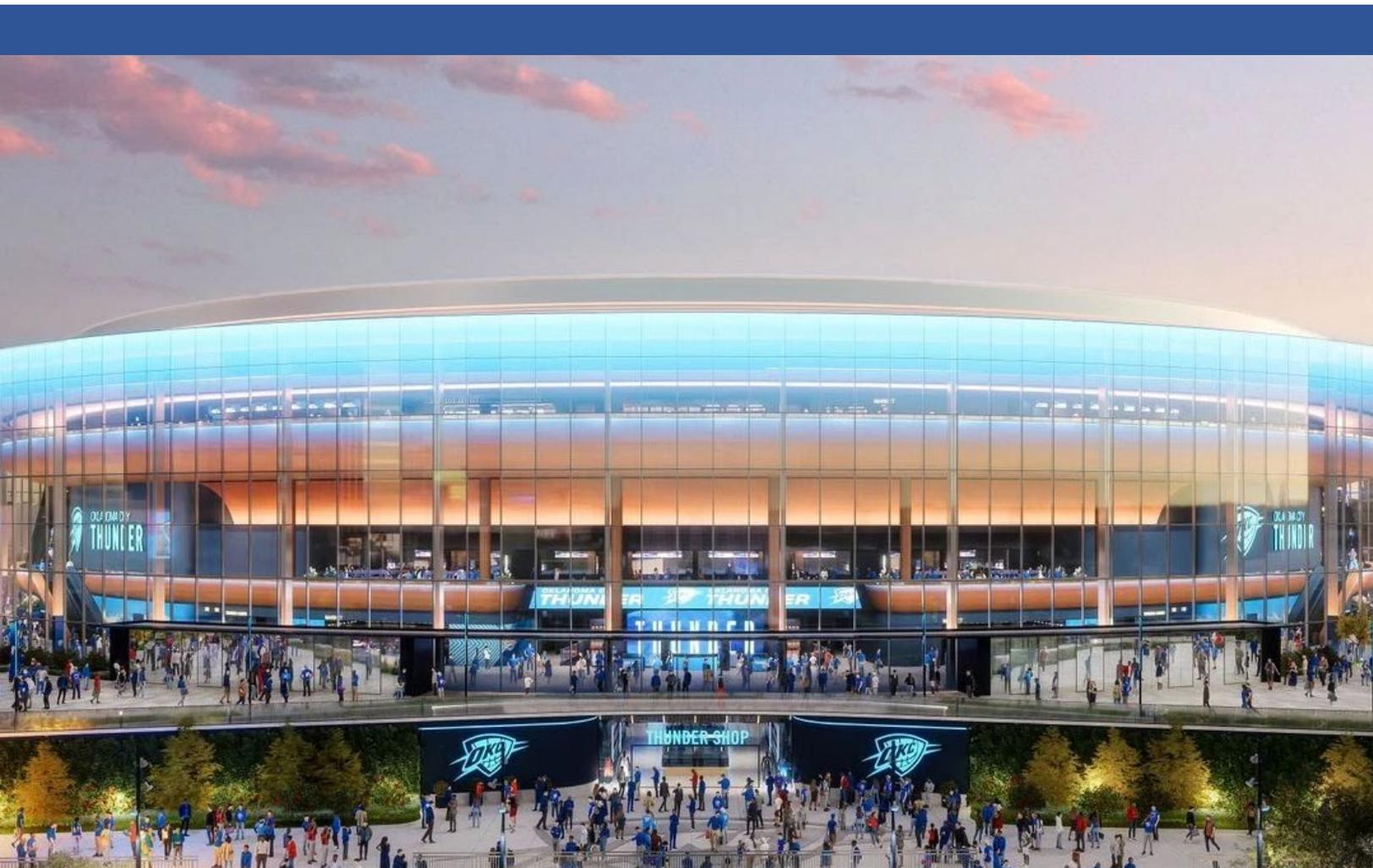


The City of Oklahoma City and its Trusts

Request for Qualifications

RFQ-OCPPA-022 Public Art for the Oklahoma City New Arena
(Terrazzo Floor Design)



