

Call for Artists/ Request for Proposals
Geneva Public Library District, Geneva, IL

Issued: February 7, 2024

Submittals due by: 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time, March 22, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Trustees of the Geneva Public Library District (GPLD) is seeking to commission a site-specific permanent public sculpture for placement at the primary entrance on the south side of the building. The sculpture will be funded by a generous grant received from the Friends of the Geneva Public Library.

BACKGROUND

Geneva Public Library is located 40 miles west of downtown Chicago on the Fox River in Kane County, Illinois. In July 2020, the District completed a building project and relocated to a newly designed 57,000 square foot facility at 227 South 7th Street in Geneva, IL. The library serves a population of 32,791 residents.

The library is a vibrant community hub that welcomes more than 200,000 visitors per year and serves residents of all ages and stages of life. The library provides engaging spaces to play, study, and work. In addition to traditional collections and resources, the library showcases exciting indoor and outdoor play areas for children, a DIY Workshop for crafters and makers, and a studio for multimedia production hobbyists. A robust lineup of educational programming is offered at the library and the library serves as a destination for local residents and surrounding communities.

Geneva prides itself on having a strong sense of community, strengthened by a number of volunteer-led organizations working on behalf of community interests. One such group is the Friends of the Geneva Public Library. The Friends give countless hours in support of the library, collecting and sorting donations of books and other materials for their eagerly anticipated book sales. Revenue from their sales directly supports library programs, services, and building

enhancements, and it is a grant from the Friends group that is funding this sculpture commission.

The library is in a residential neighborhood within the Historical District of charming downtown Geneva. The building features a modern design that incorporates references to the history of Geneva including the community's Swedish heritage as seen in the silhouette of a Viking ship on the uppermost floor. The building is organic in form and clad in earth toned terracotta tile imported from Portugal and Sweden. Outdoor spaces and references to nature are integrated throughout the design to break down the building's mass and reflect residential building elements such as the porches, backyards, and gardens seen in the historic homes that surround the library. The library has a growing public art collection, including a traditional bronze sculpture of Shakespeare's Nick Bottom, a site-specific contemporary work constructed of Corten steel, and a whimsical interactive garden sculpture adjacent to the playground. Please Exhibit section below for further details.

The sculpture will be installed near the primary entrance to the building. It will be seen and enjoyed from a variety of vantage points, primarily by visitors entering the library from the parking lot. Lighting for the sculpture is already in place and the sculpture will be placed in front of a large expanse of wall, so artists may consider the interplay of light and shadow when the sculpture is viewed at night. Other utilities could be made available at the location of the sculpture if desired by the artist and incorporated into the total project budget.

PROJECT BUDGET: UP TO \$50,000

Budget is inclusive of all fees and expenses including but not limited to artists' fees, contractor insurance, labor, and equipment to design and fabricate artwork and related signage, installation and everything needed for installation (i.e. base and/or utilities if needed) of the artwork, travel costs (including any and all site visits) for the artist and installation team, etc.

PROJECT TIMELINE (ANTICIPATED)

- Request for proposals issued: February 7, 2024
- Deadline for submitting proposals: March 22, 2024
- Selection of shortlisted artists: April 5, 2024
- Notification of shortlisted artists: April 8, 2024
- Interviews (in-person or online) of shortlisted artists: April 15-19, 2024
- Final artist selection: April 27, 2024
- Signed contract: May 5, 2024
- Design development: May-June 2024
- Final design approval: June 23, 2024
- Fabrication and site preparation: July-September 2024
- Project installation: October 2024 or TBD with approval

PROJECT GOALS

To create site-specific, permanent public sculpture that will be:

- Of superior artistic merit and harmonize with the building and grounds
- Considerate of its prominent location in a public library and engage residents and visitors of all ages
- Visually appealing, distinctive, and provide a positive sensory experience
- Complement the library's mission of "Connecting our community to discover, inspire, and grow"
- Suitable for the physical location, does not encourage climbing, and does not interfere with access to the building
- Non-partisan and appropriate for an audience of all ages
- Artists should consider the following keywords and phrases as inspiration for proposal development: **belonging; commitment; connection; discovery; giving back; learning; welcoming.**

ARTIST RESPONSIBILITIES

Selected artist or artist team will be responsible for:

