Create your account form. Fill in all information and click the Create Account and Continue button to continue with the submission process.
5. From there, you will be able to complete and submit your application. You can now use this account login when submitting to all future UAC opportunities. Once you have submitted your application, you will receive a confirmation email that confirms receipt of your full application.

For more information please contact:

Wendy Young, Program Manager
901.343.6983 / wendy@uacmem.org

This RFQ and support materials may be downloaded at uacmem.org/calls-to-artists.

DISCLAIMERS

Applicants will be notified as to the status of their application. Commissioning of artists by UAC and the pursuit of all UAC activities are implemented without preference to racial or ethnic origins, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, disability or age.

UAC reserves the right to modify this solicitation and to request additional information from participating artists.

UAC reserves the right to accept or reject, at any time prior to the commissioning of a work, any or all proposals when the acceptance, rejection, waiver or advertisement would be in the best interest of the project.

The staff of UAC will be responsible for all correspondence and communication by and between applicants and members of selection panels. Discussion regarding these projects by and between any applicant and any member of a selection panel outside of

regularly scheduled meetings during the selection process may be grounds for the disqualification of the applicant. Such determination shall be in the discretion of UAC.