The Opportunity

Oklahoma City New Arena Public Art Summary

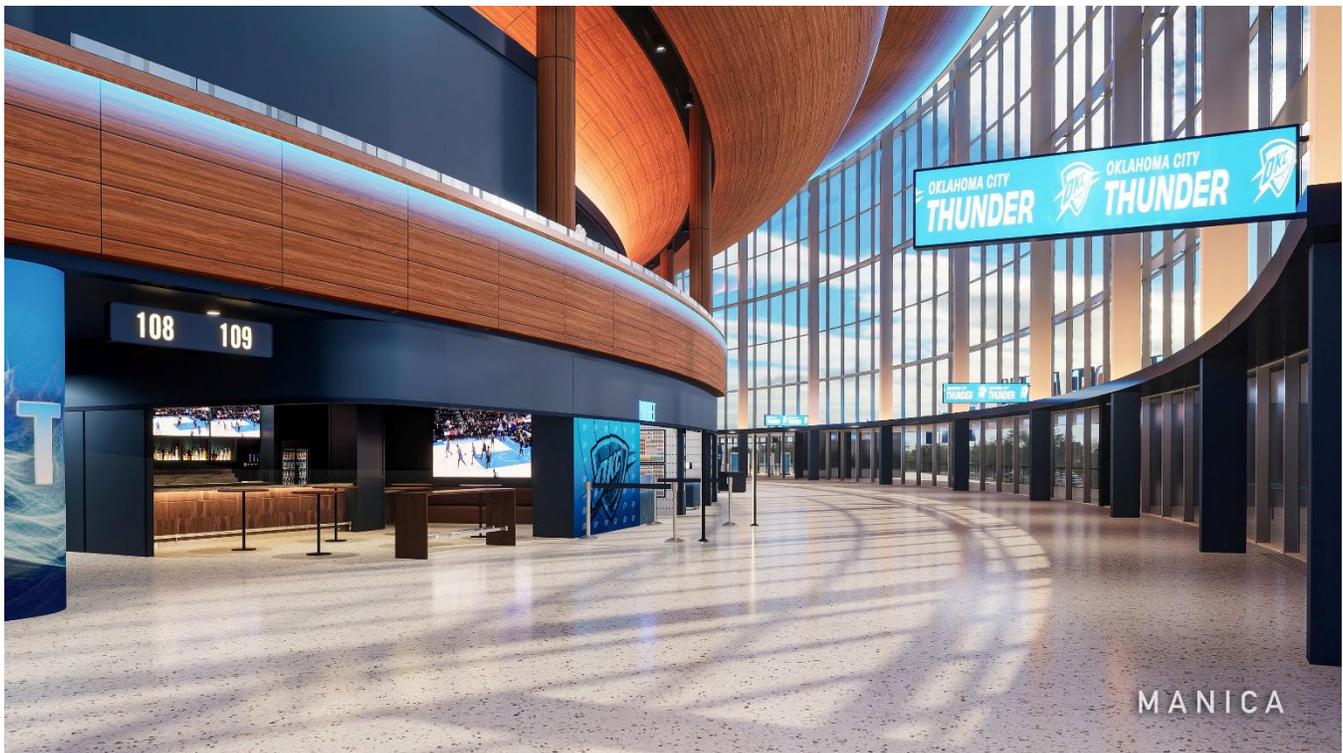
The City of Oklahoma City announces a call to artists for a work of public art for the Oklahoma City New Arena and home of the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder. The art award is \$300,000 and the deadline for responses to the RFQ is Wednesday April 1, 2026, at 4 pm CT.

