

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS - URBANA -CHAMPAIGN

Natural History Building Art in Architecture Program

Request for Artwork

Erika Lee, Interior Designer/Planner

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REQUEST FOR ARTWORK

The Art in Architecture (AiA) Program of the University of Illinois is pleased to announce a Request for Artwork (RFA) to professional artists to create permanent original public art at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in Urbana, Illinois, for the recently completed renovation of the Natural History Building.

Project Name: Natural History Building (NHB)
Project Number: U20128
Submission Deadline: April 3, 2023, at 4:00 P.M.

ELIGIBILITY

This RFA solicitation for public art is open to all professional artists, artisans, or artist-led teams currently residing and legally permitted to work in the United States.

Faculty, instructors, and staff of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as well as degree seeking fine art students are not eligible to apply.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Art in Architecture committee is seeking to procure a globe sculpture for the interior of the north entry of the Natural History Building (NHB), a historic building on campus.

The Natural History Building serves as the home of the School of Earth, Society, and Environment (SESE), and serves as the main teaching facility of the School of Integrative Biology (SIB). The components of these academic units are:

- SESE: The School of Earth, Society & Environment hosts three academic departments (Dept. of Atmospheric Sciences; Dept. of Geography & GIS; and Dept. of Geology). In addition, SESE anchors a fourth undergraduate major in Earth, Society & Environmental Sustainability, an interdisciplinary degree in environmental studies. For more information about the School of Earth, Society & Environment, please see: <https://www.earth.illinois.edu/departments>
- SIB: Departments in the SIB seek to discover the complex interrelationships among living organisms and the physical and biological environment in which they live. This is the "new biology," with an emphasis on bringing multiple disciplines to bear on complex scientific questions. For students, this emphasis leads to a deep understanding of biology and its interrelationships. For more information about the School of Integrative Biology, please see: <https://www.sib.illinois.edu>.

The Natural History Building, located at 1301 West Green Street, Urbana, was designed by the prominent architect, Nathan Ricker, and was constructed in three phases between 1892 and 1924. Its exterior facade of red brick has a Victorian look. The building is officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The NHB Renovation and Construction Project, which took 7 years and cost nearly \$79 Million, involved a complete gutting and reconstruction of the building's interior. The 156,000 sq. ft. building now hosts state-of-the-art lecture halls, instructional labs, classrooms, research laboratories, and offices. These serve all components of the three academic departments of SESE, and the teaching components of SIB.

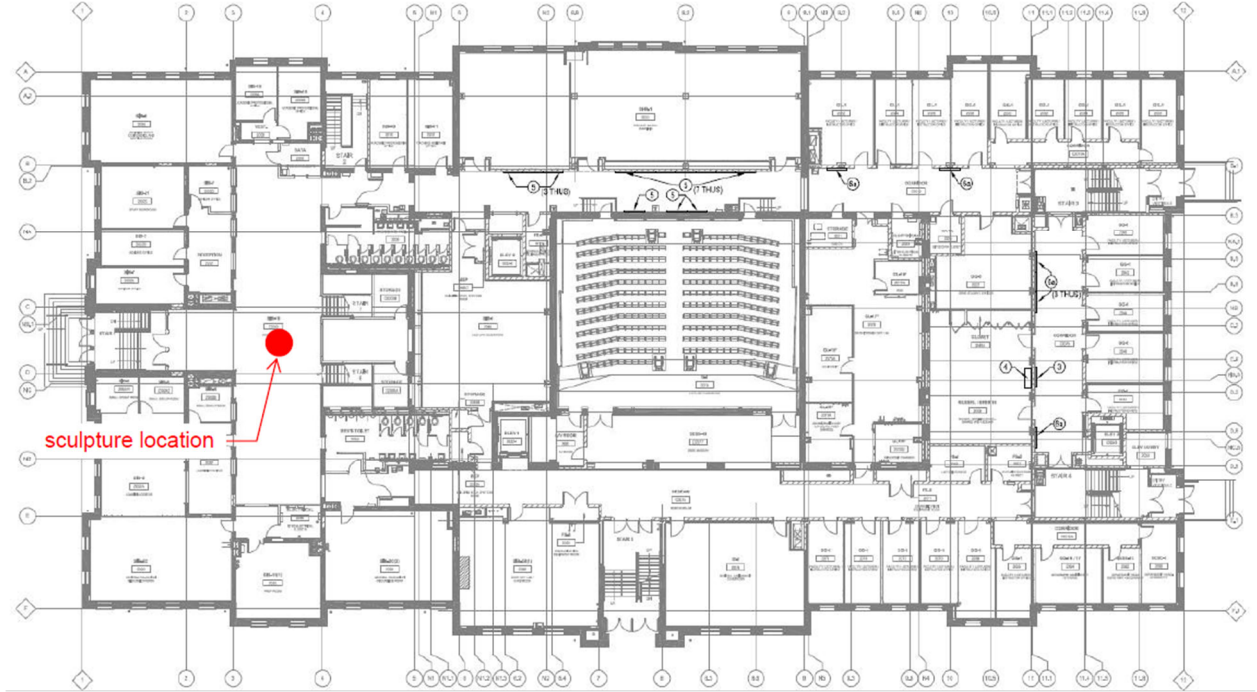
Because of the nature of the academic activities that take place in the building, the committee is seeking to procure a sculpture of the earth which shall depict and communicate in a realistic, naturalistic, or even abstract way, an aspect of the geological and biologic history.

