

Request for Proposals St. Louis County Public Health & Human Services Department (PHHS)

Recent renovation of the Government Services Building at 320 W. Second Street, Duluth, has resulted in a County plan for the installation of public art in the entry plaza, the entry vestibule, and the elevator lobbies. The artwork that was chosen was intended to depict vibrant, cherished places which enhance way finding, educate building users, and elevate the human spirit.

Following in a similar vein, the Public Health & Human Services Department (PHHS) desires to incorporate artwork in the private workspace areas occupied by its staff. An art acquisition committee (Art Committee) has chosen for its vision to create inclusive environments that welcome and value the cultural diversity of the people we serve. Of primary importance to us is that our work represents the valuable differences that people of diverse backgrounds can bring, depicted in the artwork itself or represented by the artist who produced it. PHHS strives to foster fairness, equity, and inclusion in its program and employment setting, and to create workplace environments where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

This request for proposals is seeking area artists interested in participating in this project. Because the budget is very small, the committee is seeking either donations or art pieces which can be purchased for a reasonable sum. We are looking for original artwork in a variety of mediums, including paintings, drawings, photography, wood, textiles, three-dimensional pieces (statues, hanging), or glass. All submissions must depict in some form diversity of our people, which includes race, color, religion, sex, disability, physical stature, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or economic status.

If you are interested in contributing to this important project, please send:

- one or more digital images of your work
- a brief statement/description of each individual piece
- a short biography of yourself as the artist
- price per individual piece, if not donated
- an email address, permanent address, and phone number for future correspondence

Deadline to submit artwork for consideration is March 1, 2015. Juried selection shall be by the Art Committee. PHHS reserves the right to select the artists' proposals that it deems to be best suited to the project and to reject any or all candidates. Receipts for donations shall be provided for income tax purposes at full value.

Please send your submissions to:

Shelley Saukko, PHHS Deputy Director, at saukkos@stlouiscountymn.gov
Questions can be referred to Shelley Saukko at 218-726-2210.