Background

The Oklahoma City New Arena was designed by the architectural team of MANICA Architecture as the design architect and TVS as the architect of record. Scheduled to open by late summer 2028, the new arena will serve as a catalyst for the city's ongoing economic and cultural renaissance. Architecturally, the conceptual design for the new venue includes a 360-degree glass curtain wall, offering panoramic views from all interior concourses, emphasizing transparency and connection.

The arena's west-facing main entrance, aligned with the adjacent Myriad Botanical Gardens and reflecting Oklahoma sunsets, features Thunder Alley—a vibrant fan activation zone at street level designed within the arena footprint. An elevated main entrance, situated on a grand podium, creates an inspiring sense of arrival and opens to the main concourse, fostering a welcoming atmosphere. The interior concept prioritizes basketball, with optimized sight lines and a seating design that fosters an energetic, loud, and intimate experience.

You can learn more about the new arena here: [Oklahoma City Arena](#)



Goals

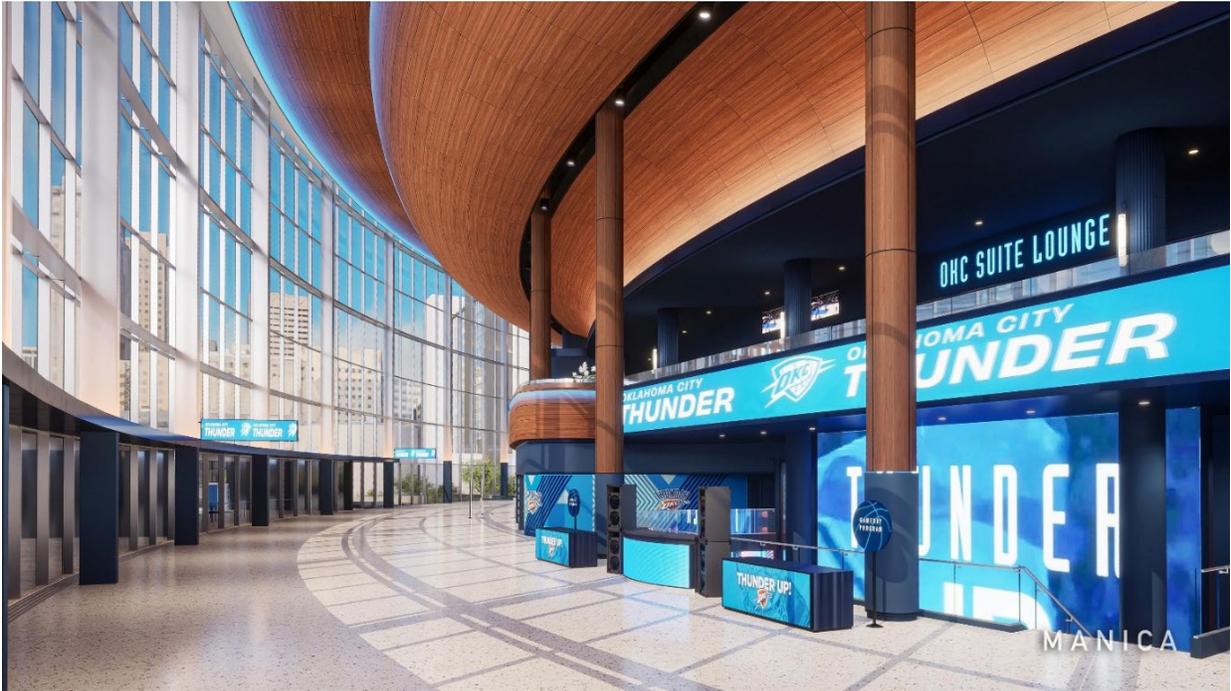
The Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs invites artists and artist teams to respond to this RFQ to be considered for the design and installation oversight of the terrazzo floor in the arena's concourse. This project calls for a subtle, sophisticated terrazzo artwork that functions as an ambient experience. The intent is not decorative overlay, bold ornament, or overt storytelling. The artwork should be deferential to the arena's architecture, enhancing the space without competing with it. Natural light is a key design partner; the terrazzo should respond to changing light conditions throughout the day.