ARTISTIC OBJECTIVES

The committee has created the objectives for a specific area to complement both the building and its uses. The Art in Architecture Committee has chosen an interior location within the north building entry as the site for this sculpture.

The School of Earth, Society and Environment, together with the School of Integrative Biology do research on Earth and Earth processes, including the biosphere (the plants and animals), the geosphere (the solid earth, its continents, oceans and mountains), the atmosphere (weather, storms, and climate), and human society (social science, geography, and geographic information. The objective for this globe sculpture is to depict on it these four components: weather and storms, continents, mountains and oceans, human society (cities, farmland), and living things (rainforests, animals etc.). The vision is to be able to identify these components when admiring this globe sculpture.

Location site plan:



Map View

Location photos:











Medium: The three-dimensional, floor-mounted sculpture, should consist of a material to be suitable for a high traffic area. It should be made of material that can last indefinitely.

BUDGET DETAILS

The budget for the artwork is approximately \$40,000. The Art in Architecture committee shall select an artist for the commission from the artists submitting letters of interest and examples of their works. Following that selection, the artist will submit a proposal to the committee to develop and execute the commission.

The budget includes all expenses associated with, but not limited to the design proposals, design, labor, fabrication, project management, materials, tools, contracted services, operations and meetings, travel required to complete the artwork plus installation, related permits, licenses, taxes, insurance, transportation and delivery of the work to the site, as well as documentation of the completed project. Any expense

that exceeds the contracted amount will be the artist's responsibility.

If special installation requirements are needed for large and/or complex pieces, the artist is responsible for working with the University of Illinois Facilities & Services, Art-in-Architecture Program, the using agency, and other relevant partners to oversee all aspects of the installation.

SELECTION PROCESS

Artists/teams may submit their work for consideration as defined below. The artist or team that is selected to produce the custom artwork will be notified by the Art in Architecture coordinator. Do not send a proposal unless contacted by the coordinator.

LEGAL AGREEMENT

The University of Illinois Art in Architecture Program reserves the right to alter any aspect of the selection process or overall project in any way for its own convenience at any time. This Request for Artwork does not constitute either an expressed or implied contract and these provisions are subject to change.

HOW TO APPLY

Artists, artisans, and artist-led teams interested in the project should e-mail the following:

- **Resume** (if a team. one for each member) with current contact information. including: Name, Address, Phone, E-mail, Website (if available)
- **Artist Statement/letter of Intent**
- **Up to 15 JPEG images** of examples of the artist's artwork.
- **References** of at least three professionals (commissioning agency or organization. design or arts professional. architect. landscape architect. engineer. etc.) who have a detailed knowledge of the artist's work and working methods. Include contact name, complete address, telephone number, and e-mail for each reference.

Please Note:

All submittals become property of the University of Illinois Art in Architecture Program. The artist retains copyright.

HOW AND WHERE TO SUBMIT

Interested artists must send the artwork materials by:

- April 3, 2023 at 4:00 P.M

Submissions received after this date will be kept for review for other Art in Architecture projects. Application materials may be delivered by:

- E-mail, to: fandsartinarch@mx.uillinois.edu

QUESTIONS

Contact: Erika Lee at: erikalee@uillinois.edu

ABOUT THE ART IN ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

The Resolution for an Art in Architecture Policy approved by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees on January 20, 2011, established a policy for all new building and major remodeling projects requiring Board approval, to devote 0.5% of the construction budget to securing works of art that shall be placed within public areas at the project site.

END REQUEST FOR ARTWORK