

City of Buffalo Arts Commission
2001 City Hall
Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 851-5027
ebarr@city-buffalo.com
<http://www.city-buffalo.com>

CALL FOR WORK

1. **Purpose:** The City of Buffalo wishes to commission public art in the City of Buffalo, New York. This public art will be designed to accompany the Northland Corridor Redevelopment Project. The Buffalo Urban Development Corporation (BUDC), in partnership with Empire State Development, the New York Power Authority, and the City of Buffalo, is redeveloping multiple properties in the Northland Avenue Belt Line Corridor. The Northland Corridor Redevelopment Project aims to return these properties to productive use, assist with revitalizing the surrounding neighborhood, and provide employment opportunities for nearby residents by creating a new manufacturing hub on Buffalo's East Side. The website attached to the project is <http://www.buffalourbandevelopment.com/northland-corridor-redevelopment-project>.
2. **Enabling legislation:** Pursuant to Section 6-29 of the City of Buffalo Code authorizing the commissioning of new works of art.
3. **Location:** Buffalo Urban Development Corporation property. Parcel of land at 577 Northland Avenue bordered by Fillmore Avenue and the Beltline railroad tracks. A placement map for the installation site is attached.
4. **Who may submit proposals:** Artists, architects and/or designers with extensive knowledge of the region, and surrounding neighborhood, may enter concepts for consideration by the City's selection committee. Please be aware that this is a very aggressive timeline and artists must be prepared to execute their proposals quickly. Collaborations between artists/designers/architects are also welcomed. Excluded from consideration are City of Buffalo employees and artists, or companies, who are unable to secure the necessary licensing, permits and insurance. Insurance to be considered by the City as possibly being required depends upon the artist selected, the selected submission and the selected artist's corporate status, work group and or individual status. In many cases insurance is to include general liability, automobile liability, workers compensation and disability insurance. Artists are encouraged to disclose with their submissions what types of the foregoing insurance categories the artist carries.
5. **What is the dollar amount to be spent on artwork(s):** The total amount to be considered for the purchase, planning design, construction, installation, illumination and maintenance of artwork(s) for this project may not exceed \$80,000. The distribution of the amount will be determined by the type of art and the cost of the work submitted. The artist's total budget should include planning, design, construction, installation, illumination and maintenance costs for the work. All proposals must include a detailed project budget.
 - **What type of work will be considered:** The accompanying document highlights the emphasized area within the parameters of the Northland Corridor Rehabilitation Project. Materials must be of a permanent nature and able to withstand seasonal

weather and vandalism. The artwork should be independent of the green infrastructure. It should also be independent of the roadway project. Possible subject matter can vary, however works that convey a connection between the Northland Corridor Redevelopment Project and the surrounding neighborhood are encouraged. This geographic area of the City of Buffalo has a strong industrial heritage and majority African American population. Connectivity to those aspects is deemed as important. Industrial artifacts from those demolitions, and other construction activity, may be available for the artists to use or incorporate into their work. Existing works, or works created especially for this project, will also be considered by the selection committee. The final work(s) selected will be chosen on the artwork's merit, and suitability to the location, as represented in the material submitted by the applicant. Further consideration will be given to the artist's ability to complete the work and stay within the project budget.

