



## **Request for Qualifications Percent for Art / Oregon Supreme Court Building Salem, Oregon**

Through the Oregon Arts Commission's Art in Public Places Program, the Oregon Judicial Department seeks to commission interior artwork for the Oregon Supreme Court Building. Artists are invited to submit their qualifications for consideration. The RFQ solicitation and selection process is to be inclusive, encouraging a diverse selection of artists to apply, including women; artists from communities of color; LGBTQ+; and emerging artists.

Eligibility: Regional, national and international artists and artist teams are eligible to apply.

Deadline: Materials must be submitted by **Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5 p.m.**

Budget: **\$245,000**, potentially for multiple commissions. Budget is inclusive of design fees, fabrication, insurance, shipping, travel, installation, documentation and any other project costs.



Photo above and text in paragraph below are from Hennebery Eddy Architects.

**The Oregon Supreme Court Building**, completed in 1914, is the state's oldest government building. It is the home of Oregon's judicial branch of government. The Oregon Supreme Court and Court of Appeals hear oral arguments in the building's historic courtroom, and the Supreme Court offices and the State Law Library are

housed there. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Oregon Supreme Court Building is currently undergoing an interior modernization and seismic retrofit to improve building functionality, performance, and safety. The three-story, Classical Revival-style building features terra cotta, marble, and mahogany, with an abundance of classical detailing, a grand staircase, and an historically significant stained-glass skylight in the courtroom. When complete, the modernization will provide a safer, more accessible work environment for staff and judges of Oregon's appellate courts and members of the public who attend court hearings and use the State Law Library.

## **Art Locations**

The Percent for Art selection committee has proposed specific locations that would be best suited for art installations within the historical building, which is considered by many to itself be a work of art. Artists are invited to consider site-specific artworks for the grand staircase walls, the floor area in a portion of the courtroom, and/or the large side walls in the courtroom. See the final pages of this document for more information and images. A few smaller locations not highlighted in the RFQ are also open for consideration, finalists will be given a full building tour.

## **Themes, Values, and Goals**

The mission of the Oregon Judicial Department is “to provide fair and accessible justice services that protect the rights of individuals, preserve community welfare, and inspire public confidence.”

The Supreme Court Building embodies the ideal of equal justice under the law for all, regardless of personal characteristics or political affiliation. It symbolizes the whole of the Oregon Judicial Department, which includes the appellate judges and staff who work in the building, as well as the trial court judges and staff who provide justice services and protect the rights of Oregonians across the state.

### *Values and Goals to Guide Artwork Development*

The art should:

- make people feel comfortable, welcome, and protected in their rights;
- be socially inclusive;
- be timeless, able to weather potential shifting social considerations;
- create a warm atmosphere; and
- respect the history and construction of the building, though it is not required to be historical in nature.

In addition, artists should consider using sustainable and/or low environmental impact materials and processes when possible.

## **Eligibility**

This RFQ is open to all artists and artist teams. Finalists will be selected based on the artist’s portfolio, experience, and letter of interest. Past use of community collaboration strategies and participation are a plus but not required for selection. Artist teams should have proven experience that demonstrates their professional qualifications working together as a team. Artists living in Oregon are encouraged to apply.

## **Selection Criteria**

Responses to this RFQ will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- artistic merit and technical quality of body of work;
- strong professional qualifications;
- demonstrated ability to work within a given budget and timeframe;
- demonstrated ability to work with a diverse professional team (architects, engineers, curators, construction teams, etc.); and
- compatibility with the mission of Oregon Judicial Department and with the goals outlined in this RFQ.

## Selection Process

- Phase 1 - A selection committee appointed for this project will review applications and select a shortlist of finalists for a proposal process. The selection committee consists of nine voting members who are building users, community and agency representatives, and arts professionals.
- Phase 2 – Shortlisted finalists will receive an artist fee of 1% of the commission budget per artist/artist team to create a design proposal (ex: if commission budget is full \$245,000, proposal fee would be \$2,450). Artists will attend a project orientation meeting, and produce proposals which will include: concept narrative, schematics (2D and/or 3D), and estimated budget and timeline. Finalists will present their proposals to the committee.

