

Terrace: RIVERTHEATER Concept Sketch

# Public Art Opportunity

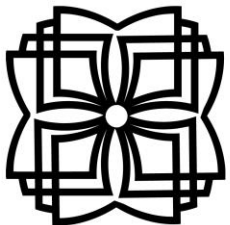


**Rochester Public Library**

**Call for Artists**

**Rundel Library Terrace**

**Date Issued: April 30, 2018**



**Rochester  
Public Library**

**Public Art Opportunity  
for**

**Exterior installation**

**for**

**Rochester Public Library**

**Central Library**

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## **Attachment**

*Appendix A, Rundel Terrace Concept Presentation, February 2018*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Project Title / Location

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Rochester Public Library, Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County  
Rundel Library Terrace Structural Improvements  
City of Rochester, New York

For current information on project progress, please go to the following web site:  
<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/rundelterrace/>

*Two public information sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 12:00pm and 5:00pm in the Kate Gleason Auditorium of the Central Library.*

### Application Due Date

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Applications are to be submitted no later than **2:00pm, Friday, May 25, 2018** to:

Brie Harrison, Library Finance Officer ([brie.harrison@libraryweb.org](mailto:brie.harrison@libraryweb.org))  
Rochester Public Library  
115 South Avenue  
Rochester, New York 14604

### Project Schedule

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It is anticipated that services will commence by August 2018; based on this projection, schedule as follows:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| • Call for Artists distributed              | April 2018              |
| • Deadline for submitting questions         | May 11, 2018            |
| • Deadline for applications                 | May 25, 2018            |
| • Selection Committee finalist notification | by June 8, 2018         |
| • Informational meeting for finalists       | TBD June 2018           |
| • Finalist Interviews                       | early August 2018       |
| • Contract with artist/team                 | by August 31, 2018      |
| • <i>Installation</i>                       | <i>summer/fall 2019</i> |

### Project Budget

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The public art installation budget is \$250,000. Finalists will receive a stipend to prepare concept designs, underwritten by the [Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library](#), a separate charitable 501c3 organization.

### Questions

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Please submit any questions regarding this opportunity by 4:00pm Friday, May 11, 2018 to Brie Harrison, Finance Officer ([brie.harrison@libraryweb.org](mailto:brie.harrison@libraryweb.org)). Answers to questions will be

compiled and made available publicly at <http://www.cityofrochester.gov/rundelterrace/> and <https://roccitylibrary.org/> on or before Wednesday, May 16.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Project Background

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The project shall reconstruct the Rundel north terrace structural concrete and steel framing, slabs, columns and foundations. It will create a new, updated public riverfront terrace and replace the east (South Avenue) sidewalk. Proposed design concepts (Appendix A) incorporate recommendations from City of Rochester planning initiatives, specifically the [Center City Master Plan](#), [Local Waterfront Revitalization Program](#) and [2016 Rose Fellowship initiative](#). The new Rundel terrace will include river viewing platforms, historical and educational interpretive features, public seating, landscaping, a water feature, bicycle amenities, railings, and lighting upgrades.

The public art installation shall be located at the corner of Broad Street and South Avenue. Similar to other major City renovations in the public realm, the selected artist/team will be commissioned to work with the Rundel terrace design team and the Rochester Public Library (RPL) to create a piece that compliments and is coordinated with site design and construction.

Public improvement of the current north terrace, inaccessible today due to structural deterioration, is vital to attract and retain downtown residents and library users. It has potential to infuse new life into Center City and encourage civic and economic vitality. The Rundel terrace project will compliment future proposals for the Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center expansion and civic plaza on Broad Street.

