

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications are requested from artists and/or artist teams interested in creating site-specific, exterior public artwork(s) for the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: Monday, December 18, 11:59 pm MST

TOTAL ART BUDGET: \$ 94,000

NAME OF INSTITUTION: Colorado Creative Industries on behalf of the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind



Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, main entrance and administrative building.

ABOUT THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) is a state funded school within the Colorado Department of Education. The school was established for the purpose of providing comprehensive educational services for children, birth to age 21, who are blind/visually impaired and/or deaf/hard of hearing. Services are provided directly to students enrolled at the school, and outreach programs serve students, staff, and families in communities throughout Colorado. CSDB is listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties and is the only school in the state of Colorado dedicated solely to the education of students who are deaf/hard of hearing or blind/visually impaired.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – ABOUT JONES AND PALMER HALLS

Built in 1913, Jones Hall is a three-story masonry building facing the campus quad. The renovation project uses the existing building's existing historic exterior and has maintained the grand stair entry. Planters and new stone have been added and an exterior plaza has been created. Jones Hall has been used for storage but post-renovation will consolidate the Colorado Instructional Materials Collection (CIMC), which provides braille and large print textbooks and novels, as well as instructional products, to students who are blind/visually impaired statewide. The collection serves 60 school districts statewide and lends materials to other states. The program also produces Braille books and provides instructional materials and devices to students throughout the state. Adding conference and training rooms are part of the rehab, along with a low-vision clinic. Additions to Jones Hall also include three levels of stacks for materials, CMIC administrative offices, two conference rooms, two guest suites, and a lobby off of the entry from the grand stair which has been maintained.

Palmer Hall, located next to Jones Hall, is also undergoing a full renovation as part of the multi-phase RTA master plan for the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. Upon completion, Palmer Hall will house CSDB's "Bridges to Life"(BTL) program which serves students between the ages of 18 and 21 who are deaf / hard of hearing and blind/visually impaired. The program seeks to bridge the gap between high school and the real world, emphasizing the three key areas of education, employment, and independence. For employment, BTL develops partnerships with businesses in the community to provide students with opportunities to learn appropriate job skills and to earn a competitive job through work-study experiences and on-the-job training. For postsecondary education, BTL provides direct instruction in English and Math skills in order to improve scores for college entrance exams. Transition teachers also support students as they register for classes, apply for financial assistance, obtain disability support services, and take a variety of post-secondary classes. BTL provides experiences both on and off-campus in searching, applying for and keeping housing; building relationships; budgeting money; purchasing and preparing food; time management; and utilizing free time.

Palmer's residential areas will be expanded to more closely approximate apartment living and allow for increased independence for the BTL students. Palmer Hall will also feature a multi-purpose common area and an instructional kitchen. The renovation will also build out an outdoor gathering area on the lower level. Teachers will be able to use this multi-purpose space during the day to work on various skill transfers with students. The new residential areas will have apartment-like units; students will receive less support than in the dorms in order to build up their independence. These apartments will have shared kitchens and living areas and group study spaces.

BUDGET: \$94,000

All costs associated with the public art project including, but not limited to, artist design fee, structural engineering, insurance, materials, fabrication, transportation, installation, building or site modifications, travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, project documentation, contingency to cover unexpected expenses and any other costs related to the project. Selected semi-finalists will be invited to propose artwork based on the below criteria. Out-of-state semi-finalist artists will receive \$1,500 and in-state semi-finalists will receive \$1,000 as an honorarium for the creation of a design proposal.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ART

The Art Selection committee is looking to commission an outdoor artwork or series of artworks for the exterior of the Jones and Palmer Halls. Opportunities for exterior artwork locations include the new plaza area outside of Jones Hall and the new exterior gathering area outside Palmer Hall. Current public artworks on campus are focused on campus history, students, and the continuum of education; CSDB would like this artwork to address that the school's forward thinking mentality and that its community is moving forward into the new century. Due to the school's unique population, CSDB is interested in how artists can creatively address the school's community with an accessible artwork. A large sculpture that is highly visible and is also tactile is an option; as well, CSDB is open to light, water, sound, and kinetic pieces.

The Selection Committee will consider the following:

- Artistic excellence
- Accessibility – appropriateness of work for school's community
- Conceptual and thematic compatibility
- Technical competence
- Scale, material, form and content
- Resistance to general wear, vandalism, or theft
- Ease of maintenance, minimal and low cost maintenance

COLORADO ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM

All works of art purchased or commissioned pursuant to this request are owned by the State of Colorado via the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. De-accession of the public art, if necessary, will follow the policies and procedures established by the Colorado Creative Industries.

ELIGIBILITY

All applicants must be legal residents of the United States. The artists or artist teams must have the skills and experience commensurate with the responsibility of successfully completing a major public art installation. The Program is open to all artists regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, national origin, age, religion, marital status, political opinion or affiliation, or mental or physical handicap. The Art Selection Committee reserves the right to give preference to those artists residing in Colorado.

SELECTION PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

The Art Selection Committee will review all complete submittals. A short list of semi-finalists will be invited to prepare and present a final proposal in person. Final selection(s) will be made from the semi-finalists' proposals. The approximate schedule is as follows:

December 18, 2017 - Deadline for receipt of submittal via CaFÉ™ system

January 2018 - Selection panel meets to select Semi-Finalists

January/February 2018 - Notification of Semi-Finalist selection

April/May 2018 - Semi-finalist proposal presentations

APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications for this project are being accepted through CaFÉ™ (www.callforentry.org). No hard copy submissions will be accepted. The applicant will be asked to submit six digital images of art (see below for more information), a resume, and a brief statement of interest. There is no application fee to apply or to use the CaFÉ™ online application system. Applications must be submitted through CaFÉ™ to be considered.

Digital Images. In order to be considered for this project, the applicant must electronically submit at least **four (4)** and up to **eight (8)** digital images of previously completed artworks through the CaFÉ™ system. Applicants also can submit up to **one (1)** video file. Videos should demonstrate kinetic movement, light, or sound for a piece; please do not submit installation or promotional videos.

Instructions on how to use CaFÉ™ and format images can be found at www.callforentry.org/image_prep.phtml. Assistance in using the CaFÉ™ system is available during regular business hours by calling 303-629-1166, 1-888-562-7232 or e-mail cafe@westaf.org.

Resume: Submit a current résumé, via CaFÉ™, that outlines your professional accomplishments as an artist. If applying as a team, please submit a resume for each artist, with the lead artist first.

Statement of Interest: A statement of interest in 500 words or less must be submitted via CaFÉ™. It should briefly outline interest in the specific opportunity and applicable experience.

QUESTIONS

If you require more information or clarification, please contact Ruth Bruno, Public Art Program Manager, Colorado Creative Industries at 303-892-3813 or ruth.bruno@state.co.us.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

<http://www.csdb.org/>

<http://www.csdb.org/programs-services/outreach-programs-3/cimc/intro-cimc/>

<http://www.csdb.org/employability-center-2/bridges-life-program-2/>

<http://www.rtaarchitects.com/colorado-school-for-the-deaf-and-the-blind-jones-hall>

<http://www.rtaarchitects.com/csdb-palmer-hall>

http://gazette.com/article/1604475?TC_SC_REF

ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING – DESIGN BY RTA ARCHITECTS



Jones Hall, exterior



Jones Hall, exterior



Palmer Hall, exterior