



## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

### Public Art Project

### Colorado Convention Center Expansion

**Budget: \$900,000.00 USD**

**Eligibility: International**

**DEADLINE: Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 P.M. MST**



### Introduction

The City of Denver's Public Art Program seeks to commission an artist or team of artists to create an original public artwork for the Colorado Convention Center Expansion. A selection panel of community representatives, arts and culture professionals, and civic leaders has been assembled to identify art opportunities and to select and recommend an artist or artist team for this project. The selection panel has identified the Exhibit Level South – D Lobby ceiling (see Fig. 1) for a suspended artwork. The project budget is approximately \$900,000.00 USD. The new artwork will be part of the Colorado Convention Center's current collection of 31 public artworks by local, national, and international artists. The collection includes: "Indeterminate Line" by Bernar Venet and the iconic "I See What You Mean," a.k.a The Big Blue Bear, by Lawrence Argent.

<https://denverconvention.com/about-us/public-art>

### Colorado Convention Center:

Centrally located in Downtown Denver, the Fentress Architects-designed Colorado Convention Center has become a Denver landmark for its architecture and public art. The facility opened in 1990 and is currently ranked as one of the country's top three centers, with more than 250 events scheduled every year. The center was expanded in 2004 to include meeting rooms, two ballrooms, and an indoor amphitheater, with 2,200,000 square feet in total space. The Phase III expansion will include new features that will make the Colorado Convention Center the most high-tech, user-friendly meeting and event space in the nation. The center is adjacent to the Denver Performing Arts Complex, home to the Colorado Opera, Symphony, and Ballet. The 16th Street Mall, Colorado State Capitol, the Denver Art Museum, the Clyfford Still Museum, and the historic Civic Center are also in close proximity to the convention center.

### Colorado Convention Center Phase III Expansion:

The design-build team of Hensel Phelps + tvsdesign is currently working on an expansion to include a new flexible meeting and ballroom space of up to 80,000 sq. ft.; new pre-function and an outdoor terrace with additional back of house service space and kitchens to support the event spaces. The expansion is located on the roof of the existing convention center's parking structure. Both the pre-function and outdoor event spaces will have spectacular, unobstructed views of the Rocky Mountains and city skyline, allowing event attendees to take advantage of Denver's 300 days of sunshine.

- Technology improvements will be made that will position the Colorado Convention Center as a "best-in-class" facility, keeping pace with current technologies and demand, including increased capacity for Wi-Fi and streaming video.
- New and improved networking spaces will be incorporated into the building, providing exciting and innovative spaces that capture Denver and Colorado's spirit and allow attendees to connect in new ways.