## Application Materials

- **Letter of interest.** As a PDF file named with “artist’s last name, first initial, letter” (doejletter.pdf). Please provide a short letter describing your interest in this project and how your artwork and art-making process would be a good fit for it. If you are an emerging artist or are desiring to expand your art practice to include public art, please discuss this and how this project could positively impact your professional growth.
- **Resume.** As a PDF file named with “artist’s last name, first initial, resume” (doejresume.pdf). Two pages maximum. For teams, include resumes of each team member. Please include your complete contact info: street address, phone number, email.
- **Image List.** As a PDF file named with “artist’s last name, first initial, list” (doejlist.pdf). Provide project title, location, cost/budget, date completed, media, dimensions, commissioning agency, project partners, and brief description of the project/conceptual information.
- **Images.** As jpg files named as follows: “artist’s last name, first initial, number that corresponds to the image information on the image list” (doej01.jpg). Up to ten images of past work. File size: minimum 1200 pixels on the longest side and 5 MB maximum.

## How to Submit Materials

To be considered for this opportunity, submit all required materials by 5pm on **Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. Materials must be submitted to the following Dropbox folder:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/lpHgJEP1tnKyka4s2wpy>

Click on link above or type the URL into your search engine’s search bar. Click on plus sign to add your files or drag and drop them into the folder. To submit your files another way or if you have any questions, contact Peg Butler at [pegbutlerart@gmail.com](mailto:pegbutlerart@gmail.com).

Artists selected to the 2020-2022 Oregon Artist Roster may use Roster application materials for this opportunity, with the addition of a letter of interest specific to this project. Please email your letter to [pegbutlerart@gmail.com](mailto:pegbutlerart@gmail.com) and mention that you’d like your Roster materials to be used.

## Tentative Schedule

Mid May, 2021	Artist shortlist selection
Early June, 2021	Artist orientation
August, 2021	Artist proposal presentations
September, 2021	Artist contracted
Fall, 2022	Artwork Installation

## EXAMPLES OF EXISTING DECORATIVE FEATURES IN THE BUILDING



Stained-glass skylight in courtroom originally created by Povey Brothers Art Glass Works in 1914.



View looking down the grand stairway with a view of the marble steps and detailed handrails.

**SOME POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR NEW ARTWORK**

On the following pages is general information about some of the larger area options for art locations. Shortlisted artists will attend a site orientation and learn more about the building and possible locations and have access to more detailed information.

**The Grand Stairway**

The Supreme Court Building has three floors. On the north side of the building is the grand stairway which spans all three floors. The walls are curved, and the ones from the third floor to the second are continuous, with approximate dimensions being 18 feet wide by 20-25 feet high. The Walls between the second and first floors are distinct from the upper floors with approximate dimensions being 18 feet wide by 9.5 feet high. Artwork could be sited on both sides of the stairway.



Central Staircase - Levels 1 thru 3



First floor view looking at grand stairway and north entrance. The public enters on the other side of the building at the south entrance.



Second floor view looking out from the Law Library to the grand stairway. The stairway walls reaching up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor are continuous. The walls reaching from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor are distinct.



