



YardWorks

Call for Artists:

*Site-Specific Work for the Louise J. Moran Fine Arts Courtyard,
Located on the University of Houston*

1. INTRODUCTION

The YardWorks Selection Committee invites proposals from Texas-based artists and artist teams at the early stages of their careers to design, fabricate, and install temporary works of public art for the Louise J. Moran Fine Arts Courtyard on the campus of the University of Houston.

YardWorks is a partnership between Public Art of the University of Houston System (Public Art UHS) and the School of the Art (SoA) at the University of Houston. It is a biannual program granting Texas-based emerging artists exhibition opportunities for their site-specific installations and public art projects. The program includes a professional dialogue component as well as a guided experience along all stages of the exhibition process; from concept development to fabrication to installation. Commissions remain on view for a 9-month period from June through March at the Louise J. Moran Fine Arts Courtyard, in the heart of the University of Houston's campus Arts District.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This call is extended to Texas-based artists and artist teams at the early stages of their careers with a demonstrated studio practice. Priority will be given to artists who have limited experience with art in the public realm. School of Art faculty and Public Art UHS staff are available for assistance during the planning and execution of the work. Three finalists will receive \$500 to further develop their proposals.

Public Art UHS and the UH SoA will host one work of public art to be installed in June 2023 at the Louise J. Moran Fine Arts Courtyard, for a nine-month run (through March 2024). While the selected work can take a multitude of forms and materials it must be resilient to weather, and safe for public interaction.

For more information about the program and past projects, visit:
<https://publicartuhs.org/yard-works/>

3. PROJECT GOALS

The goals of the project include the following:

- Provide a first opportunity for Texas-based, early-career artists and/or artist teams to create work for the public realm.
- Place high-quality works of site-specific art that complement the Louise J. Moran Fine Arts Courtyard.
- Activate and energize the Louise J. Moran Fine Arts Courtyard.
- Engage academic and community audiences through an event or programmatic component that is responsive to the selected artist and artwork.

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

The Louise J. Moran Fine Arts Courtyard is located at the center of the UH School of Art, Fine Arts Building. It is a pleasant, tree-filled, multiuse area frequented by the School of Art community and the University at large. The 4 floors of the Fine Arts Building surround the courtyard, providing a myriad of vantage points. A site visit is strongly recommended.

Site address: 100 Fine Arts Building, University of Houston Main Campus

[Click here for diagrams, maps and photographs of the site.](#)

5. BUDGET

The total amount budgeted for the project is \$20,000 and is inclusive of **all work** including, but not limited to, design proposals, artists' fees, design, engineering, permits, insurance costs, studio and project administration, travel, fabrication, materials, installation, required documentation as well as de-installation at the end of the project's run at the Louise J. Moran Fine Arts Courtyard. Please note that the further away you are from Houston, the more costs will incur in travel, lodging, logistics, art handling, and transportation.

The artist is expected to be on-site to oversee and/or execute the installation and deinstallation of the artwork.

The project budget does not include any additional costs related to planned events or programmatic components of the installation. Costs related to programmatic

components will vary with each project but will be the responsibility of Public Art UHS and the UH SoA.

Finalists and Semi-Finalists will be asked to use PaymentWorks, a third-party company that sets you up in our accounts payable system. You will complete paperwork and return it through a secure portal for direct deposit payment into your bank account.

6. ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

- Open to individual artists and artist teams
- Must be 18 years old
- Artist/artist team must be able to work at the required scale and have availability to accomplish installation/deinstallation by the deadlines: June 30, 2023 and March 31, 2024, respectively.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY:

- Current UH System students (degree must have been earned May 2022 or prior)
- Current UH System employees

Note: Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria or application requirements will be withdrawn from consideration.

7. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

All materials must be submitted as a single, multi-page PDF sent to: dpolitze@central.uh.edu with the subject line, "YARDWORKS PROPOSAL." PDFs should not exceed 6MB.

