



Illinois Capital Development Board
Art-in-Architecture Program

Request for Qualifications

for

Illinois Department of Transportation

District 5: Farmland Rest Areas

Farmer City, Illinois (DeWitt County)

Project Number: 630-497-002

CALL TO ARTISTS

The Art-in-Architecture Program of the Capital Development Board is pleased to announce a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to Illinois professional artists to create permanent original public art for the Illinois Department of Transportation Farmland Rest Areas in Farmer City, Illinois (DeWitt County).

FINAL DEADLINE Wednesday, June 3, 2026

3:00 P.M.

CDB.ArtinArchitecture@illinois.gov

Note: Applying before the final deadline is highly encouraged. Any portfolio submitted after the deadline will not be considered for this project.

ELIGIBILITY

These public art commissions and potential purchases are open to all professional artists, artisans, or artist-led teams *that live and work in the state of Illinois*.

- An artist/artisan is defined as a skilled practitioner that generates designs and concepts for creative works that reflect form, beauty, and aesthetic perception. All artists on a team must be from Illinois.
- Subcontractors may be used and are defined as those providing technical implementation such as construction, fabrication, and/or assembly for portions or all of a finished product under direct supervision and control of an artist.
- Faculty and staff of IDOT are not eligible to apply for this commission.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The Farmland Rest Areas serve eastbound and westbound Interstate 74 at mile marker 156. Built in 1995, the rest areas are each 4,820 square foot, one-story buildings consisting of three cylinders (pods) 38' in diameter and approximately 13' in height to mimic the look of grain silos. The pods are spaced 74'-1" apart in a triangular configuration. Visitors are welcomed through three entry vestibules connected to the triangular lobby at their center. Amenities at the rest areas include the women's restrooms housed in one pod, the men's restrooms housed in a second pod, and a vending area and mechanical space housed in the third pod.

The construction project's focus is renovating the interior of both rest areas. The farming theme is reinforced in the aesthetic finishes which include: terrazzo flooring, thin stone veneer in the vestibules, galvanized metal ribbed panels at each pod entry, painted board and batten paneling above, and custom built-in seating and displays. Other design elements that focus on the farm theme are large wooden tables with tractor seat-type stools and custom wood inlay barn quilt squares above each pod entry like those seen on barns across Illinois. The existing exposed wood roof deck and beam structure in the lobby will remain.

Each building is designed to welcome travelers and provide opportunities to gather local information, use the restrooms, purchase food/drinks from the vending machines, and rest in the lobby.

ARTWORK SITE AND OBJECTIVES

The artwork site at each rest area is highly visible located at the center of the lobby atop a custom, three-sided bench. Artists are not limited to a specific medium or style for these sculptural artworks, but should continue the Illinois farm theme. Each artwork can be identical, varied, or a combination. Power will be run up through the benches to illuminate the artwork from within. In order for visitors to have a clear line of site within the rest areas, the artwork must be 18" in height or less.

Reference [pages 7-9](#) for building plans and renderings. Lastly, the artwork must be durable and safe with limited annual maintenance as well as meet regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Illinois Accessibility Code.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Fine Arts Review Committee will review the portfolios of eligible applicants. At least three artists/teams will be selected as semi-finalists and paid a fee of \$1,000 each to develop and present a site specific proposal. After the proposal presentations, the Committee will select a winning artist/team for the commission.

Correspondence will be sent to the semi-finalists and to the winning artist/team detailing the proposal process and contracts.

BUDGET DETAILS

The budget for the project is \$40,000, which covers all expenses associated with the completion and installation of the work including, but not limited to: the project design, materials, fabrication, tools, project management, operations, meetings, travel, installation, licenses, insurance, contracted services, delivery of the work to the site, and documentation of the completed project. Any expense that exceeds the contracted amount will be the artist's responsibility.

The artist is responsible for working with the Capital Development Board Art-in-Architecture Program, the using agency, and other relevant partners to oversee all aspects of the art installation.

HOW TO APPLY

Email portfolio materials to **CDB.ArtinArchitecture@illinois.gov** no later than **Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 3:00 P.M.** Any portfolio submitted after the deadline will not be considered for this project.