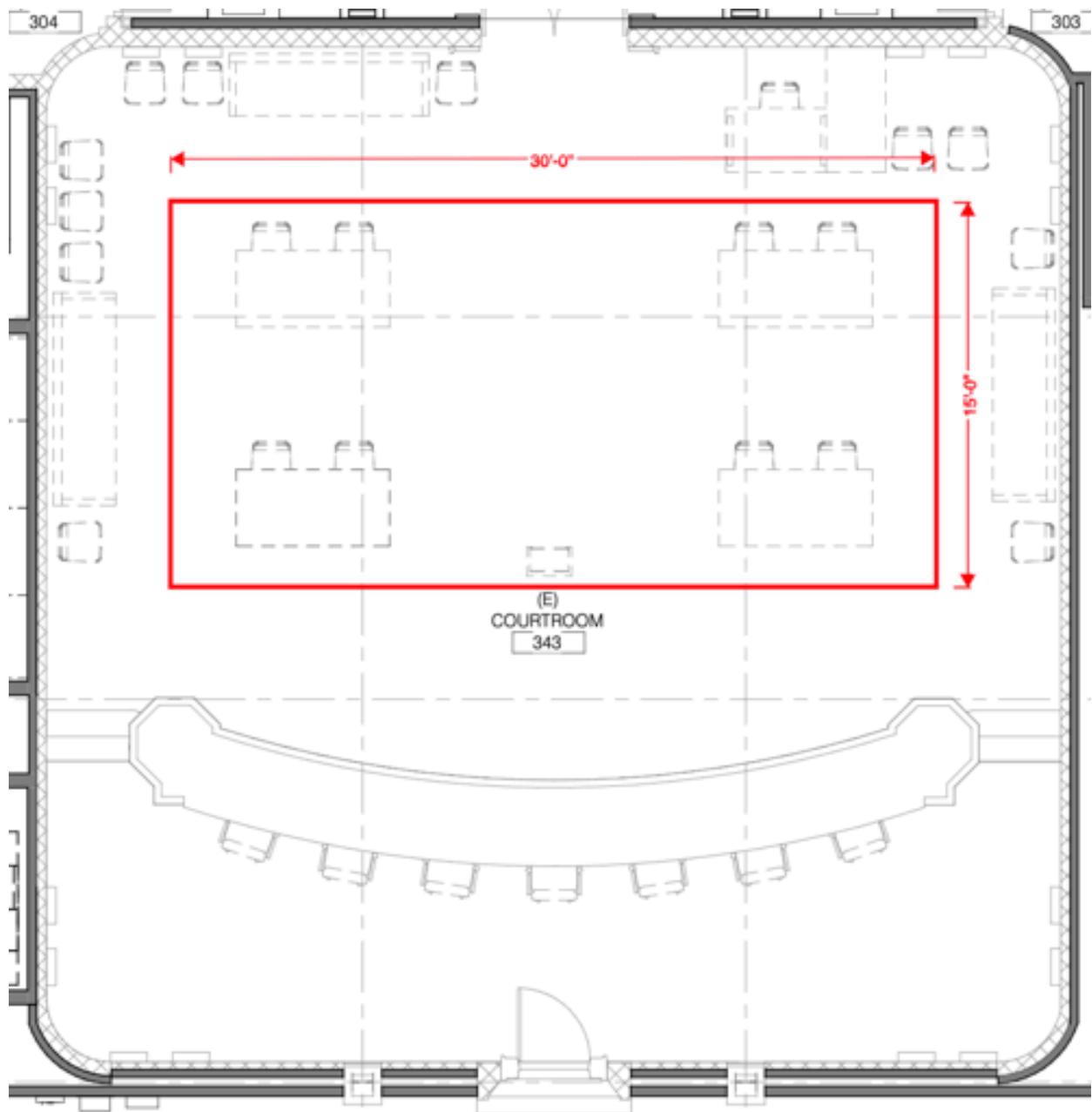
Third floor view looking north toward the grand stairway. These stairway walls are continuous, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**The Courtroom**

The carpet in the courtroom is to be removed. Under the carpet is a cork floor that will be restored. One option for an artwork is for an artist to design and fabricate a floor covering for the area where attorneys and clients sit. The word “covering” is used, rather than rug or carpet, to allow for the possibility of artists suggesting innovative material options.



Photo: In courtroom looking toward judges' bench. Photo shows carpet prior to removal. Walls on left and right with sconces are also available for artists' consideration. Approximate wall dimensions are 25 feet wide by 11 feet high. The yellow wall color will be updated to be a lighter, more neutral white. (Notice decorative stained-glass skylight partially visible above).



Plan view of courtroom with possible dimensions of floor covering. Diagram by Hennebery Eddy Architects.