



Illinois Capital Development Board
Art-in-Architecture Program

Request for Qualifications

for

Northeastern Illinois University

Education Building

Chicago, Illinois

Project Number: 817-010-055

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 Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) Education Building in Chicago, Illinois.

FINAL DEADLINE Wednesday, June 17, 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 NEIU are not eligible to apply for this commission.

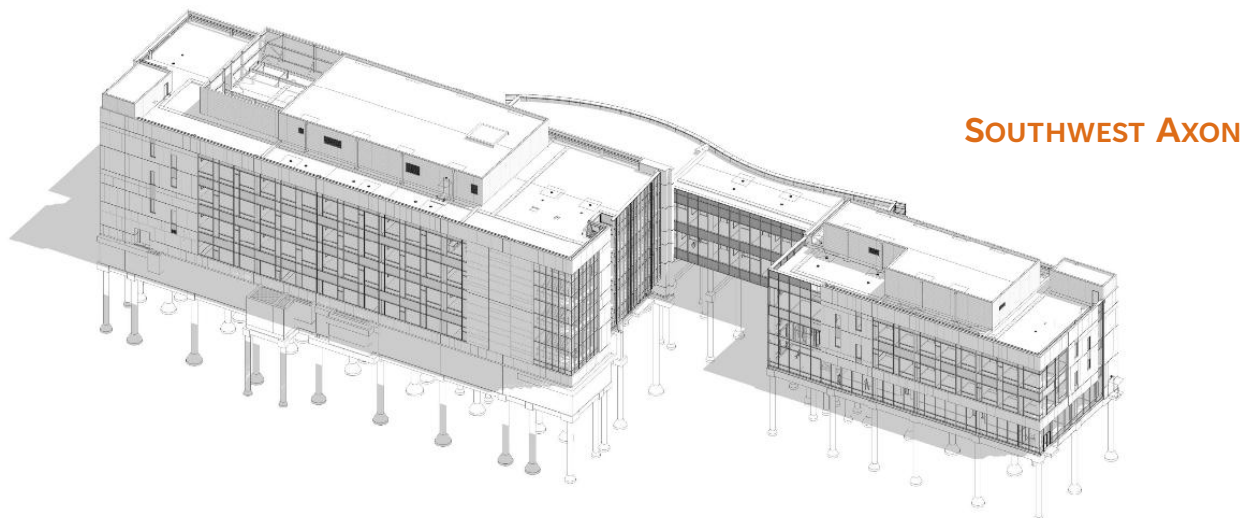
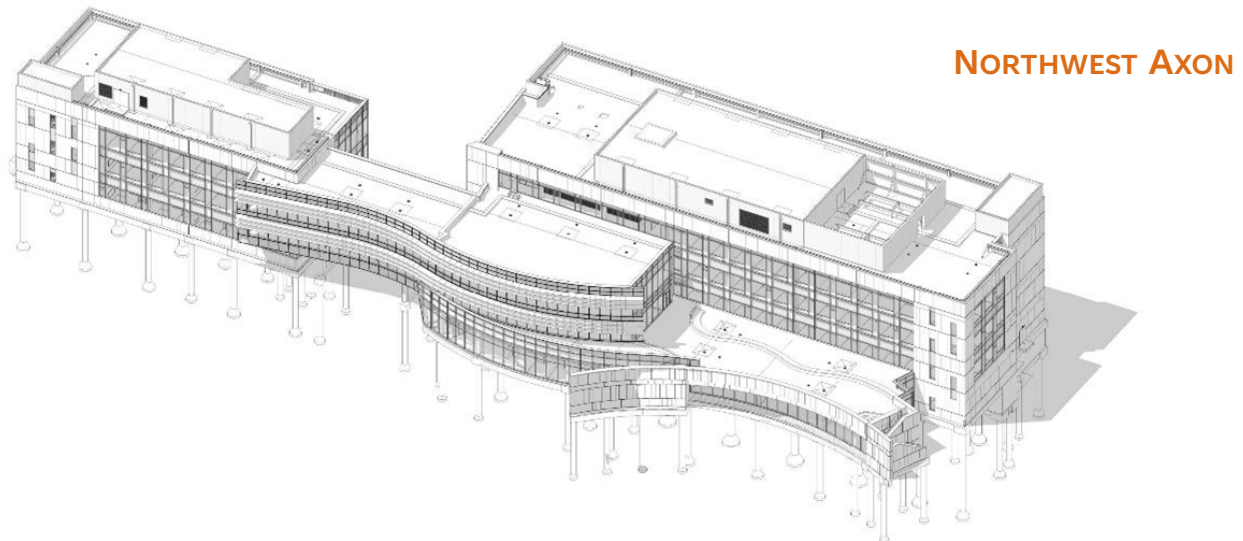
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The new Education Building at [Northeastern Illinois University](#) is currently being constructed with a projected completion date of Spring 2027. This addition to campus continues a long and rich educational tradition at NEIU, which was founded in 1867 as the Cook County Normal School, the county's first teacher training institution.

