



OKLAHOMA Arts



Oklahoma Art in Public Places

Project: Honey Springs Visitor Center (Checotah)

Bronze Sculpture

Deadline: December 15, 2025, 11:59 p.m. CST

Overview and Project Description

The Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC), in partnership with the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS), is seeking an artist or a collaborative artist team to create a bronze sculpture based on the theme of the historic Battle of Honey Springs. The location for the public art will be in a highly visible and publicly accessible area at the new Honey Springs Visitor Center near Checotah, Oklahoma.



Theme and Intent

Through artifacts, graphics, and narrative, the exhibits of the Honey Springs Visitor Center tell the compelling history of the Battle of Honey Springs. Fought on July 17, 1863, the Battle of Honey Springs was a decisive Civil War engagement in Indian Territory. Superior Union weaponry and the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry played a pivotal role in securing a victory. The battle broke Confederate power in what was then Indian Territory, opened the way for the capture of Fort Smith, and demonstrated the courageous efforts of Black troops in combat. The artwork proposed should honor the soldiers identified in the battle and their heroic achievements in the greater war effort. The historical reference necessitates a figurative bronze sculpture with a footing to be placed on the exterior site location near the visitor center.

Educational Resources

Oklahoma Historical Society website:
<https://www.okhistory.org/sites/hsbattle>

Article: *The Battle of Honey Springs, Oklahoma's overlooked 'Gettysburg of the West'*:
<https://nondoc.com/2024/07/17/the-battle-of-honey-springs/>

Honey Springs Visitors Center website:
<https://www.okhistory.org/sites/hsvisitorcenter>

Project Funds

The artist or artist team will receive \$150,000 to create the artwork. The budget covers all costs associated with the public art project, including, but not limited to, artist design fee, structural engineering, eligible materials, fabrication, insurance, transportation, installation, building or site modification, travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, project documentation, contingency to cover unexpected expenses, and any other project costs. No additional funds will be available.

Eligibility

This application is open to all United States-based artists.

Application Requirements

[Artists must complete this application form](#) and provide support materials specified below.

Please be sure to allow adequate time to submit your application as technical difficulties can occur. Applications that are mailed, emailed, faxed, or hand delivered will not be considered.

Proposals will not be accepted after the December 15, 11:59 p.m. CST deadline.

Selected finalist artists will present proposals to the selection committee at a virtual meeting. Artists will need to prepare a 20-minute presentation with slides and information about their proposal. Additional details will be provided closer to the date.

Application materials include:

- Statement of Intent
 - Include a summary of artistic focus and professional career, and your background relates to this project.
 - A brief description of the concept to be proposed, should the applicant be selected. Can include materials, colors, etc. Sketches are not required at this stage but can be attached to the statement.
- Resume/CV
 - If applying as a team, please include the team/studio resume. If a team/studio resume is not available, please combine the individual resumes of each team member into one document.
- Five images of relevant previous work per member of team, with a maximum of 15 images.
 - Files can be up to 2MB. Images should be at least 72 dpi.
 - Please number images 1-5, etc., in the file name using this system, #LastName,FirstName.jpg
- Image descriptions
 - Please include title, medium, dimensions, and year for each artwork. You may also include a brief statement about each work (two sentence maximum).
 - Number your descriptions, corresponding to the file names.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Director of Art in Public Places and Oklahoma Arts Council Art in Public Places program staff to ensure artists meet qualifications for consideration. A shortlist of qualified artists will be submitted to the selection committee based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
- Appropriateness of artwork to the goals of the project, as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
- Professional experience is adequate to meet the demands of the project.
- Availability to participate in the design, approval, and implementation of the project as required.

The list of qualified artists will be presented to the selection committee. The selection committee will identify up to four finalists who will be invited to develop a full proposal after attending a mandatory artist orientation session. Each finalist will be paid an honorarium of \$1,000 for the development and presentation of their full design proposal. The recommended concept and artist for commissioning will be presented to the Oklahoma Art in Public Places Oversight Committee for final approval prior to completing the contract for commissioning.

Timeline*

Application opens October 2025

Application deadline December 15, 11:59 p.m. CST

Notification of selected finalists January 30, 2026

Mandatory finalist orientation session February (more information provided after notifications).

Proposal development January-March

Finalist presentations March 23

Anticipated notification of selected artists May 30

Anticipated fabrication timeline June-December

Anticipated installation of artwork beginning in January 2027

*Timeline is subject to change. Artists will be notified in writing of any changes well in advance.

Once selected, the artist or artist team will work with the Director of Art in Public Places, to coordinate with project stakeholders the finalized plan and an installation schedule.

Questions/Follow up

Please direct questions or requests for additional information to Erin Latham, PhD, Director of Art in Public Places, at erin.latham@arts.ok.gov or (405) 574-2402.

Site plan for the Springbrook Center. The plan shows a large building with a new event patio with canopy (F.F. = 645.00) and a catering service access drive. A new dumpster enclosure is located near the building. The artwork site location is marked with a red dot. The plan includes topographic contours, parking areas, and various site annotations. The scale is 1/16" = 1'-0".

Annotations on the plan include:

- New Event Patio With Canopy
- Catering Service Access Drive
- New Dumpster Enclosure
- Artwork Site Location

Scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"

ITE - CONCEPT 01

MASS ARCHITECTS.
BIG IDEAS.





NOTE: The existing signage will be removed