



Illinois Capital Development Board

Art-in-Architecture Program

Request for Qualifications

for

University of Illinois Chicago

Innovation Center

Chicago, Illinois

Project Number: 830-030-164

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 Innovation Center at the University of Illinois Chicago.

FINAL DEADLINE Friday, September 26, 2025

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.
- UIC faculty and staff are not eligible to apply for this commission.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The UIC Innovation Center is the home of interdisciplinary collaborative work on the University of Illinois Chicago's campus. As the westmost building on the east campus, the center physically bridges the medical west campus and academic east campus. The new building is a 13,000 sq. ft. addition to the existing 18,000 sq. ft. facility. When traveling east down HWY 290, the Innovation Center and adjacent Student Services Building are the first landmarks of the UIC campus that a passerby sees.

The center works to solve problems for our corporate partners through sponsored classes and labs. Students, faculty, and recent alumni from 25+ departments at UIC come together to innovate, research, and learn. Since opening its doors

in 2008, the Innovation Center has partnered with over 40 corporate partners in diverse fields from consumer electronics and medical devices to hospitals and insurance providers.

The design of the facility is a light-filled single-story addition that brings several thousand square feet of needed corporate lab space, professional presentation area, state-of-the-art conferencing rooms, and administrative offices to serve the needs of the growing department. The new building connects to the old building through a repurposing of a portion of the former parking structure, creating a solarium-like space that sits adjacent to a 3,400 sq. ft. courtyard. These two spaces create the core of the facility, connecting the old and new, and facilitating circulation around the building. Much of the facility is an open floor plan that allows the needs of any one project to adapt the layout of the space.

ARTWORK SITE AND ARTISTIC OBJECTIVES

The Committee is seeking a mural installation located in the primary corridor adjacent to the courtyard making the work visible from everywhere in the building. The available space is 8' tall by 34.5' wide. The artwork should reflect the purpose of the building—a modern facility designed for collaborative and innovative work carried out by interdisciplinary teams.

The installation must be wall-mounted and durable with little to no annual maintenance. There is no preferred media and some relief is acceptable. The artwork must meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Illinois Accessibility Code for protruding objects along an accessible route. Reference the renderings on [pages 7-10](#).

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 \$500 each to develop and present a site-specific design proposal. After the presentations, the Committee will select a winning artist/teams 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 **\$19,500**.

This budget 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 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 **Friday, September 26, 2025 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](#).