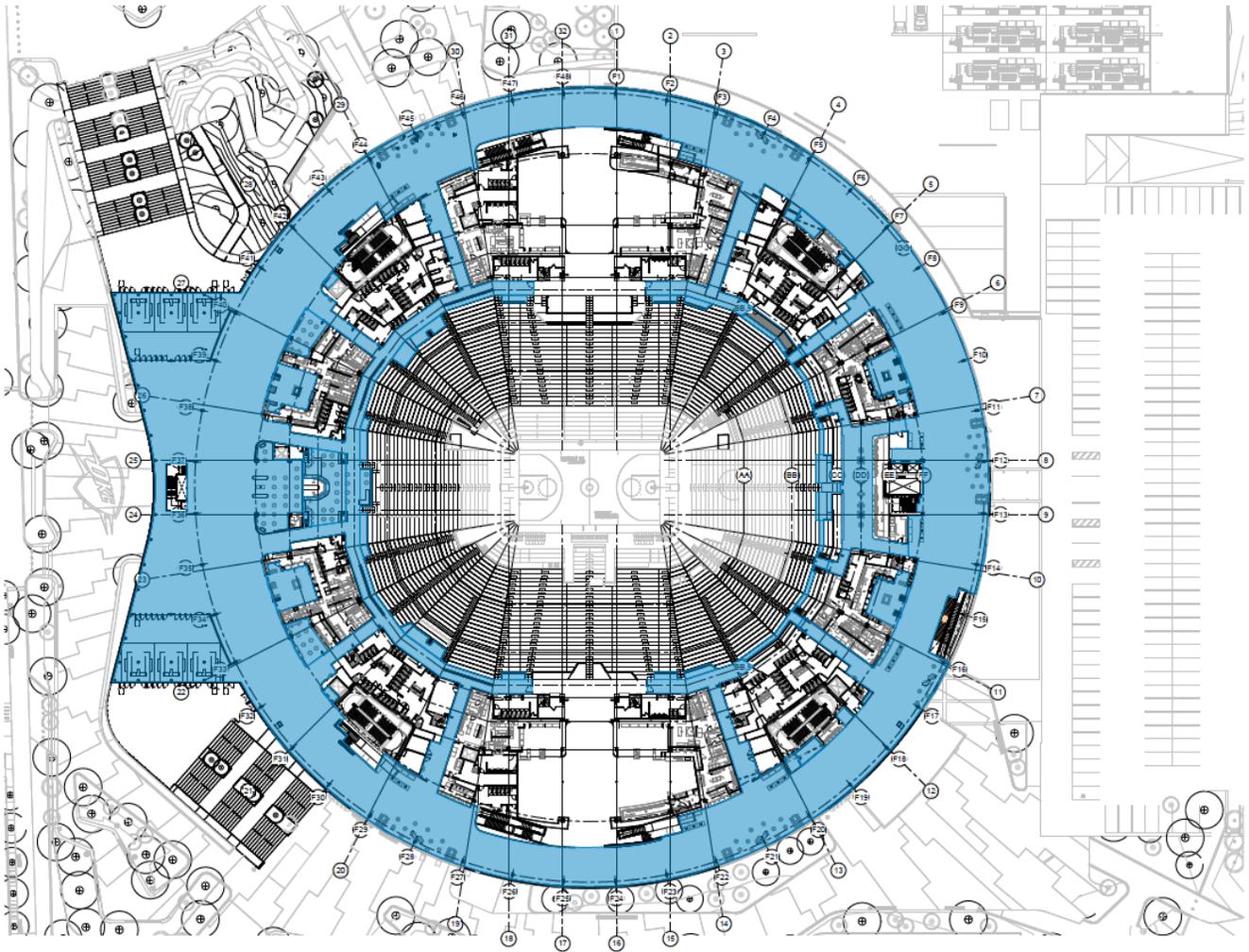
The palette should be muted and refined, using the Oklahoma City Thunder colors as a foundation, with intentional, restrained pops of color. Any colors outside this palette should be avoided. The design should feel purposeful and considered, driven by an underlying concept or narrative, but it should not try too hard to force a literal story. The work must function visually from multiple vantage points, including views from above.