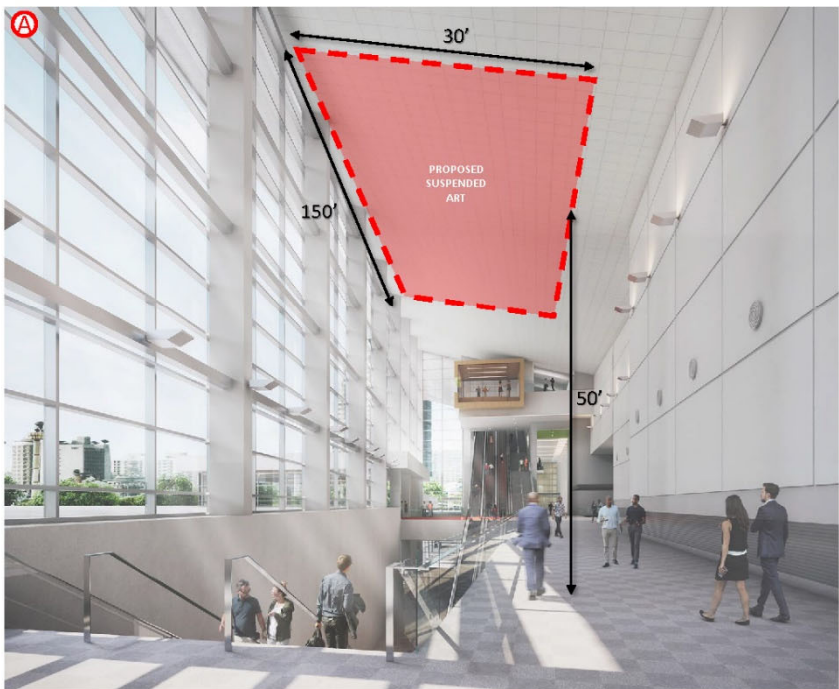
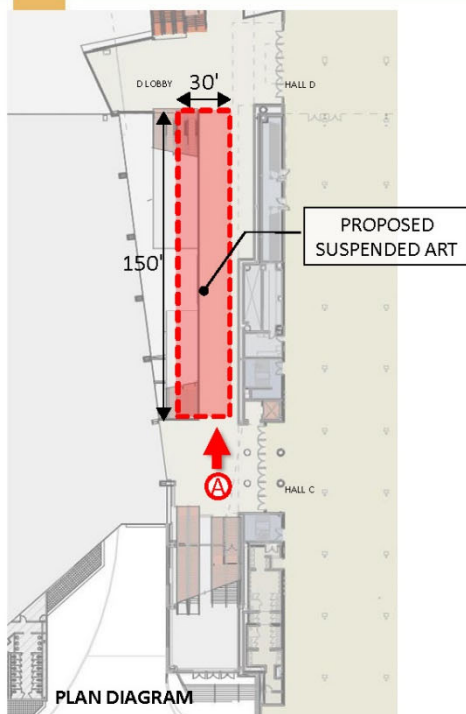
## Project Goals

The selection panel members have set forth specific goals and parameters for this public art project with the hope of creating unique and inspiring artwork for the diverse and international guests of the Colorado Convention Center.

- The panel seeks to commission an interior suspended artwork to activate the vertical space for the Colorado Convention Center's D Lobby that will engage visitors from multiple locations and levels and is also visible to viewers from the exterior of the center.
- The D Lobby's west-facing glass façade has an unobstructed view of the Rocky Mountains and Denver's vibrant sunsets.
- The artwork should have a strong day and night presence and reflect Colorado's daily and seasonal changes.
- Denver, Colorado, enjoys 300 days of sunshine each year. The artwork's interaction with natural light and shadow will play a major role in its presentation.
- Visitors to Colorado are greeted with the iconic sign "Welcome to Colorful Colorado" at every entry point on the map. Vibrant colors represented in the wide-open sky, magnificent mountains, rivers, and plains should be considered.

FIGURE 1 – EXHIBIT LEVEL SOUTH – D LOBBY

CONCEPT ONLY



## Maintenance & Durability

All applicants are expected to consider the issues of long-term conservation and maintenance of public art, along with time and budget. Public art projects should be fabricated of highly durable, low-maintenance materials. Finalists are encouraged to consult with a professional fabricator and/or conservator prior to the submission of a final proposal. Artist proposals awarded contracts will be reviewed by the City of Denver's Public Art Committee to ensure conformity

with city standards of maintenance and durability, as well as ADA standards. All finalists are expected to stay on budget and to complete work in an approved time frame.

### **Who May Apply?**

This project is open to all artists internationally. Denver Public Art is committed to building a public art collection that represents a broad diversity of artists based on race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, sexual orientation, national origin, age, religion, marital status, political opinion or affiliation, or mental or physical disability. The selection panel is especially interested in artists who can demonstrate an understanding of Colorado's seasonal changes and Denver's urban landscape in context with current social and cultural events.

### **Can a team apply?**

Applicants may apply as a single artist or multi-person collaborative group. If applying as a team, please submit one résumé for the team, with no more than one page per team member.

### **Applying for these opportunities**

In response to this RFQ, applicants will be asked to submit the following items via [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org) (CaFÉ™).