The scope of work provides for constructing a 189,673-square-foot multi-use building to house the [Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education](#). Designed as a gateway building welcoming visitors from the south, the structure consists of two

interconnected buildings, linked by a bridge on the second and third levels. The facility will include classroom space, state-of-the-art laboratories, administrative and office space, and 48,735 square feet for general University use. The building will feature a second-floor roof deck with vegetation and seating, along with a bird-safe design with fritted glass and window film.

With a strong legacy of preparing educators for leadership and service, NEIU has long anticipated this milestone. The new Education Building reflects the University's commitment to modernization and will benefit the entire community.



ARTWORK SITE AND OBJECTIVES

The Committee is seeking to commission one artist to create two complimentary exterior sculptures for the north and south plazas. The pair of sculptural elements form a clear visual and spatial connection between the plazas anchoring the offset walkways and establishing pedestrian destinations. The artworks should draw inspiration from Education and NEIU's connection with Native American history, notably the [Peace Fire Circle](#). Artists are not limited to a specific medium or style, though lighting must be incorporated into the final design. Reference [pages 7-9](#) for site renderings.

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 \$4,500 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 artwork is \$375,000, which covers all expenses associated with the completion and installation of the both artworks including, but not limited to: the project design, materials, tools, fabrication, foundations, electrical, 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 client 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 17, 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.

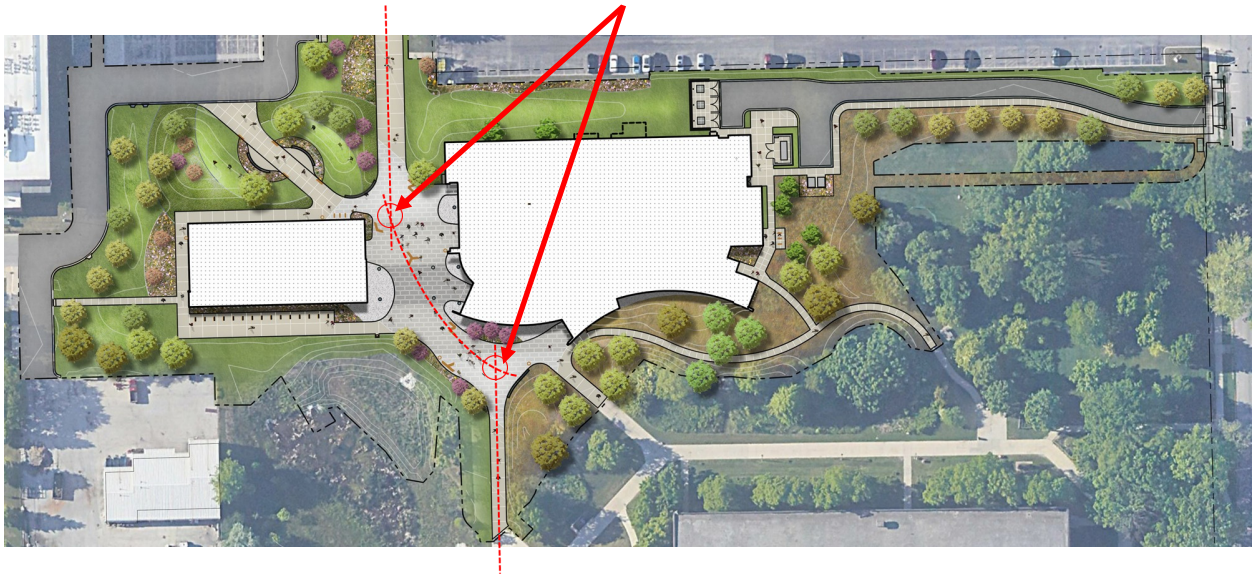
Since its inception in 1977, the Art-in-Architecture Program has purchased or commissioned over 1,000 works of art by Illinois artists for public display throughout Illinois. For more information visit the [AIA Program website](#).

ROOF DECK



SITE PLAN

ARTWORK



South Plaza

ARTWORK LOCATIONS

