Huber Heights 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: $45,000 is budgeted for all artworks at this Branch

Entry Open Date: July 5, 2022

Entry Deadline: August 31, 2022

Commissions Announced: September 2022

Project Completion: April 2023

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 Huber Heights Branch Library with a targeted opening of May 2023.

Artists are invited to propose newly created artworks conceived in response to the three 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 Huber Heights Branch, on three favorites of six DAI artworks. Artists may develop a response to one or more of the pieces. Any aspect can be used 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 by October of 2022 and complete the work by April 2023.

INSPIRATION PIECES SELECTED FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION OF THE DAI

Bozo people (Mali), Antelope Head Puppet, 20th century, Paint, wood, iron, and rubber, 26 1/2 inches, Museum purchase, 1998.94

This is a rod puppet, which would be used behind a screen or on a large mobile stage. Brightly colored figures would be used to act out plots and give messages of leadership, heroism and community relationships. The boundaries between secular and sacred performances are not always clear. In both private religious ceremonies and public spectacles, displays of art lead communities to reflect upon their values and their history.

Why this was chosen: In West Africa, the puppet theatre is still one of the most beautiful legacies of tradition. These venerated objects were used in religious ceremonies and rituals. Over time puppets were also used as objects of education and entertainment – like their use in the United States. Puppet theatre offers another way to tell a story.
Chinese, Eastern Han dynasty (25-220), Watchtower, 2nd century Earthenware with green glaze, 44 1/2 x 13 1/2 x 16 inches, Museum purchase in recognition of all The Dayton Art Institute volunteers and in special memory of Kit Johnston, 1992.18

In preparation for a spirit's journey into the afterlife, ancient Chinese furnished their tombs with foods, figurines, and models of objects used during their lifetime. As a lookout for defense or entertainment, this four-story model represents a freestanding watchtower built within an estate. The bird on top of the tower is an auspicious omen, one of the four animals symbolizing the four cardinal directions in cosmology. The architectural details -- brackets supporting heavy roofs, latticed windows above the doors, rosette finials and tiles on the roofs, represent the advanced architectural development of second century China.

Why this was chosen: This Watchtower is made from earthenware -- the same material that makes bricks. The model demonstrates the advanced architectural design of the era, including the tall height of the actual watchtower. The new Library will standout for its architectural design. This artwork also connects to Huber Heights’ legacy of brick homes and the reference to height in the city’s name.

Mary Forrer Peirce (1838–1929) American, Growing Flowers, 1869, Oil on canvas, 24 x 20 ¼ inches, The Dayton Art Institute, Gift of Suzanne Jordan Morris through her sister, Jean Jordan Phillips, 1942.33

Ohio native Mary Forrer Peirce studied painting at the Cooper Institute in New York in 1860. After travelling and studying in Europe, Peirce returned to Dayton where she steadily gained a reputation as an accomplished painter and teacher. She is best known for her landscape and nature scenes as seen here. Peirce also founded and was an active member of Dayton's Decorative Arts Society.

Why this was chosen: The Dayton Metro Library holds the Forrer-Peirce-Wood collection which includes the personal correspondence of our artist Mary Forrer Peirce who was an active contributor to the Dayton art community. The painting illustrates flowers that are native to the Midwest and could be found throughout the Huber Heights area.
Huber Heights will be the final project of the Libraries for a Smarter Future facilities upgrade. It will be the second largest Branch in the Dayton Metro Library system. Situated on Brandt Pike and Miami Valley Way, the building will take advantage of a natural slope on the site to create a unique space for casual gatherings with tiered seating for performances. The Library will be light-filled, open and spacious with a variety of meeting and study spaces as well as designated children, teen, and adult areas. The building will be an anchor in the City of Huber Heights’ plan to redevelop the area around the former Marion Plaza.
There are two possible configurations for Artwork Location 1: Marketplace South

Artwork Location 1-A

Artwork Location 1-B
Artwork Location 2: Marketplace West

Artwork Location 3: Quiet Reading Room
Artwork Location 4: Community Room

Artwork Location 5: Marketplace North
**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 LWC 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. A concise resume including **artist contact information (email address, phone)**

**Additional Information**
Susan Anable is The Dayton Art Institute’s project manager for ReImagining Works. She is available for individual phone calls with artists to discuss any specific questions about the project.

**R.S.V.P.** to schedule a time to discuss your proposal or ask questions by emailing
sanable@daytonart.org