IF YOU PREVIOUSLY APPLIED TO THE ILLINOIS ART-IN-ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

Please email the following:

Cover Letter- letter of intent or artist statement (one page maximum)

- Include the project in which you are applying
- Include name and contact information- address, telephone number, and email address

IF YOU HAVE NEVER APPLIED TO THE ILLINOIS ART-IN-ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM OR YOU WISH TO UPDATE YOUR PORTFOLIO

Please email a full portfolio which includes one copy of each of the following:

Cover Letter- letter of intent or artist statement (one page maximum)

- Include the project in which you are applying
- Include name and contact information- address, telephone number, and email address

Résumé (include contact information)

- If applying as a team, provide a resume for each team member

Artwork Images (up to 15 images for individuals or teams)

- One image per JPEG
- Pixel dimensions per image: approximately 600 x 800
- Image resolution: 72-300 pixels per inch
- Maximum file size per image: 1MB
- Name each image: lastnamefirstnameimagenumber.jpg, for example:
 KahloFrida01.jpg
 KahloFrida02.jpg
 KahloFrida03.jpg, etc.

Artwork Image List (one document)

- A corresponding, numbered image list listing the artwork title, media, dimensions, date, location (if applicable), budget (if applicable), and brief description (optional)
- Do not include images within this document

Support Material (OPTIONAL)

- One page maximum
- Press clippings, volunteer work, artwork/commission spotlight, or other relevant information

Please note:

- Attach all files to the email
- JPEG files are required for artwork images
- PDF or Word files are required for all documents
- Name each document “lastnamefirstname_document”, for example:
 KahloFrida_coverletter.pdf
 KahloFrida_imagelist.doc
- DO NOT include artwork images within the body of the email
- DO NOT send design proposals
- All submittals become property of the Capital Development Board Art-in-Architecture Program. Submissions can be made available for public viewing. The artist retains copyright.

LEGAL AGREEMENT

The Capital Development Board 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 Qualifications does not constitute either an expressed or implied contract and these provisions are subject to change.

QUESTIONS

The Art-in-Architecture Procedure Manual, commission opportunities, and other information are posted at [AIA Program website](#). For questions, contact the Art-in-Architecture Program at **CDB.ArtinArchitecture@illinois.gov**.

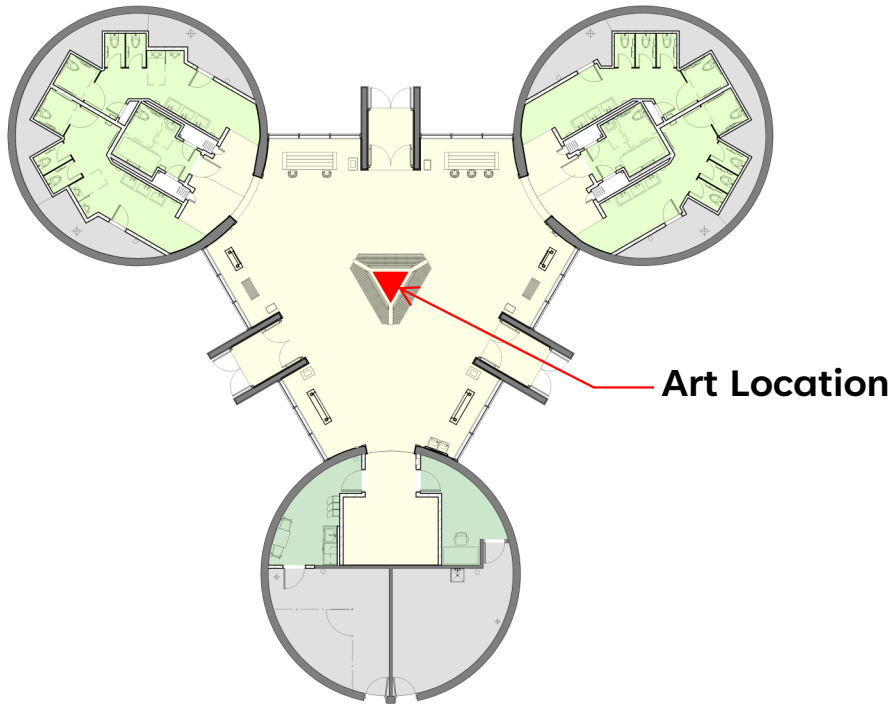
ABOUT THE ART-IN-ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

The Illinois Art-in-Architecture Program promotes and preserves Illinois art and enriches communities by commissioning original artwork for public buildings constructed with State funds.