1. Six digital images
2. Résumé
3. Statement of interest no longer than 2,000 characters

From these applications, the selection panel will choose three to five finalists who will create site-specific proposals and be interviewed in a virtual format. Finalists will be paid an honorarium for this work. Artists/teams selected as finalists will be required to submit a Diversity & Inclusiveness Form for their proposals to be considered, which will be provided upon notification. As directed by Executive Order 101, this form must be submitted for all city solicitations of proposals. Denver Arts & Venues Public Art Program staff can provide guidance on filling out this form. Based on the interview and proposal, an artist or artist team will be selected for this commission. The selected artist or artist team will work with the Public Art Program, Colorado Convention Center, Design-Build team, and Denver's Department of Transportation & Infrastructure (DOTI), when finalizing their designs for installation.

### **Diversity and Inclusiveness**

Denver Executive Order No. 101 establishes strategies between the City and private industry to use diversity and inclusiveness to promote economic development in the City and County of Denver and to encourage more businesses to compete for City contracts and procurements. The Executive Order requires, among other things, the collection of certain information regarding the practices of the City's contractors and consultants toward diversity and inclusiveness and encourages/requires City agencies to include diversity and inclusiveness policies in selection criteria where legally permitted in solicitations for City services or goods. Diversity and Inclusiveness mean inviting values, perspectives, and contributions of people from diverse backgrounds and integrates diversity into its hiring and retention policies, training opportunities, and business development methods to provide an equal opportunity for each person to participate, contribute, and succeed within the organization's workplace. "Diversity" encompasses a wide variety of human differences, including differences such as race, ethnicity, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, physical disabilities, appearance, historically underutilized and disadvantaged persons, as well as social identities such as religion, marital status, socio-economic status, lifestyle, education, parental status, geographic background, language ability, and veteran status.

### **Budget**

The budget for this commission is \$900,000.00 USD which will be allocated to the artist/team selected. These funds come from the City of Denver's 1% Percent for Public Art Ordinance designated by the Colorado Convention Center Expansion Project. This contract amount is inclusive of all costs associated with the art project including, but not limited to: the artist's design fee, other consultation fees such as structural engineering consultation, insurance (including Colorado Workers Compensation), tools, materials, fabrication, transportation, installation, any building or site

modification required (structural support, lighting, mechanical adjustments, etc.), travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, project documentation, a contingency to cover unexpected expenses, and any other associated costs. For all work done on city property, prevailing wage requirements will be applied.

### Timeline

(Except for the online application deadline, the timeline is subject to adjustments)

Monday, May 24th, 11:59 P.M. MST	Deadline for entry (via CaFÉ™ system)
June 2021	Finalist Selection
August 2021	Selected Artist Notification

### Project Selection Panel

According to Denver's Public Art policy, the project selection panel plays an active role in acquiring public art for Denver. The Colorado Convention Center's selection panel is comprised of 13 voting members and additional non-voting advisors. The selection panel is responsible for reviewing the site, establishing criteria for a request for qualifications, reviewing applications, selecting and interviewing finalists, and selecting an artist or artist team for the commission.

### Selection Process

1. Three to five artists/artist teams will be selected as finalists. Those selected will receive more specific information regarding the site and can meet with community members from the art selection panel and public art program staff. Finalists will receive an honorarium to prepare and present the proposal in a virtual format.
2. The selection panel will review the proposals, interview the finalists and recommend an artist/artist team for the commission.
3. The final recommendation of the selection panel will be presented to the Public Art Committee, the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs, and the mayor of Denver for final approval.

\*All decisions of the City and County of Denver are final.

### Materials to be Submitted

*Please read this section carefully. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered. The applicant's name must appear on all materials submitted.*

All materials must be submitted online, via the CaFÉ™ website ([www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org)). There is no application fee to apply or to use the CaFÉ™ online application system.

**Digital Images**—In order to be considered for this project, the applicant must electronically submit six digital images of **previously completed** artworks through the online CaFÉ™ system. Artists who wish to submit kinetic, sound, or media works must submit a complete CaFÉ™ application and will have the opportunity to upload one video file.

