



**Maryland National Guard
Brigadier General (MD) Louis G. Smith
Readiness Center
Public Art Project**

7111 Ocean Gateway (Route 50)
Easton, MD

CALL TO ARTISTS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Restricted to artist residents of Maryland

Issued February 24, 2017

Application Deadline: **March 24, 2017 Midnight**
Apply online: www.CallforEntry.org

*Artwork proposals NOT accepted at this time.
Artists submit background qualifications only.*

Contact: Liesel Fenner
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Public Art Program Director
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Project Title: Easton Readiness Center Public Art Project

Mission and Program

Today's National Guard is frequently called up for federal missions overseas and state operations at home. The world has changed; new missions and new ways of accomplishing them have developed. National Guard facility requirements have also changed to better sustain soldier and unit readiness. The modern National Guard armory is now a "Readiness Center", a key component for sustaining unit capabilities for federal missions overseas, and for conducting civilian support operations at home. The Readiness Center is a focal point for attaining and sustaining soldier and unit readiness and serves as the principal facility to support unit administration, training, logistics, operations, and other support activities. The new Easton Readiness Center (ERC) will replace the existing Armory and be new building construction at the existing site on Route 50 in Easton.

The Maryland Military Department trains and deploys National Guard units to provide support to state, county and municipal jurisdictions as directed by the Governor, and to perform to federal missions worldwide when called into service. The new Readiness Center will support two company-level units: Detachment 1, 729th Quartermaster Company, and D Company 1-175th Infantry. The Center will also support a State Veterans' Honor Guard Team. Placing these units along Route 50, a major north-south route, will provide a vital link serving the Eastern Shore.

Overarching Themes

The Easton Readiness Center is commissioning a two-dimensional permanent public artwork that will convey the themes of the Maryland National Guard: courage, bravery, and dedication of service to the United States of America and the citizens and communities of Maryland. The artwork will be original and site-specific to the Easton Readiness Center site. The new Readiness Center will display military artifacts including documents, photographs and memorabilia related to service. The public artwork may incorporate the content, themes and documentation of the artifacts, but not necessarily the actual artifacts. Semi-finalist artists or artist teams selected to develop concept proposals will meet with National Guard representatives to discuss history specific to the service units, gather personal stories, and view the artifacts and memorabilia to inform the concept proposal.

Proposed Artwork

The Easton Readiness Center public art may be representational or abstract however the artwork must convey the themes outlined above and resonate for the diverse users of the ERC. The artwork will be sited on the interior wall of the lobby (please refer to Addendum for plan) and will measure approximately 12 feet by 12 feet. The artwork may be a single overall image or multiple separate images creating an overall composition. The original(s) may be created by any of the following suggested media, as well as additional techniques the finalist artist utilizes: drawing, painting, prints, photography, collage, montage, digitally created imagery, etc...

The finalist artist will work closely with an approved fabricator who will digitally prepare the artwork for digital printing, mounting on durable panels and installation on site. The ERC project is an opportunity for artists to realize their work through large-scale digital printing and fabrication processes, sited in a permanent context.

Eligibility

All professional artists or artist teams living in the State of Maryland may apply. If artists are applying as a team, the team should be listed on the application form, specifying a team leader to receive notifications. Three references (names/contact information) are required from professionals who have worked with the artist in an art-related capacity. Artists currently enrolled in a university or college degree programs are not eligible to apply.

Budget Details

Three semi-finalist artists or artist teams will be selected to develop a concept proposal. Each semi-finalist artist or artist team will receive **\$860** that will cover concept proposal expenses including travel to the site and associated costs, such as proposal display board(s) and proposal reports.

The artwork project budget is **\$74,120** and includes a 15% contingency fee of \$11,118. The contingency fee includes \$5000 for lighting of the artwork. The artwork project budget is inclusive of all costs associated with the project, including but not limited to: artist fee and expenses (travel/lodging, printing, overhead, etc.), artwork fabrication, storage (if applicable), transportation, installation, and insurance. Any remaining contingency funds will be paid to the contracted artist. Any expenses that exceed \$74,120 will be the artist's responsibility.

Contract

The artist will work closely with the ERC project team including: the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS), Maryland National Guard, Maryland State Arts Council Public Art Program Director, Design-Build firm, Architect, and approved fabricator to oversee all aspects of the artwork from concept design development, to project fabrication and installation. Artist must be a resident of Maryland at commencement of contract. The artist will be responsible for submitting an artwork maintenance manual upon completion.

