



**St. Louis County Arts and Culture Center (The Depot)
506 West Michigan Street
Duluth, MN 55802**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS: St. Louis County Arts and Culture Center (The Depot) in Duluth, MN
St. Louis County Depot**

Deadline: August 1, 2022 - 4:00pm

About the Project:

Public Art Call for Artist(s)

Total Project Budget:

\$25,800 + insurance costs if required

Budget Description:

Up to three finalists will be selected to develop design concepts for this project. The total project budget for the selected commission is dependent upon the media used in the mural installation. Each finalist will be paid a \$100 honorarium for their design. The selected artist(s) will be paid \$25,500 (paint and/or mosaic) for the commissioned work. The three finalists will be required to present their proposals to Depot Management and St. Louis County Property Management either in person or via Zoom. The selected artist(s) will be responsible for own travel costs, materials, housing, and personal liability insurance when installing the mural.

Project Details:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

St. Louis County Arts and Culture center seeks a large-scale mural or mixed media installation on the 1977 rotunda portion of the building. As a landmark community center that enhances the quality of life for visitors through a diversity of cultural programming, artwork should celebrate and welcome all visitors, enhance the building's visibility, and respond to the concept of **connecting culture**. Abstract, dynamic work is preferred, but figurative work will also be considered.

Mission of The Depot: The St. Louis County Depot is a landmark cornerstone of arts and cultural organizations that entertains, educates, inspires, and provides space for a diverse group of guests. The St. Louis County Depot provides new, engaging experiences; is a destination and a community center; and fosters community through education and entertainment that enhances the quality of life for visitors.

The Depot Vision Statement: To provide welcoming space and foster connections for distinctive educational and cultural activity.

This mural project may take on one of two forms depending upon the capabilities and resources of the selected artist. The mural budget is dependent upon the media used in the installation. Any mosaic additions are not required to be contiguous; they may be scattered throughout the mural, confined to one portion, etc. The remaining sections of the wall that do not include mosaic elements may be painted. Alternatively, the entire mural may be installed using paint only. Portions of the area identified may be left blank, and an artist is encouraged to work with negative space for this project.



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MURAL SITE:

The mural will be installed on the western portion of the building, which houses the Center's Performing Arts wing. It is adjacent to one of two main entrances on Michigan Street and is highly visible from the street. The mural site is across from the Duluth Public library in downtown Duluth. It is near a city bus stop and less than a quarter mile from the Duluth civic center and less than a half mile to the Great Lakes Aquarium, DECC, and waterfront. The upper third of the structure is smooth concrete and the lower two thirds are brick, and the structure is cylindrical.

Additional Criteria: The application of this work must be consistent with public arts best practices, meaning the following: paint must be durable and reasonably cleanable and require minimal maintenance over the span of 15 years. If panels or mosaic are incorporated, application must not interfere with envelope integrity for the building, including weep holes and flashing. St. Louis County Property Management can work with selected artist(s) to identify architectural elements if needed.

Selection Information: Depot staff will review the qualifications of applicant artists and make recommendations. Their selections will be based on the following criteria: • Artistic excellence as demonstrated in 10 digital images of the artist(s) previous work • Evidence of working in the mural field on large masonry surfaces • Experience working on large scale projects • Willingness to meet all contractual guidelines • The use of content appropriate for all audiences

Application Requirements:

- Cover Letter
- Resume
- Contact Information for 3 Professional References
- 10 Images of Previous Artwork
- Insurance Documents:

Artist must either carry insurance required for installation, subcontract with licensed and bonded contractors for installation; or negotiate with St. Louis County to provide funds for provisional insurance for installation.

Please note: Art teams shall submit qualifications under the name of one lead artist. In the cover letter, the lead artist must indicate that they plan to work as part of a team and must list the names of the artist(s) within their team. Art teams shall submit at least 10 images of previous artwork, but they may submit up to 10 images for each team member if desired.

How to Apply:

Send RFQs to DepotRFP@stlouiscountymn.gov

To Learn More About The Depot:

<https://www.experiencethedepot.org/>

For Questions, Please Contact:

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