

# The City of Oklahoma City and its Trusts

Request for Qualifications

RFQ-OCITY-179 Public Art for the MAPS 4 Mental Health Crisis  
Center



## The Opportunity

### *Mental Health Crisis Center Public Art Summary*

The City of Oklahoma City announces a call to artists for a major work of public art for the new MAPS 4 Mental Health Crisis Center. The art award is \$70,000 and the deadline for responses to the RFQ is Wednesday July 30, 2025, at 4 pm CT.

### *Background*

The new center is funded by Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS 4), a debt-free public improvement program, funded by a temporary penny sales tax, that will raise a projected \$1.07 billion over eight (8) years for a wide variety of projects including the Mental Health Crisis Center.

The selected operator for the new facility is the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) which serves as the state's safety net mental health and substance use treatment services system. Founded in 1953, this agency is the leading expert in Oklahoma for all efforts associated with mental health and addiction, including prevention, treatment and recovery support services. Set to be complete by mid-2027, the new facility at 1200 NE 13<sup>th</sup> Street will combine two programs — the Oklahoma County Crisis Intervention Center (OCCIC) and the Oklahoma Crisis Recovery Unit (OCRU) — into one facility to offer crisis response and emergency assessments for persons experiencing mental health crises.

### *Goals*

The City of Oklahoma City invites artists to respond to this RFQ to design, fabricate, and install a sculpture that will be located inside one of the two courtyards planned for the new facility. Keeping in mind the nature of services provided at ODMHSAS, art should promote tranquility, peacefulness, calmness, and encourage a state of wellbeing and recovery. An emphasis should be placed on both mental and physical safety. Artist(s) should not include any sharp objects, removable pieces, or a design in which a rope or similar material can be easily tied or affixed to the sculpture. The artist(s), to the best of their ability, should not include any elements that may trigger hallucinations or a mental health crisis. The work can be interactive, lighted, or functional but these elements are not required. The work is expected to be durable, robust, and low maintenance.

## Scope of Services

### *Description of Services*

The selected artist and/or team (Artist) will:

- Perform all work as detailed in the Public Art Commission Agreement to design, fabricate, and install a permanent work of art and an art identification marker

### *Contract Management Expectations*

The Artist, either personally or through their agent(s), is responsible for project management. The Art Award/Project Budget covers all aspects of the entire project, including but not limited to design, engineering, construction, foundation, footing, installation, rental, liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, transportation, shipping, travel, lodging, design district review and other incidental expenses. For insurance and warranty requirements, see Sample Public Art Commission Agreement in Bidnet.

### *Contract Payment*

The total Art Award of **\$70,000** includes all costs for designing, creating, and installing the artwork, including but not limited to materials, engineering, research, fabrication, travel, transportation, required insurance and any necessary permits.

## **How We Choose**

### *Minimum Qualifications*

This opportunity is open to all practicing artists who are at least 18 years of age. Artists selected as finalists must attend the required in-person site visit. Artist teams may include artist apprentices younger than 18, when prior written permission is provided from the apprentice's parent or guardian.

### *Selection Process*

Selection involves a three-step process: initial review by an evaluation committee; first selection by the full selection committee resulting in choosing finalists who will create and present conceptual design reports; final selection by the full selection committee after finalist presentations. The selection committee may include but is not limited to an Arts Commissioner, a professional art consultant, selected representatives, and stakeholders.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

Criteria to be applied and interpreted by the Selection Committee include:

- Artistic excellence and originality, as evidenced by representation of past work in images and other supporting materials;
- Evidence of ability to handle a project of this size and scope;
- Appropriateness of Artist's approach and style to the Project's intent and site;
- Stated availability to work within the Project time frame and to be present for required meetings; and
- Price and current market value of Artist's work in relation to the scope and value contemplated for this commission.

## **Project Schedule**

Schedule of events for RFQ-OCITY-179. **By responding to this RFQ applicants acknowledge that they are available to meet on the designated dates.** The City reserves the right, as deemed necessary, at its sole discretion, to adjust this schedule by written notice to all the Artists who have timely responded to the RFQ.

RFQ-OCITY-179 announced		Wednesday July 2, 2025
Deadline for submissions		4:00:00 pm CT Wednesday July 30, 2025
First selection meeting		Thursday August 14, 2025
Site visit for finalists	In-person required	2:00 pm Friday August 29, 2025
Finalists presentation*	Online required	Tuesday October 7, 2025
Arts Commission meeting		Monday October 20, 2025
City Council approval		November 18, 2025
Installation		TBD

\*A \$1,000 fee will be paid to each Finalist/Finalist team who fully produce and present Conceptual Design Report to the Selection Committee during the Finalists presentation.

## Submittal Instructions & Content

We recommend that all submission materials, except for the eight full-size .jpg photos, be combined into a single .pdf then submitted together. Send only the following completed, filled-in forms found in the **Required Forms for RFQ-OCITY-179** pdf in this packet, plus photos.

