

# Willa Cather Statue

## *Request for Qualifications*

Announcement: RFQ process to select the Artist(s) to create a statue of Willa Cather to represent Nebraska in the National Statuary Hall in Washington D.C.

Deadline for Submissions: November 30, 2018



***As I looked about me I felt that the grass was the country, as the water is the sea. The red of the grass made all the great prairie the colour of wine-stains, or of certain seaweeds when they are first washed up. And there was so much motion in it; the whole country seemed, somehow, to be running.***

— Excerpt from *My Ántonia* by Willa Cather

## Overview

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The National Statuary Hall Collection, established by Congress in 1864, houses two statues representing historical figures from each state. Statues of Julius Sterling Morton and William Jennings Bryan currently represent Nebraska. Due to Federal legislation passed in 2000, states are able to pass legislation to replace statues in the National Statuary Hall.

LB807 paved the path for the replacement of the Morton statue with one of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather, along with replacing the statue of William Jennings Bryan with a statue of Chief Standing Bear. The Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee (Selection Committee) is comprised of members of the Nebraska Hall of Fame commission. The Selection Committee, in consultation with the Nebraska Arts Council, will oversee the selection a sculptor (Artist) for creation and placement of the Willa Cather statue.

The site for the final, over life-size bronze statue is in the U.S. Capitol and National Statuary Hall, upon approval from the Joint Committee on the Library at multiple stages of completion.



National Statuary Hall

## Eligibility

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This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) competition is open to all professional artists or artist teams throughout the United States.

## Budget

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\$150,000

## Selection Process

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The Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee, in consultation with the Nebraska Arts Council, has full oversight for the selection and placement of the Willa Cather statue. The committee will review RFQ submissions on SlideRoom. Three to five artists will present proposals in Lincoln, NE. Proposals should include a concept, design, budget and a two-foot maquette. Finalists will receive proposal and travel stipends.

## Schedule

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The Selection Committee reserves the right to change or extend timeline without notice.

- RFQ Open: Tuesday, October 30, 2018
- RFQ Close: Friday, November 30, 2018
- Committee meeting to select finalists: December 12, 2018
- Interview of finalists, review proposals: January 11, 2019
- Installation of artwork: December 2019



Willa Cather riding a handcar along the railroad in Wyoming in about 1905.

## **Mission**

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The goal of the selection committee is to place in the Nation's capital the best representation of Willa Cather to magnify her successes as a renowned writer of American stories and skillful harnesser of concepts and actions for leading a full, meaningful life.

### Artist selection criteria will be based on:

- Artistic Excellence and proven ability to achieve desired outcomes.
- Engaging pose that embodies Willa Cather's physical and emotive likeness.
- Ability to achieve and describe a creative solution that binds the statue and pedestal to Nebraska and Cather's literary accomplishments.
- Compatibility of artistic style and requirements within the National Statuary Hall.

### Statue Requirements of Architect of the Capitol (AOC)

- Bronze statue, between seven and eight feet, the height with pedestal should not exceed eleven feet. In that size range, the combined weight should not exceed 5,000 pounds.
- Inscriptions, patinas, clothing items, dimensions, weight, etc needs approval by AOC.
- Sculpture should not have any protruding or sharp elements.



## **Application Requirements**

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SlideRoom is the online review system used for the application process; applications received in any format other than SlideRoom will not be considered in the selection process. Submit materials on SlideRoom via this portal: <https://nebraska.slideroom.com>.

Technical assistance: Access the SlideRoom Help Desk at [www.slideroom.com/support.html](http://www.slideroom.com/support.html).

### **Visual Support Materials**

Image descriptions: Include relevant descriptions with each corresponding image on SlideRoom and include project budgets where applicable.

Images – Ten (10) digital images of relevant completed artwork projects. Upload images as jpg files, no larger than 1220px @ 72dpi.

Video - Optional video file may demonstrate moving parts, time-based work, functionality, etc. Upload as mov, wmv, or flv files, no larger than 60MB each, nor longer than five minutes each.

### **Required Materials**

CV/Resume: Limit to three pages.

Three Professional References: Complete contact information for references with a deep knowledge of your artwork and work methods. Ex: Commissioning organization, architect, etc.

Statement of Interest: How do your personal style and past projects relate to this project. Describe briefly your interest and concept for this project. Use 500 words or less.



## **Contact**

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