**IMPORTANT:** If submitting audio or video files, do not use them as your very first image. They must be submitted last in your image sequence.

Instructions on how to format images to CaFÉ™ specifications can be found at <https://www.callforentry.org/uploading-images-audio-and-video-files/>.

Assistance in using the CaFÉ™ system is available here: <https://www.callforentry.org/artist-help-cafe/>.

**Statement of Interest**—Please submit a brief statement (2,000-character maximum) outlining the following:

- Your interest in the Colorado Convention Center Expansion public art project
- Your design approach
- Your experience working on projects of this kind

- Your experience working with diverse communities and stakeholders

**Résumé**—Submit a current résumé via CaFÉ™ that highlights your professional accomplishments as an artist. Please name your résumé file accordingly: *Last name.First initial* (i.e., *Smith.J.pdf*). Limit your résumé to no longer than two pages. If applying as a team, please submit one résumé with no more than one page per team member.

**Survey**—Applicants will be required to fill out a short demographic survey that will be sent via the Survey Monkey website to the email on file from the CaFÉ™ application.

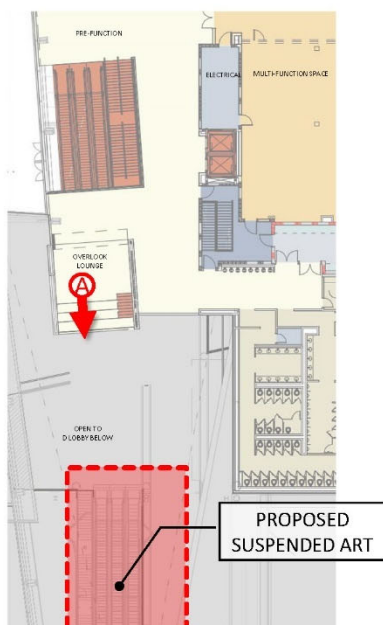
**References**—Selected finalists will be required to provide three professional references.

Please direct all questions about the project to:

Rudi Cerri, Public Art Program Administrator, [rudi.cerri@denvergov.org](mailto:rudi.cerri@denvergov.org), 720-865-5562