### Project Objectives

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[LaBella Associates](#) and [Bayer Landscape Architecture](#) were retained by the City and RPL in January 2017. Working with a project advisory committee, they are developing a design for the Rundel terrace that draws from the history of the site, its connection to the river, and the civic, intellectual and architectural significance of the Rundel Memorial Library Building. A “river theater” concept plan was presented to the joint RPL and Monroe County Library System Boards of Trustees on February 26, 2018 (Appendix A). City and RPL administration supports this concept as it addresses the following objectives:

- North terrace long-term structural rehabilitation and a complete concrete terrace slab and north/east sidewalk reconstruction.
- Terrace reconstruction not in-kind, but as a new and engaging space that celebrates the RPL and its relationships with surrounding housing, businesses, community civic centers and the public realm.
- The ability for the RPL to actively program the terrace with exhibits and events, to support and extend the RPL’s community dialogue, to tell the history of the Genesee waterfront, and to engage the City at a larger scale.

## **Design Process**

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The current schedule anticipates bid of the Rundel north terrace project in late fall 2018. The selected artist/team will be commissioned in summer 2018 to incorporate their work in the construction plan documents. The RPL shall oversee the public art commissioning process for an artist/team to design, fabricate and install artwork for the Rundel terrace. The Professional Services Agreement with the artist shall be administered by the RPL, approved by the Rochester Public Library Board of Trustees as well as Rochester City Council. While work is under the direction of the RPL, LaBella and Bayer shall be charged to work directly with the artist/team to ensure the public art installation is structurally feasible and aesthetically/programmatically integrated in the “river theater” plan.

The art installation objectives should highlight the historical significance of the site and Rundel building, the Genesee River adjacency, the architectural, spatial and civic relationships at the site, and the site’s role in contributing to the vibrancy of Center City. Consideration will also be given to recognizing the symmetry and balance within the terraces, in relation to the Rundel Memorial Building’s architectural design. Lastly, the installation should reflect the use of the site as a Central Library serving the greater Rochester region.

Design shall be reviewed and ultimately approved by the RPL, with consultation and recommendation from LaBella, Bayer and City of Rochester.

## **ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### **Organizational Overview**

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The RPL has a sustained presence and broad footprint in the Rochester community since its founding in 1911. Annually the RPL sees approximately 500,000 visitors at its Central Library and nearly one million visits at 10 branch locations within the City of Rochester. The RPL is governed by an 11-member Board of Trustees, appointed by Rochester City Council.

The RPL’s Mission is *to engage the community in life-long learning for all through equal access to information, technology, gathering spaces and expert staff*. The RPL considers public libraries to be community anchors that address economic, education, and health disparities in the communities they serve. Services and additional information are detailed on the RPL’s website [www.roccitylibrary.org](http://www.roccitylibrary.org).

### **Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County**

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The Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County, under RPL operation, serves the broader community of Monroe County, with a regional service population of 738,000. The Central Library also functions as the hub of the [Monroe County Library System](#), administering services to RPL city branch libraries and 22 Monroe County town libraries. The Central Library provides information, educational and cultural materials and library resources for all ages and interests. Central is comprised of two buildings; the original

Rundel Memorial Library Building, opened in 1936, is approximately 120,000 square feet. It houses the RPL's literature, arts, local history and genealogy, and administrative operations. The Bausch & Lomb Library Building, opened in 1997, is 210,000 square feet and houses the building's business, science, children's, teen and media collections. In addition to collections, Central Library also acts as a Federal document repository, job information center, patent research center, and houses various health and social outreach services to at-risk populations.

The Rundel Memorial Library Building, the focus of the project and art installation site, was built in 1936 as a Federal Works Progress Administration project. It sits directly above the original bed of the Erie Canal, later occupied by the Rochester Industrial & Rapid Transit Railway (subway) from 1927-1956. The Johnson and Seymour mill race, circa 1817, still flows beneath the Rundel building and serves the cooling system for the building. The City of Rochester has owned and utilized the building for the RPL since inception.