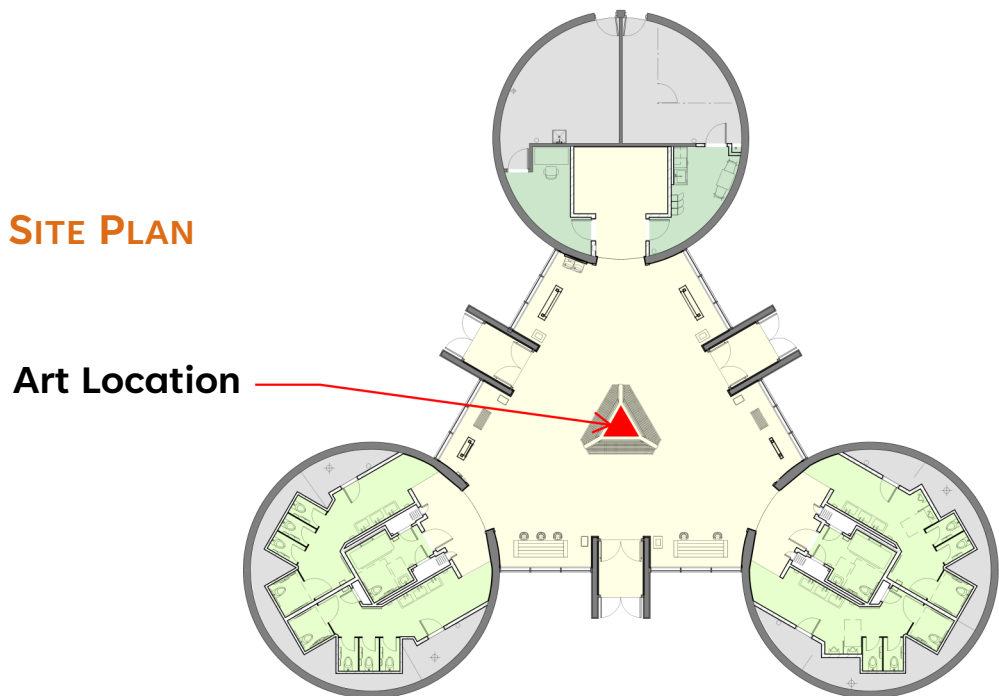
The enabling legislation for the Program requires that the Capital Development Board “shall set aside 1/2 of 1 percent of the amount authorized and appropriated for construction or reconstruction of each public building financed in whole or in part by State funds and generally accessible to and used by the public for purchase and placement of suitable works of art in such public buildings.” A committee including art professionals and the project architect, and oversees each project and selects the artwork.

Since its inception in 1977, the Art-in-Architecture Program has purchased or commissioned works of art by Illinois artists for public display throughout Illinois. For more information visit the [AIA Program website](#).

EASTBOUND SITE PLAN

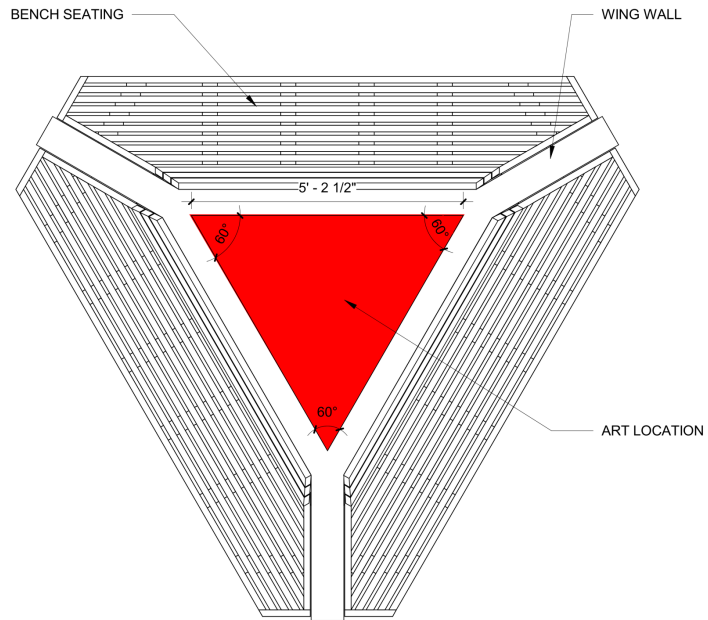


WESTBOUND SITE PLAN





PLAN VIEW OF BENCH



ELEVATION VIEW OF BENCH