Submission Procedures

1. Application Process

Artists apply online utilizing CaFÉ: www.callforentry.org. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, March 24, 2017, Midnight**

Online application will include:

- **Application Form**
- **Statement of Interest** creating a public artwork for the Easton Readiness Center and how the artist's experience and approach would benefit this project. If applying as a team please describe collaborative experience and approach. (1000 characters maximum)
- **Resume or CV** (teams must include resumes of all artists applying)
- **References** include at least three (3) art and/or design professionals who have detailed knowledge of the artist's work. Must include contact name, address, telephone number, and e-mail for each reference

- **Twelve (12) JPEG Images.** ONE (1) IMAGE PER JPEG. Image and file size requirements listed on CaFÉ. If applying as artist team, identify all artists of the work. Up to two videos may substitute for two images. Prepare your images to meet the CaFÉ requirements in advance – this takes time.
- **NO CONCEPT PROPOSALS ARE SUBMITTED AT THIS STAGE**

2. Semi-Finalists Selection

The Artist Selection Committee will review applicants and select three semi-finalist artists or artist teams to develop concept proposals.

Semi-finalist artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Originality, artistic excellence and innovation demonstrated through past work
- The artist's experience is sufficient to meet the project scope and implementation
- The artist is open to a collaborative working process in regards to design, approvals, meeting deadlines, and working with a fabricator

Meeting 1 – Site Visit: Semi-finalists will tour the site and meet with the Artist Selection Committee, representatives of the National Guard, design-build firm and project managers. The site visit will be an opportunity for semi-finalists to ask questions of the project team and meet with National Guard personnel and veterans to inform the concept proposal. The site visit will be scheduled in late March, in Easton.

3. Finalist Selection

Meeting 2 – Concept Proposal Presentation: Each semi-finalist artist or artist team will individually present their concept proposal to the Artist Selection Committee. The concept proposal will include the following: a one-page written description of the artwork proposal, and concept renderings of the proposed artwork. Semi-finalists will also present their background art experience and approach to working on the ERC project in a collaborative project team environment.

Following the concept proposal presentations, the Artist Selection Committee will select the final artist or artist team. The artist will work closely with the approved fabricator to develop the concept through design development and final proofs in preparation for digital printing and fabrication. Final artwork must be approved by DGS and Project Committee before authorization to fabricate is granted.

The semi-finalist artist or artist teams preparing concept proposals must agree to the following:

- The artist shall retain Easton Readiness Center Proposal intellectual property rights
- Maryland National Guard shall have the unconditional right to retain the proposal materials (drawings, illustrations) as part of the proposal commission, whether or not the artwork is selected for implementation. Full credit will be given to artist or artist team if proposal is disseminated by print or digital means
- If utilizing the proposal for future public art applications, the artist shall give credit to the Maryland Public Art Initiative (MPAI) Maryland National Guard Easton Readiness Center
- Proposed artwork must be original and unique to the Easton Readiness Center project

Selection and Production Schedule:

RFQ Posted	February 24, 2017
RFQ Application Deadline	March 24
Artist Selection Committee selects semi-finalists	March 31-April 24
Semi-finalists Notification and Invitation to Prepare a Proposal	April 27
Site Visit Meeting	May 5 or 12
Concept Proposal Presentations	Week of June 5
Finalist Notified	June 14
Artist Contracting Phase	By June 30
Artwork Design Development Phase	July-September
Artwork Final Design Phase	October - December
Fabrication Period	January-June 2018
Installation	August 2018
Opening/Unveiling	October 2018

Evaluation Criteria

The following specific criteria will be utilized for concept proposal scoring and final artist selection:

- **Aesthetic Excellence** – The aesthetic quality of the artwork upholds the principles of art and design excellence
- **Relevance** – Artwork must be appropriate to the site and contextually relevant to military personnel including veterans, and users of the facility
- **Diversity**- the MPAI program strives for balance in not only style, scale and media of the state collection but also diversity in the artists selected throughout the MPAI program
- **Technical Feasibility** – The artwork must be clear and legible when enlarged to the final scale dimensions of the site locations as well as translatable to the final media
- **Past Performance** – The Artist Selection Committee will consider the artist’s experience, especially previous public art projects

Artist Selection Committee

Contract Agency (DGS) Representative (1) Voting
National Guard Representatives (3) Voting
Architect (1) Voting
Project Manager Representative (1) Voting
Local Visual Artist Representative (1) Voting
Maryland Public Art Commission Representative (1) Voting
Non-voting: Public Art Program Director, Maryland State Arts Council

Questions and Inquiries

All questions and inquiries must be in writing and directed to Liesel Fenner, Maryland State Arts Council, Public Art Program Director, liesel.fenner@maryland.gov.

To Apply

Artists apply online utilizing CaFÉ: www.callforentry.org. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, March 24, Midnight**. For technical questions applying on CaFÉ, please email cafe@westaf.org. CaFÉ office hours, M-F, 9:00-5:30 MT.

About the Maryland Public Art Initiative Program:

In 2005, the Maryland Public Art Initiative was established. During the Fiscal Year 2014 Legislative Session, the initiative was revised to include a new funding mechanism. The program is intended to create a permanent public art collection owned and accessible to the citizens of Maryland. The artworks will be sited at State agencies and Universities and include both interior and exterior works that uphold standards of excellence in arts and design.