



Request for Qualifications (RFQ) – Call for Artists

As part of the Tribune Building Project, Incourage Community Foundation is announcing an open competition for up to \$300,000 in art installations. This opportunity, located in rural central Wisconsin, is supported by receipt of a Creative Placemaking grant from ArtPlace America.

Objective

Incourage is seeking a wide variety of art for permanent installation, including but not limited to: landscape (i.e. outdoor seating, sculpture, interactive gardens), graphic design (i.e. interior signage, wayfinding and storytelling), murals, 2-D and 3-D works connected to telling our community's story.

Tribune Building Project Background

The Tribune Building Project (tribunebuilding.org) started when Incourage Community Foundation (incouragecf.org) purchased a unique historic property along the Wisconsin River in downtown Wisconsin Rapids, with the intent that residents would decide its future use. In the past 15 months, over 700 community members have invested more than 4,400 hours in this resident-led decision making process.

The Tribune Building is a **social enterprise** that helps shape a new economy and community that works well for all people. This space advances:

- The value and importance of relationships and human potential;
- An environment that fosters risk and accepts failure;
- Creativity and innovation; and
- Entrepreneurship.

Community Context

In 2000, the south Wood County area was devastated by economic hardships brought about by the sale of Consolidated Papers Inc. – a Fortune 500 paper company that had been headquartered in Wood County for more than a century. At its operating peak, the mill employed almost half of the region's workforce. The dramatic economic shift compelled a shift in community thinking and, in response, residents realized that complacency would not serve their changed circumstances. The Tribune Building Project seeks to support residents in determining their own identity. By reimagining the building's future, residents are shaping the community's future.

Property Significance

The Tribune Building is centrally located downtown, beside the Wisconsin River and other community assets. Both the site and the 20,000 square foot building leverage historic, local significance and distinctiveness that are already meaningful and iconic for the south Wood County area. The building is former home to the local newspaper and radio station offices and embodies a unique mid-century modern – round structure design. The building's close proximity to the Wisconsin River is also significant. The revitalization will undoubtedly alter the deeply rooted historical perspective of the river

as a working asset – positioned to serve the local paper industry. Once complete, the re-envisioned site will serve as a gateway for residents to experience the river as an accessible and cherished natural resource, public recreation place, and destination location for travelers. The Tribune Building’s transformation is paramount to Wisconsin Rapids’ downtown and riverfront renaissance.

RFQ Submission Deadline:

January 26, 2015 - 12:00 p.m. (CST)

Dates of Contract

May 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

Budget

Funding of up to \$300,000 is available to multiple applicants for art integration, within and around the Tribune Building.

Resident-Led Vision

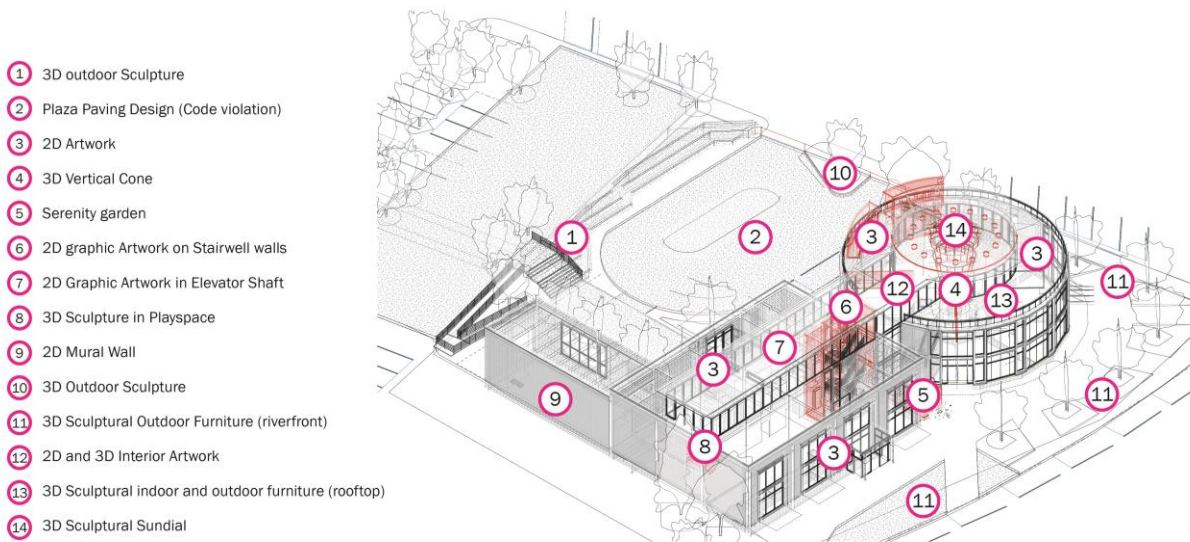
As illustrated in the Project summary above, residents in south Wood County are leading this work. To date, over 700 community members have invested more than 4,400 hours in re-envisioning the Tribune Building. As part of a 15-month resident engagement process, a community meeting was held on September 30, 2014 where residents focused on how the ArtPlace America grant dollars would be utilized within the Tribune Building. Hands-on activities helped to educate residents on different art mediums. Participants also collaborated on important community themes they believed should serve as inspiration for future art installations.