1. **Artist names, roles, contact information, and references**
2. **Artist Statement:** In 500 words or less make the case for yourself to be selected as a finalist. Think about what you uniquely bring to this project; how you would approach the design and implementation of the work; what single work in your portfolio gives us the best insight what you could propose for the Mental Health Crisis Center? Only one artist statement per team.
3. **Instead of a Resume part 1:** In 250 words or less, tell us what life experience or educational experience of yours is most relevant to this project and to our understanding of who you are. Name up to three with brief explanations.
4. **Instead of a Resume part 2:** In 250 words or less, tell us more about at least one but up to three of the works in your image submissions. Give us a backstory, insight into your technique ... whatever gives a richer understanding of what you created and why.
5. **Image list:** Upload up to eight (8) images of representative work. Note: Use digital images in .jpg or .pdf format, not to exceed 2MB in size. Enter image file names and thumbnails where indicated on the image information form, numbered and ordered consecutively.

We highly recommend that you begin the registration process as soon as possible, to ensure you have adequate time to properly complete your registration, and to upload required items.

### First time registration in Bidnet Direct / Register for free:

1. Visit: <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/oklahoma/cityofoklahomacityandtrusts> and click on the "Register Now" button.
2. Select the Limited Plan at no cost.
3. Select Oklahoma in the state field and click on Save and Continue.
4. You will enter your company information.
5. Your Username will be prefilled with your e-mail address. Write down your password as you will need when you activate your account.
6. Click on the "I agree to Terms & Conditions".
7. Click on Finalize Registration.
8. This will take you to a confirmation page that you have subscribed.
9. You will receive an e-mail notification to enter your username and password. This will log you into the site. This needs to be done within 48 hours or Bidnet will need to reset for you.
10. Create a company profile to receive bid invitations from agencies. Go to Working Categories and search for Public Art and add the NIGP Code 91886 – Public Art Consulting to your profile. This will allow you to receive alerts for these RFQ's.
11. Bidnet Direct has a webinar on how to register and other training links on the City's Bidnet page at: <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/oklahoma/cityofoklahomacityandtrusts>

## Notices

- See Sample Public Art Commission Agreement attached in Bidnet. The Agreement includes insurance, warranties, non-discrimination and non-collusion requirements and information about the Oklahoma Open Records Act and Confidential Information, and a sample VARA waiver.
- The Artist selected for the project shall retain all rights under 17 U.S.C. §101 et seq. (the Copyright Act of 1976), subject to rights of attribution and certain other specific rights, as well as all other rights in and to the Work, ***except ownership and possession. City shall have ownership and possession of Work pursuant to this Agreement, but shall not own the copyright to the Work, which shall be retained by Artist.*** No Work created by Artist for City, pursuant to this Agreement or any other Agreement, shall be considered a “work made for hire” as defined by Title 17, U.S.C §§ 101 and 201(b) (the United States Copyright Act of 1976). 17 U.S.C. §106(a) The Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990, “VARA”) See sample VARA Waiver in Exhibit H in the Public Art Agreement (sample) following Section X below.
- The City reserves the right to amend or withdraw this RFQ-Call to Artists at any time and for any or no reason. Receipt of submission entries by City, or submission of an Artist’s entry to City, or selection of an Artist for purposes of negotiating a contract, confers no rights to any Artist nor obligates City in any manner. City reserves the right, at its sole discretion and for any reason, to reject all submission entries and not award any contract, and to solicit additional or different submission entries at any time. City incurs no obligation regarding this Call to Artists, or any contract resulting there from, until a Public Art Commission Agreement is fully negotiated, and all documents have been properly submitted and executed by all parties.
- The costs of developing a submission entry are solely the responsibility of the Artist. City shall not provide reimbursement for such costs. City shall not be liable for any Artist’s preparation costs for any reason, other than the \$1,000 fee paid to each Finalist/Finalist team who fully produce and present Conceptual Design Report to the Selection Committee during the Finalists presentation. (Only one \$1,000 payment per Finalist/Finalist team)
- **Submission of an entry shall constitute acceptance of the terms, conditions, criteria, requirements, and evaluations set forth in this Call to Artists, and operates as an offer and a waiver of all objections and Proposer-originated modifications to the contents of this Call to Artists unless an Exceptions document is submitted in Bidnet at the time of submission The Selection Committee will review exceptions to the RFQ, the bidding documents, and Sample Public Art Commission Agreement. The Selection Committee is under no obligation to agree to exceptions proposed by an Artist.**
- All information in submissions to this RFQ, and any resultant Conceptual Design Reports by finalists for this project are considered to be public record by the Oklahoma Open Records Act.
- All entries properly submitted shall be received and reviewed by City. City reserves the right to reject any entry deemed to be non-responsive for failure to comply fully with the terms of the Call to Artists. However, City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request clarifications, corrections, or additional information and to waive irregularities in execution or delivery of the entry, provided it is in the best interest of City.
- The Selectee must identify a locally based (living within a 120-mile radius of the Project site) Project Representative, who is the main Project contact, and who can be on site or react on 24 hours’ notice as needed for construction meetings and other contingencies. Artists may designate themselves, if locally based.