FIGURE 2 – OVERLOOK LOUNGE – D L O B B Y

CONCEPT ONLY



PLAN DIAGRAM

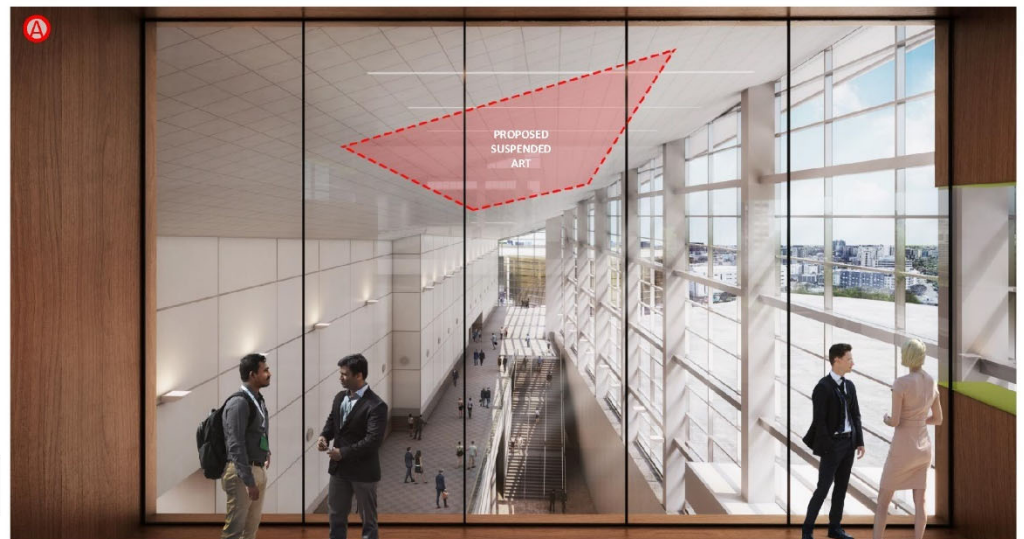




FIGURE 3 – EXHIBIT LEVEL SOUTH – D LOBBY

CONCEPT ONLY

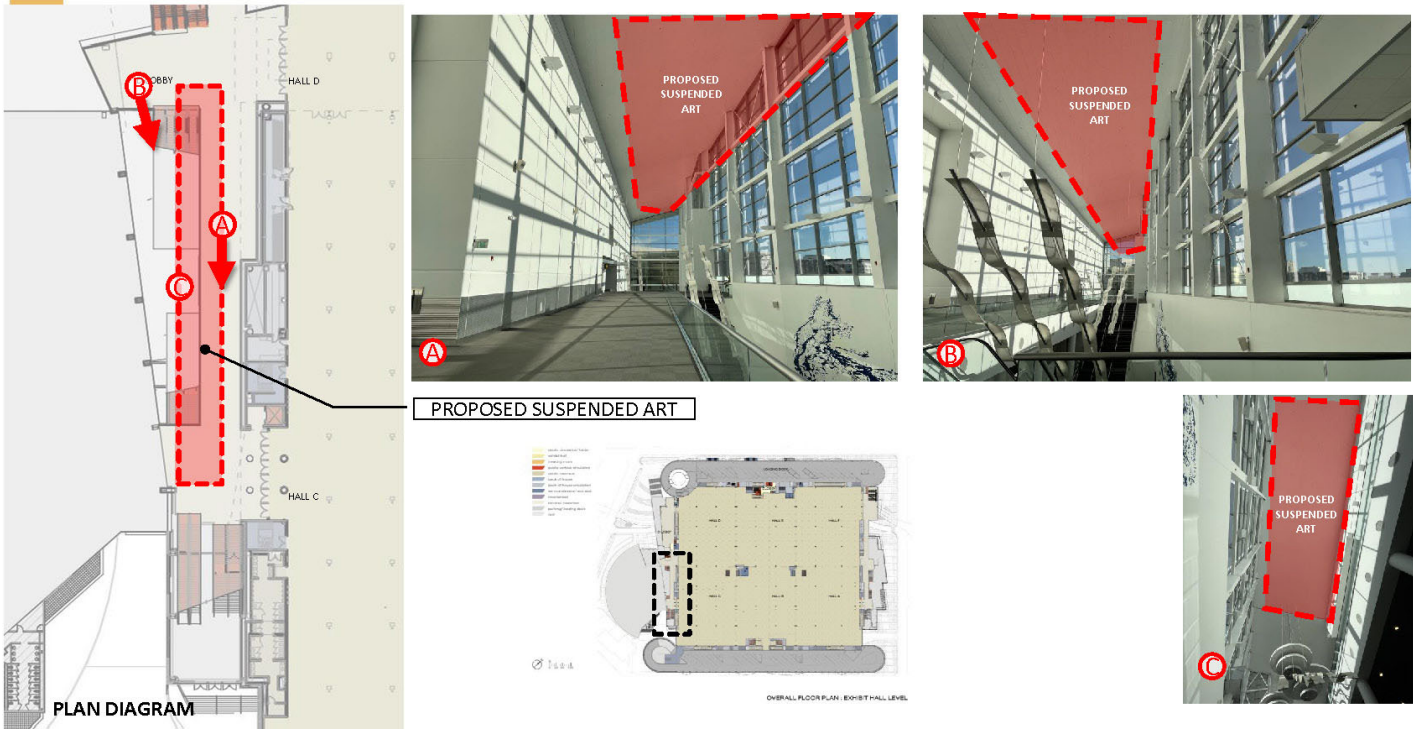


FIGURE 4 – EXTERIOR VIEW – D LOBBY

CONCEPT ONLY