The Rundel building and features a series of sub-basement openings where water from the mill race cascades to the river. Following the end of subway service for the City, this area was abandoned and for decades has been a place for open art around the terrace foundation system that interfaces with the surrounding streets (Court Street, South Avenue), mill raceway, and the former Erie Canal Aqueduct (Broad Street). The Rundel building is an iconic structure for the City, providing an [ongoing inspirational](#) backdrop and cultural touchpoint.

## **History of Place**

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*Appendix A* demonstrates design attention to the Rundel building and its site history, programmatic importance and location as a downtown anchor. The site is unique to Rochester given its layers of industrial development and connection to water through the Genesee River, Johnson Seymour mill race and Erie Canal Aqueduct. The Rundel terrace project serves to promote heritage tourism as well as demonstrate the economic, educational and community benefits gained from establishing preservation districts and preserving significant historic cultural resources.

The Rundel building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in October 1985 (Reference No. 85002845) and on the State Registry in August 1985. It is incorporated in the Inner Loop Multiple Resource Area, a collection of 132 of the most notable and significant architectural landmarks in the Rochester region from 1817 to 1939.

The Rundel building itself holds significant, irreplaceable assets that represent the rich history of the Rochester region. [The Local History and Genealogy Division](#) of the Central Library, located on the second floor of the Rundel building, maintains the premier collection of local historical and genealogical materials in western New York. The collection includes materials, in a number of formats, which deal with the history of Rochester and the Genesee Valley. The Division, under the direction of the [Rochester City Historian's Office](#), conducts activities and projects to support local preservation and historical interpretation initiatives, including programmatic support of the Rundel terrace project.

## SUBMISSION & SELECTION PROCESS

### Required Submission Materials

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Please provide the following in digital format only:

- a. Contact information for lead artist and all team members.
- b. Three references (contact information only) for recently completed projects, including at least one project with a public art budget of \$200,000 or more
- c. A one-page letter describing interest in project and approach to design; include a statement addressing eligibility criteria
- d. No more than three pages listing each work sample, each given brief description, location and budget
- e. Biographical information or resume for artist and team members
- f. Work samples: up to ten (10) digital images of your recent projects (each file should not exceed 1 MB), submitted as standard .jpeg and labeled as artist and work title.
- g. Do not submit a proposal for an artwork at this time.

### Selection Process

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Artist/team applications will be pre-screened by RPL administration to ensure applicants have submitted all required submission materials. The Art Selection Committee includes members of the Rochester arts community, City of Rochester planning and architecture staffs, neighborhood representatives and representatives of Rochester City Council and RPL. The Committee will review eligible applications and select a group of up to three finalists to submit proposals with preliminary concepts. Finalist teams will be paid a stipend of \$1,500 to prepare a concept design.

Finalist proposals should include a graphic depiction of the proposed artwork, schedule for design, fabrication and installation, material specifications, preliminary installation methods and budget. Additional requirements will be outlined in the June finalist informational meeting. Finalists will have approximately five weeks to prepare preliminary concepts, and will be required to attend an interview with the selection committee as part of the proposal evaluation process.

### Selection Criteria

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*Selection of finalists will be based on the following criteria:*

- Quality of letter, demonstrating understanding of project
- Quality of work samples
- Ability of artist/team to complete project based on resume and work experience

*Selection of art project proposed by finalists will be based on the following criteria:*

- Project celebrates and explores the unique history of place, culture and relationship to water
- Project conveys artistic excellence and has a broad, timeless appeal
- Project creates a welcoming setting that associates the work with the mission of the Rochester Public Library
- Project is designed for a publicly visible and accessible area; durability of the work is apparent relative to theft, vandalism and the environment
- Project is considered complimentary to overall design, and will provide similar level of low-maintenance as the full Rundel terrace installation

*Additional considerations for finalists:*

- The work will be welcoming, accessible and appropriate to the site
- Artist/team involves community members in the process
- The original work will help to establish the Central Library as a premier destination
- The work recognizes the Rundel Memorial Building's architectural design