The following community themes emerged as most important to residents:

- The history of the river (i.e. logging, rafting, trading, lodging, generating power, fishing, papermaking, and recreation);
- All cultures and groups that call the south Wood County area (SWCA) home, including but not limited to Native, Hmong, French, German, and Scandinavian;
- Legacy of the Tribune Building as a communication hub for the community, including the Daily Tribune (Gannett newspaper) and local radio stations;
- History of business and industry in SWCA, including but not limited to fur trade, logging, cranberries, and paper;
- Beauty of the river throughout the seasons, including but not limited to geology and wildlife;
- Cranberries, cranberry grower history, Cranberry Blossom Festival;
- The Tribune Building Project, and the resident-led decision making process;
- Resilience and innovation in the SWCA community.

[Summary of the September 30, 2014 meeting](#)

Potential sites for art installation within and around the Tribune Building are illustrated below:



Access to the Tribune Building Project's ArtPlace America [grant application](#), as well as a comprehensive overview of all ten public meeting [summaries](#) from the resident-led process, can be found on tribunebuilding.org.

Criteria for Proposals

The following are eligible to apply:

- Individuals
- Teams of artists (two or more collaborators)
- For-profit business organizations
- Nonprofit organizations

Successful applicants will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the **holistic, values-based** framework that has guided the Tribune Building Project from the beginning;
- Incorporate preservation and celebration of the building's past role in **community information and connection**;
- Integrate **community themes** as determined by residents at the September 30, 2014 public meeting;
- Include meaningful **resident participation** in the planning and implementation process;
- Reflect the **culture and traditions** of the south Wood County area;
- Embrace **local** materials that are **sustainable, durable and low maintenance**.

Pre-Submission Informational Webinar

A pre-submission informational webinar will be hosted on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. (CST) for any interested applicants. The Tribune Building Design Team will give an overview of the Project, resident-led process, and summary of community context. The Design Team will welcome questions regarding the Project scope as well as RFQ submission requirements. Please RSVP for the webinar by

contacting [Chelsey Mazurek](#) or by phone at 715-423-3863. Chelsey will email the webinar log-in information to all individuals who have RSVP'd for the event. This webinar will be recorded and posted at tribunebuilding.org following the live event.

Submission Guidelines

To apply, please use our submission portal below to submit the following items by 12:00 p.m. (CST) on January 26, 2015:

- 1. Letter of interest** highlighting the applicant(s)' reaction to the Project, including a brief description of applicant(s)' preliminary vision for how to approach this Project and related cost estimate. Explain why the applicant(s)' work is appropriate for the Tribune Building. Provide example(s) of demonstrated connection to place (if not situated in the local community or 200-mile radius, it is especially important to be able to demonstrate in recent work examples a connection to the place and people in which applicant(s)' work was completed). Applicant(s) should also include any relevant experience with public art installations and budget management.
- 2. Current resume** describing any public art experience, community engagement experience, large-scale installations, or other experience relevant to this project. Please also include at least three professional references. If submitting as a team, all collaborators must provide an independent resume and references.
- 3. Images of Artwork** completed in the past five years and representative of the applicant(s)' work. Please include "high" or "fine" quality images, file size not to exceed 5MB per image, and labeled with applicants(s) last name, e.g. "Smith_01."
- 4. Corresponding image summary** further detailing images of artwork submitted. Applicant(s) should utilize [this template](#) to detail size, medium, location, date completed, and budget (if applicable). Label file with applicant(s) last name, e.g. "Smith_ImageSummary".

Selection Process

Applicants will be selected through a two-part process. The Tribune Building Project Design Team will review initial proposals. Finalists will be notified by February 6, 2015 and will be required to attend a two-day Project Orientation in south Wood County. Finalists will be expected to have further developed their proposals upon arrival in south Wood County. Finalists will have the opportunity to collaborate with the Project Design Team regarding design proposal and artistic vision in preparation for final proposal submission.

The Project Orientation will deepen finalist(s)' understanding of the south Wood County area and will include tours of the building as well as the community. Finalists will have ample opportunity to share ideas, ask questions and meet with resident leaders integrally involved in the resident-centered Project work. Stipends will be available to offset travel expenses.

Following the community orientation, finalists will have two weeks to submit their full proposal. Final proposals will be due by 12:00 p.m. (CST) on March 12, 2015.

Timeline

January 5, 2015	RFQ released
January 20, 2015	Pre-submission informational webinar (4:30p.m. CST)
January 26, 2015	RFQ submissions due (by 12:00 p.m. CST)
February 6, 2015	Finalists selected

February 24-25, 2015
March 12, 2015
March 27, 2015
April 2015
May – December 2015

Finalist Orientation in south Wood County
Final proposals due (by 12:00 p.m. CST)
Artists selected
Contracts finalized
Dates of contract

Questions?

Contact Chelsey Mazurek or Val Tonn at tribunebuilding@incouragecf.org or 715.423.3863.