

Illinois Capital Development Board

Art-in-Architecture Program

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS ART-IN-ARCHITECTURE?

The Art-in-Architecture program, administered by the Capital Development Board, enriches communities and provides “for the promotion and preservation of the arts by securing suitable works of art for the adornment of public buildings constructed or subjected to major renovation by the State or which utilize State funds, and thereby reflecting the diverse cultural heritage of Illinois, with emphasis on the works of Illinois artists.” 20 ILCS 3105/14

WHAT IS PUBLIC ART?

The Art-in-Architecture legislation defines art as:

- » Paintings
- » Prints
- » Sculptures
- » Graphics
- » Mural decorations
- » Stained glass
- » Statues
- » Bas reliefs
- » Ornaments
- » Ornamental gateways
- » or other creative works that reflect form, beauty, and aesthetic perceptions.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM FUNDED?

The Art-in-Architecture (AIA) enabling legislation directs that “the Capital Development Board shall set aside 1/2 of 1 percent of the amount authorized and appropriated for construction or reconstruction of each public building financed in whole or in part by State funds.”

HOW ARE AIA PROJECTS DEVELOPED?

With guidance from the AIA Coordinator, the steering committee—representatives from the Client Agency and A/E firm—decide on the most appropriate location(s) for the artwork, typically including their preferred media, theme, and dimensions. AIA projects are most often commissions, but purchasing existing artwork is also an option. Artwork must be available to the general public, adhere to accessibility standards, and not cause health/life/safety issues.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR AN AIA PROJECT?

All professional artists living and working in Illinois are eligible to apply for AIA projects. The staff, faculty, or employees of the Client Agency are not eligible to apply.

HOW ARE PROJECTS ANNOUNCED?

Each AIA project is announced on the [Commission Opportunities](#) page via a Request for Qualifications. Projects are also posted on various public art websites and social media pages.

HOW IS WORK SELECTED?

A Fine Arts Review Committee (FARC) is assembled by the AIA Coordinator for each project. The FARC reviews applicants’ portfolios and recommends artists to contract and/or artwork to purchase. For commissions, at least three artists are selected as semi-finalists to develop and present site-specific design proposals. The FARC votes for a winning artist. The final concurrence is made by the Board Chair of the Illinois Arts Council.

The FARC is subject to the Open Meetings Act. Its members are unpaid and must complete State of Illinois Ethics Training requirements. Members include:

- » Client agency designee
- » Designing architect
- » Illinois Arts Council designee
- » Illinois State Museum designee

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the [Art-in-Architecture website](#) for the AIA Policy and Procedure Manual, contract examples, photographs of completed projects, contact information, and other Program details.