- Creating original artwork per the project goals that will be safe and made from highly permanent materials that require minimal maintenance
- Additional engineering to support or power the sculpture as needed or desired by the artist or artist team
- Collaborating closely with Library staff to ensure sculpture is fabricated and installed in a quality manner per agreed upon deadlines and specifications
- Ensuring compliance with any City of Geneva requirements related to permits, inspections, etc.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals are **due by March 22, 2024 by 5:00 pm** CST and shall be delivered by hand, U.S. mail, or courier service to: **Geneva Public Library District, Chazmin Baechler, PR Specialist, 227 South 7th St., Geneva, IL 60134** or submitted electronically in PDF format to: **cbaechler@gpld.org**. The proposal must be delivered in a sealed envelope or package clearly marked or electronically with subject line **"Friends of the Library Sculpture Proposal."**

All costs associated with the preparation and delivery of a proposal will be borne by the artist. Proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed.

GPLD shall have a period of ninety (90) calendar days after submission date to review proposals and enter into an agreement with selected artist. GPLD reserves the right to waive any immaterial informalities as may be permitted by law. GPLD reserves the right to reject all proposals and not enter into a contract with any artist.

Proposals must include:

- 1) **Statement of interest:** one page cover letter addressing your interest in the project and relevant experience
- 2) **Current resume:** include link to portfolio and list of completed public art projects; for team submissions please include one-page resume for each member of the artist team
- 3) **Design concept(s):** submit written description that outlines your vision/idea for this artwork; include up to five (5) images of your own creation that help visually communicate your vision; specify details of submission such as medium, dimensions, etc. as well as materials and any environmental impact or benefit
- 4) **Project budget:** include budget breakdown inclusive of design fee, labor, materials, shipping, installation, etc.
- 5) **References:** contact information for three (3) references qualified to comment on your artistic capabilities and accomplishments

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all artists who are residents of the United States. Prior experience managing, designing, and completing site-specific public art commissions within the past five (5) years required.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated by a dedicated committee comprised of the Library Director, a Board of Trustees Liaison, and two to four community members with appreciation for public art. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following:

- 1) Adherence with project goals and artistic aesthetic
- 2) Demonstrated experience designing site-specific, permanent public sculpture
- 3) Ability to meet and conform to the demands of the project schedule
- 4) Adherence to maximum budget of \$50,000.00
- 5) Functionality and durability of proposed artwork
- 6) Professional references
- 7) Environmental impact of the proposed artwork and sustainability practices of the artist or team

DEADLINE

Submittals are due by **5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on March 22, 2024**. Questions can be directed to Chazmin Baechler, PR Specialist, at cbaechler@gpld.org.



CALL FOR ARTISTS 2024 EXHIBIT

LOCATION

The sculpture will be installed near the primary entrance to the building. It will be seen and enjoyed from a variety of vantage points, primarily by visitors entering the library from the parking lot. Lighting for the sculpture is already in place and the sculpture will be placed in front of a large expanse of wall, so artists may consider the interplay of light and shadow when the sculpture is viewed at night. Other utilities could be made available at the location of the sculpture if desired by the artist and incorporated into the total project budget.



Aerial view of south entrance to the building. Sculpture site indicated by the star.

LOCATION



South entrance to the building. Sculpture site indicated by the star.



South entrance to the building. Sculpture site indicated by the star.

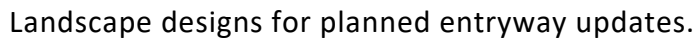
LOCATION



Sculpture site with view to Library Park and playground.



Aerial view of library campus.



EXISTING PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The Geneva Public Library is currently home to three pieces of public art. Each brings a unique aesthetic to the library grounds, while simultaneously complementing the building's architecture and mission of the library.



Hortus
Joshua Enck

This piece was commissioned by the Dudley D. and Delores R. Malone Family Foundation for their namesake Memorial Garden. Created by sculptor Joshua Enck, it is comprised of Corten steel and will stand 14 feet tall. Anticipated installation March 2024.



Nick Bottom
Ray Kobald

Commissioned by the Friends of the Library, with additional community funding, this charming bronze statue of the famous character from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was created by artist Ray Kobald. The sculpture was relocated from the old library building in 2021.

EXISTING PUBLIC ART PROGRAM



Willow

R. C. Anderson

Willow is a large, steel garden kaleidoscope sculpture with three attached optical viewing scopes mounted at different heights. This whimsical and interactive piece will be installed adjacent to the playground in Library Park. Anticipated installation Spring 2024.