6. **What are the criteria for selection:** a) Artists shall be selected on the basis of the appropriateness of their proposal to the particular project and its probability of successful completion, as indicated by the merit of their past work. In the case of a design team approach, an artist's willingness to fully participate in a collaborative process shall also be considered. b) The selection committee is looking for the highest aesthetic quality. c) Due consideration will be given to the appropriateness of the proposed design in terms of its scale, form, and content with respect to its immediate and general, social and physical environment. d) Due consideration will also be given to the proposed design regarding its materials and construction for questions of durability, maintenance, public access, appropriateness, safety and security. e) The assurance that the agreed upon project budget will be met.
7. **All artists submitting work should include:** a) An artist's resume and (or) artist's statement. The resume must include current mailing address, daytime and evening phone numbers, and email/fax. b) Five (5) digital photos/slides of recent (within last five years) work. Digital photos/slides must be clearly labeled with the artist's name, title, date, location, media and dimensions of work with "top" indicated. Include a digital photo/slide description list with corresponding number. c) Information regarding any other art installations in which the artist may have completed. d) Completed attached entry form for each work to be submitted. e) Full size, self-addressed, stamped envelope with correct postage.
8. **What should be submitted for proposed work:** In addition to the information requested in section seven, the artist should submit a one-page written description (11 pt. double spaced) of the proposed work. Additional pages can be used to submit drawings or representations of the concept to give an accurate visual impression of the finished work. The City's selection committee encourages site-specific works of art designed especially for this location.
9. **What should be submitted for existing work:** In addition to the information requested in section seven, the artist should submit digital images/photos/slides of the work(s) to be considered. Three dimensional works should have multiple digital images/photos/slides showing all possible views. Works that change due to movement resulting from electrical or mechanical manipulation should be accompanied by digital images/photos/slides showing all possible visual effects. These visual aids should be labeled with artist's name, title, media, location, year, size (height x width x depth). Please type or print this information legibly.

10. **The selection process:** All submissions will be viewed and considered by the City's selection committee. Any artwork subsequently purchased becomes the sole property of the City of Buffalo Arts Commission. Artists whose work is selected will be required to sign a contract with the City of Buffalo Arts Commission for this project including copyright permissions.

11. **Proposals and related materials should be sent to:** Emerson Barr, Executive Director, Buffalo Arts Commission. For inquiries call 716-851-5027 or email ebarr@city-buffalo.com. The City of Buffalo and all participants cannot be responsible for lost or misdirected entries. Materials must be received by 4:00 pm on July 7, 2017. Artists with physical disabilities or special needs requiring transportation may contact same phone/email.

12. **Project calendar:**

May 8, 2017 (4 pm)

- First of two open houses and drive/walkthrough of possible installation locations. (Not required for submissions). Will be held at 577 Northland Avenue.

May 13, 2017 (10 am)

- Second of two open houses and drive/walkthrough of possible installation locations. (Not required for submissions). Will be held at 577 Northland Avenue.

July 7 2017 (4 pm)

- Final date the City of Buffalo will accept proposals. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

September 25, 2017

- Notices will be sent to all entrants regarding the decisions of the City's selection committee.

May 1, 2018

- Full design of selected artwork(s) must be completed in coordination with the consultant.

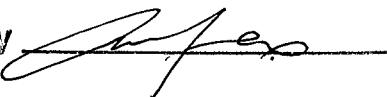
13. **City is not required to select any artist's work as a result of this solicitation/call for work.** City reserves the right to reject any and all submissions. City also reserves the right to extend the dates set forth in section 12 above. City further reserves the right to alter, amend and or re-issue this solicitation/call for work.

14. If an artist is selected, **the artist will be required to enter into a standard performance contract** with the City on the City's standard form selected and provided by the City. Said contract must be acceptable to the City in all respects and typically would contain a requirement for the artist to indemnify the City and provide the City with additional insured status under the artist's general liability insurance coverage. Artists considering making a submission are encouraged to include and describe with their submission what types of insurance, if any, the artist carries. Types of standard insurance coverages the City typically requests, as and when applicable depending upon circumstances, are general liability, automobile liability, workers compensation and disability insurance.

APPROVED
AS TO FORM ONLY

*Assistant
Corporation Counsel*

By



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Entry Form
"City of Buffalo Northland Corridor Redevelopment"

Deadline: July 7, 2017 (4 PM)
Submit one form for each entry or concept.
Additional forms are available.
This form may be photocopied.

Please type or print information clearly

Artist/Designer Name:

Street address:

City:

State:

Zip code:

Home phone #:

Alternate phone #:

Email:

.....
Title of work:

Media:

Size: Height_____ xWidth_____ xDepth_____

Year (if completed):

Total budget (Attach detailed budget): \$

.....