The overall experience should feel sophisticated, warm, and inviting, fostering a sense of welcome and belonging. The artwork should feel as though it is from and for the people of Oklahoma, reflecting the region's innate hospitality and community spirit. Visitors should experience a sense of quiet awe and anticipation, an inspiring backdrop to gathering, movement, and shared experience.

The artwork should not be overtly "Thunder" branded and should avoid logos or direct team iconography. It should also avoid literal or stereotypical Oklahoman references (e.g., weather, oil, agriculture, cowboy imagery, etc.). The goal is a timeless, modern, and progressive expression, one inspired by tradition but clearly forward-looking.

Conceptually, the work should sit between "uniquely Oklahoman" and "Thunder identity," leaning slightly toward place rather than brand. Key thematic directions may include identity and evolution, connection to nature, and community. Above all, the artist should approach the project abstractly, with an emphasis on subtle beauty and sophistication, using form, fluid motion, color, and rhythm to express complex ideas in a measured and elegant way. The work should also reward curiosity, invite reflection, and offer layers of interpretation over time.





The image above illustrates a site plan for the arena's main concourse. The area highlighted in blue indicates the terrazzo floor plan. Note: These plans are not final. Some details may be subject to change

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 and oversee the installation of a permanent work of art, and design, fabricate and install an art identification marker

Contract Management Expectations

The Artist, either personally or through their agent(s), is responsible for project management. The Art Award covers all aspects of the project, including but not limited to design, construction and installation oversight, travel, lodging, and other incidental expense.

Contract Payment

The total Art Award of **\$300,000** includes all costs for designing and overseeing installation of the artwork, including but not limited to research, travel, and transportation.

How We Choose

Eligibility

As required by state law, 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 by 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;
- Evidence of clarity and understanding of Oklahoma City’s history and culture;
- 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-OCPPA-022. **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-OCPPA-022 announced		Wednesday March 11, 2026
Deadline for submissions		4:00pm CT Wednesday April 1, 2026
First selection meeting	Committee only	Monday April 13, 2026
Site visit for finalists	In person required	2:00 pm Monday April 27, 2026
Finalists presentation	Online required	Friday, May 29, 2026
Arts Commission meeting		Monday, June 15, 2026
City Council approval		July 2026
Final Design Due		September 15, 2026

Note: Revisions may be requested by the selection committee after the selection of final design, before final due date.

Submittal Instructions & Content

All submission materials, including the eight full-size .jpg photos, should be combined into a single file then submitted together. Send only the following completed questions listed in the order below. Fillable forms can be found in the **Required Forms for RFQ-OCPPA-022** pdf in this packet.

- 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 into what you could propose for the Oklahoma City New Arena? 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:** Include up to eight (8) images of representative work. **Note: Limit to 1MB in size per image.** Each image must include the title, medium, dimensions, location, cost/value, and year of completion. You may include the details within each image or on a separate page, provided that all images and information are contained in a single document.

Failure to complete these requirements may result in the disqualification of your submission.

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 non-discrimination and non-collusion requirements and information about the Oklahoma Open Records Act and Confidential Information, and a sample VARA waiver. **Submission of an entry shall constitute acknowledgement, understanding, and acceptance of the terms, conditions, criteria, requirements, and evaluations as generally set forth in the Public Art Commission Agreement.**
- 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 \$3,000 fee paid to an Artist or Artist team invited by the Selection Committee to produce a Conceptual Design Report for the Selection Interview. **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.**
- 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.