- **LETTER OF INTEREST** | This is your opportunity to express your personality, professionalism, qualifications, and enthusiasm for the project. Please answer the following: What is your interest in YardWorks? What is your imagined design or artistic/conceptual approach? What is your experience, if any, working on public art projects? How will your work evolve through this project and how will it bring your career/work to the next level?
- **VISUAL SUPPORT MATERIALS** | Applicants should submit up to ten (10) images of past works as part of the submitted PDF. Each image should include descriptive information including title, year completed, material(s), dimensions and any other relevant information.

- ARTISTS RESUME OR CV | Relevant information for all key team members (3 pages maximum per artist or team member).
- ARTIST STATEMENT | (500 words maximum) The purpose of the artist statement is to inform, add context, and present process and conceptual ideas to the viewer, which may include sources, ideas, and materials in your current practice.
- ARTIST BIO | (250 words maximum)

8. SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions will be reviewed by the YardWorks Selection Committee which consists of UH faculty, staff, students, alumni and professional artists working in the public realm. The Committee will select three (3) finalists to further develop their proposals for a second round of review. The Committee will select one final YardWorks artist or artist team from that pool of three finalists.

9. SELECTED ARTISTS WILL BE ASKED TO CONSIDER

- Artworks should be suitable for public display to a diverse and international audience.
- Artworks must be free of safety hazards.
- Artworks must meet Texas Accessibility Standards (a.k.a. ADA) requirements where applicable.
- Artworks should require minimal maintenance.
- Artworks that are proportional to scale and volume of the space.
- Be mindful of existing courtyard seating, lighting, landscaping, etc.

10. MAINTENANCE AND DURABILITY

All applicants are expected to consider the issues of outdoor works of art, along with time and budget. Public art projects should be fabricated of durable, low-maintenance materials that take into consideration all types of weather. Finalists are encouraged to consult with a professional fabricator and engineer prior to the submission of a final proposal. Artist proposals awarded contracts will be reviewed to ensure conformity with campus standards of maintenance and durability, as well as ADA standards.

11.INSURANCE

Public Art UHS maintains insurance for works of art once installed on the UH campus. The Artist/Artist Team must maintain appropriate insurance for all other stages of the process.

12.SELECTION CRITERIA

TECHNICAL MERIT

- Level of technical skill, artistry, and/or craftsmanship exhibited.
- Consideration of structural capacities, including weight, dimensions, and ease of installation.
- Sustainability/durability and ease of maintenance.
- Safety.

ARTISTIC MERIT

- Level of originality and creativity.
- How the artist's choice of material, presentation, and display affect the visitor experience.
- How the art relates to the site and the courtyard design.
- Visual impact.
- Supports project goals (see above).

OTHER

- Demonstrated ability of the artist or team to complete a project on schedule and within budget.

13.PROJECT TIMELINE*

ROUND 1:

- MARCH 30: Call for Artists Issued
- MAY 30: Call for Artists submission deadline
- JUNE 30: Finalists notified and asked to submit proposals

ROUND 2:

- JULY 30: Finalists present proposals
- AUGUST 15: 2023 YardWorks Artist Selected and Announced

TIMELINE FOR SELECTED ARTIST:

- SEPTEMBER 15: Artist Consultation and Initial Review by Campus Facility and Planning Commission
- NOVEMBER 1: Final Proposal Due
- NOVEMBER 30: Final Review by Campus Facility and Planning Commission
- DECEMBER 20: Final Concept Approved
- JANUARY 1, 2023: Fabrication begins
- JUNE 30, 2023: Installation Complete
- MARCH 31, 2024: Deinstallation Complete

*all dates are subject to change

14. CONTACT

For questions and/or more information, please direct all inquiries to:

David Politzer
Associate Director of the School of Art
dpolitze@central.uh.edu

Please submit all questions in writing via email no later than May 15, 2022 4:00 PM CST to dpolitze@central.uh.edu. Questions will be answered as they are received.