

**KNOXVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
KNOXVILLE, IOWA  
JANUARY 10, 2022**

## **CALL FOR ARTISTS: REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Call Summary**

The Knoxville Public Library (Knoxville, IA) seeks to commission artists or artist teams to design, create, and install custom works of art to be commissioned as part of the library's ongoing Public Art @ the Library program.

This project aims to broaden the reach of the Knoxville Public Library's Art Program by featuring the work of talented Midwest artists, and by offering those artists the unique opportunity to enter into a mutually beneficial art-based marketing campaign. Details are provided below in the **Project Description** section. This program is anticipated to become a bi-annual project.

### **About the Library and City of Knoxville**

The Knoxville Public Library, an original Carnegie Library, reopened its doors to patrons in August of 2019 after a nearly \$4 million Expansion and Renovation Project. The library nearly doubled in size to 18,000 square feet, added a teen area, a fireplace with ample seating, three study rooms, two conference rooms, a large community room with a kitchenette, a separate genealogy department, and more. Funded in large part by a bond issue and private donations, the library expansion project had the enthusiastic support of the community. The result is that the library has truly become a community gathering space. Spacious and beautiful, it is a center for learning, gathering, and relaxation; it is our vision for it to likewise become a center for art.

Established in 2019, the Public Art @ the Library program aims to establish the library as a center for culture and art in the community. Past projects have included offering classes led by a local artist-in-residence, commissioning a mural for the children's storytime room, and creating a gallery space devoted to showcasing the work of local artists.

The residents of Knoxville (a small, rural community in south central Iowa, pop. 7,985) similarly exhibit an enthusiasm for art and community. This past summer, the Iowa Economic Development Authority sponsored a contest, #IowansUnite CommUNITY Pride, in which the winning town would receive a custom mural by Ben Schuh, an Iowa artist. Knoxville residents cast more than 5000 votes, edging out 29 other communities. The vibrant mural is a testament to our community pride, desire to support local business, highlights our racing economy, and celebrates our local history and natural beauty, such as our proximity to Lake Red Rock. Commenting on the completed mural, City of Knoxville Government representatives expressed their "hope [that] this mural is the first of many public art pieces in our community". To that end, the Knoxville Public Library aims to serve as a continual exhibit space for public art that celebrates both our community and the talent of midwest-based artists.

## **Project Description**

*Round 1:* The Knoxville Public Library puts out a *Request for Qualifications* seeking interest from midwest-based artists.

*Round 2 (Semi-Final Round):* From the pool of qualified artists, the selection committee will choose 7-10 artists/teams to submit proposals. Each selected artist/team will receive a \$250 honorarium for their proposal submission, due by April 15, 2022. Detailed submission instructions will be provided when the finalists are contacted.

### *Round 3 (Final Round)*

The selection committee will choose 3-5 artists/teams to be awarded contracts to create and install their custom artwork. Those of the 7-10 who submitted proposals that were not chosen will remain in an alternate pool, should they wish. Artists/teams will be offered a flat fee of up to \$1500 for the commission of their piece. Depending upon the size, scope, and/or intricacies of the finalists' submissions, the flat fee may potentially be increased. Finalists will also enter into a licensing agreement with the potential for additional income.

*Licensing Agreement Requirement:* Selected artists/teams must enter into a licensing agreement which will allow the Knoxville Public Library to market select merchandise and limited print runs of the artwork for a period of time outlined in the final contract (not to exceed one year) after installation. Artists will retain copyright of their artwork outside of this scope, but any artist-produced reproductions must be delayed until 6 months after the end of the Knoxville Public Library's marketing campaign, and cannot include the limited library editions. Artists will then be free to use their artwork for their own personal gain.

*Additional possible income for artists/teams:* During the marketing campaign, 50% of the net reproduction profits will be paid to the artists. In turn, the artist will agree to sign and number prints for the library's marketing campaign, not to exceed a total of 100 pieces.

## **Art Goals/Criteria**

The art committee is interested in commissioning larger pieces of art. For paintings, the average available wall space is for a piece in the 4ft-6ft wide range, with limited space available for pieces up to 9ft wide. Style of art is not limited, nor is medium, though art should be easily removed (e.g., on a panel or a canvas of our specifications). We will also consider proposals for hanging art and/or sculptures, though size and weight considerations will apply. We encourage submissions for artwork that is as accessible to as wide a range of individuals as possible.

In Round 2 (Semi-Final Round), artists who are selected from the Request for Qualifications round will be asked to develop proposals. Those proposals must meet the theme of COMMUNITY, broadly construed. We welcome thought-provoking submissions that are reflective of Iowa's diverse communities, but leave it to the artists to offer their own interpretations of what community means to them.

### **Art Location Description**

Artwork will be hung throughout the lower level and/or stairway of the main library. See select photos of the library at the end of this document.

### **Artist Eligibility**

Midwest-based artists are eligible. We encourage artists from underrepresented communities, groups, demographics, and/or identities to apply. If artists are submitting qualifications as a team, the team should be listed on the application, specifying a team leader to receive notifications.

### **Selection Process**

All decisions about the Art Project will be made by an appointed Art Committee.

### **Project Timeline & Deadlines**

*(dates are subject to change)*

RFQ call released Monday, January 10, 2022

RFQ response due from artists Friday, February 18, 2022

Art Committee meets to select semi-finalists Thursday, March 10, 2022

Semi-Finalists sent a RFP (request for proposal) Monday, March 14, 2022

Proposals due from semi-finalists Friday, April 15, 2022

Art Committee meets to select finalists Thursday, April 28, 2022

Finalists chosen and notified by Monday, May 2, 2022

Art installed early summer 2022

### **Resources for Questions**

Any questions related to this RFQ should be submitted directly to the Knoxville Library using [knoxlib@knoxville.lib.ia.us](mailto:knoxlib@knoxville.lib.ia.us) no later than 5pm on February 16, 2022. Please Include "2022 KPL Public Art" in the subject line. RFQ deadline is 5pm on February 18, 2022.

### **Sources for Additional Information**

City of Knoxville Iowa: <https://knoxvilleia.gov/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/cityofknoxvilleia>

Knoxville Public Library: <https://knoxville.lib.ia.us>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Knoxville-Public-Library-372933920381>

Knoxville Public Library  
213 E. Montgomery St.  
Knoxville, IA 50138

## SUBMISSION PROCEDURE: RFQ STAGE

Artists and teams must apply via email:

Email [knoxlib@knoxville.lib.tn.us](mailto:knoxlib@knoxville.lib.tn.us)

Subject Line: 2022 KPL Public Art RFQ Submission 'Last Name'

Requirements of the RFQ Application:

1. Contact Information:
  - In the body of the email: Provide the artist's first and last name (if applying as a team, list all team members; remaining contact information should be for the designated team contact person); email address; phone #; mailing address.
2. Artist Statement:
  - In the body of the email: Provide a brief artist statement introducing yourself and your art.
3. Artist Resume/CV
  - Email Attachment: Teams should include resumes of all artists combined into a single PDF.
4. Work Samples:
  - Link to an online portfolio **OR** attach a PDF portfolio with images of existing artwork to the Online Application. If applying as an artist team, please identify all artists of the work.

**NO ARTWORK PROPOSALS ARE SUBMITTED AT THIS STAGE.**





