Northmont Branch Library Project Details for Artists

A Dayton Metro Library RFP for Artwork

Open To: Regional Artists (250-mile radius of Dayton, OH)

Commission Amount: $35,000 is budgeted for all artworks at this Branch

Entry Open Date: August 14, 2021

Entry Deadline: October 25, 2021

Commissions Announced: November 2021

Project Completion: August 2022

Project Summary: The Dayton Metro Library (DML) and The Dayton Art Institute (DAI) seek to commission site-specific pieces of artwork for one or more spaces in the Northmont Branch Library with a targeted opening of September 2022.

Artists are invited to propose newly created artworks conceived in response to the two artworks below, held in the DAI’s permanent collection. The inspiration pieces were selected from the results of voting by community members, and particularly patrons of the Northmont Branch, on two favorites of six DAI artworks. Artists may develop a response to one or both artworks. Any aspect can be utilized as source material for the submission (color, material, style, content, context, composition, etc.). From the submissions, the DML ReImagining Works Committee will select the winning artists, who will meet with DML and DAI staff, architects, and construction representatives to confirm plans for the commission. The artists will be required to sign a Letter of Agreement and complete the work by August of 2022.
Inspiration Pieces selected from the permanent collection of the DAI

Kenneth Noland (1924 - 2010) American, **Nightwood**, 1964, Acrylic on canvas, 45 x 45 inches, Museum purchase, 1967.95

Kenneth Noland studied art at Black Mountain college with one of the leading Geometric abstractionists working in America in the late 1940’s: Joseph Albers. *Nightwood*, in its purity, optical effects and color relationships owes much to this background. Color was a primary concern for Noland and the chevron motif was – like the circle motif that preceded it- a neutral vehicle for his exploration of color.

Noland’s exposure to the stained canvases of Helen Frankenthaler was influential in how he worked with large areas of color poured directly onto raw canvas. Color, shape and canvas became united as a singular expressive medium.

**Why was this work selected?** The three painted stripes remind us of Clayton, Union and Englewood; the three communities the new Northmont library will serve. The technique of pouring paint directly on the raw canvas was an innovative technique employed by Noland. This allowed the paint and the substrate (canvas) to become one unit. (The Northmont area includes West Milton where the Lightning Rod was invented.)

Clara Driscoll (1861-1944) American, Manufactured by Tiffany Studios (1880-1939) American, **Dragonfly Lamp**, around 1910, Leaded glass and bronze, Museum purchase with funds provided by the James F. Dicke family in honor of David and Lynn Goldberg, 2001.48

The *Dragonfly Lamp* was one of Tiffany Studios’ most successful works. It’s design, conceived by Clara Driscoll, won a prize at the 1900 Exposition Universelle in Paris. The lamp epitomizes Tiffany’s Art Nouveau aesthetic of simplified, organic forms and harmonious, vibrant colors.
Driscoll was born in Tallmadge, Ohio and began working for Tiffany in 1887 and by 1904 was one of the highest paid women in America. The *Dragonfly Lamp* is probably her best-known design.

**Why was this work selected?** The 200-acre nature sanctuary, Aullwood Audubon Farm is one among many beautiful parks located in this area where one can take in all that nature has to offer including dragonflies. Tiffany studios created many innovative designs in the world of studio glass. This work is also interesting in that it wasn’t until scholars studied the correspondence of Clara Driscoll that she was given credit for this design as well as many others created under the Tiffany brand. Moreover, the “Tiffany Girls” (as Clara called them) in the Women’s Glass Cutting Department also had significant influence over the final appearance of these objects: they had the freedom to choose the colors and types of glass used and could modify each lamp as needed. Such revelations help amend the deep-rooted masculine bias in art history that long failed to record the name of female artists and considered women’s art inferior. A fascinating story!

**Architectural rendering of the new Northmont Branch Library to be located at 700 W. National Rd. in Englewood, Ohio 45322**
Ruetschle architects have shared a video of the building rendering that you can view at [https://youtu.be/wkoty_UBt8c](https://youtu.be/wkoty_UBt8c). The new building will be 19,839 square feet.

**Artistic Goals of the Project:** The architectural design employs geometric expression with a warm and cozy interior. Designated children, teen, and adult areas fan off from the central marketplace, which is light-filled, open and spacious. The new building encourages pedestrian travel and positions the library as a community “living room” – a place to interact, share, and connect. The new Branch will offer more amenities including: a quiet reading room, a dedicated teen space, a larger children’s area, study rooms, an information common and an after-hours accessible community meeting room.

**Proposed artworks** should reflect the distinctive personality of this location; resonate with people of all ages and backgrounds, inspire collaboration, learning and creativity; and contribute to an inviting, engaging, and stimulating environment. The committee welcomes, but in no way, requires submissions that relate to the mission of Dayton Metro Library or that may provide a springboard for educational programming and/or current or future collaborative learning opportunities.
Practical Considerations: The artwork must be durable and easily maintained. Some potential locations for artwork will be accessible to Library patrons. Five locations for artwork are shown on the attached renderings from Ruetschle Architects along with their dimensions. Dimensions are given to show the maximum size possible for the work. Architectural plans are still subject to revision.

Submissions: Proposals will only be accepted electronically, in the form of a single pdf of no more than 10 pages and no more than 10 MB. Proposals must include the following and be organized in the order below with pages numbered.

1. A sketch and narrative explanation of the proposed artwork
2. Explanation of relationship between DAI inspiration art and proposed artwork
3. Size range for suggested location with maximum budget including installation costs
4. Four to six images of completed artwork, preferably of similar scale and material, including title, media and size
5. Brief artist’s CV or biography (2 pages maximum) including artist contact information (email address, phone)

Additional Information
Susan Anable is The Dayton Art Institute’s project manager for ReImagining Works. She will hold an informational meeting for artists on Saturday, August 21 at 11:00 AM at the DAI. Ruetschle architecture firm will be there to review the building plans and answer questions. This is a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of the building space with the art locations and to see the DAI inspiration pieces in person! All attendees must wear masks and socially distance.

Additionally, Susan will schedule individual phone calls with artists on Monday, August 23 between 4:00 and 6:00 pm.

R.S.V.P. for the meeting and/or schedule a time to discuss your proposal or ask questions by emailing sanable@daytonart.org

Please note that if you have specific questions about your project prior to the DAI meeting feel free to email Susan at sanable@daytonart.org.

The following are architectural renderings of each of the possible art locations listed in order of priority.