(next page)

The following information needs to be submitted only one time if multiple works or concepts are submitted:

Number of works or concepts submitted:

Number of digital photos/slides submitted:

Please check () items submitted and/or statements that apply:

- Artist/designer resume
- Artist/designer statement
- Description of work
- Concept for consideration as a commissioned work
- Drawings of proposed artwork - # _____
- Digital photos/slides of work(s) to be considered: - # _____
- Digital photos/slides of previous work(s) not to be considered for this project, but are examples of work - # _____
- Budget information
- Media clippings

Check either:

- Materials submitted may be retained for future reference

Or

- Materials submitted to be returned to artist
 - Self-addressed stamped envelope for return of material
-
- Place above address on mailing list for future projects

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE NORTHLAND CORRIDOR REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Northland Corridor Redevelopment project is located in an East Side of Buffalo neighborhood, called the Northland – Belt Line Historic District,* which is a collection of largely intact light to medium manufacturing facilities, all of early to mid-twentieth century construction. The nine factories in the area included Otis Elevator Factory and Foundry/Curtiss-Wright complexes, the Houde Engineering Complex, Niagara Machine & Tool Works Factory, the Northland Rubber Company and the Buffalo Foundry and Machine Company. Residential blocks comprised of well-made worker homes fill in the streets between the factories. While the residential blocks are thriving, many of the factories have been vacant for decades.

The area retains much of the original industrial feel and setting. The factories are good examples of early twentieth-century factory design showcasing two of Buffalo's preeminent architectural firms of the period, Green & Wicks and Cyrus K. Porter & Sons. A prolific regional factory architect, Gordon Wolfe, is also represented within the district. These factories incorporated key advances in factory construction of the period for increased daylight with their large window openings and sawtooth monitor roofs. Advances in early twentieth-century factory operations for mass production that incorporated management science and the assembly line are seen in the layout of the plants.

The neighborhood is known for its association with Buffalo's early 20th century growth as a major manufacturing and rail transportation center - two industries that were mutually reinforcing and helped propel Buffalo's prosperity. The factories are also significant for their association with the industrial development of the East Side of Buffalo along manufacturing nodes of the Belt Line in the early twentieth century. In 1883, in an effort to decentralize industrial development and to better link the factories to the city, the NY Central Railroad built the Belt Line Railroad as a freight and commuter rail line. Buffalo's Belt Line, which proved instrumental to the growth of the East Side, was originally intended to serve passengers, but industries realized the potential for cheap transport to other rail lines and began building factories and plants in clusters around the line. The Belt Line had stops spaced approximately one mile apart, and by circling the city around the unsettled sections of Buffalo, opened up whole new areas for residential and industrial development. It created a loop of new industrial and residential communities around the city.

Most of the factories in the Northland node had orders from the federal government during World War I and World War II. But it is during World War II and afterwards, as part of the "Cold War," that the companies established their roles as important defense contractors. The

companies had government orders for regular products in addition to equipment for all of the aircraft manufacturers, which included Curtiss-Wright, Bell, and 23 different foundries. The Curtiss-Wright, Lockheed, and Douglas companies used the Niagara Machine & Tool Works presses to manufacture small parts for aircraft assembly, both during and after World War II. There were many ownership changes after the Wars and by the late twentieth century most succumbed to the difficult economic situation that affected the industrialized Northeast and western New York and relocated or went out of business. The five factories now owned by the Buffalo Urban Development Corporation were vacant by the early 1990s.

*The City of Buffalo in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office has determined that the Northland Belt Line Historic District is eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Preservation. The district includes nine historic factories between Grider and Fillmore, West Delavan and West Ferry, clustered along the Belt Line.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING PROJECTS

Over the next several years, a variety of restoration, rehabilitation, construction and demolition activities will be undertaken to revitalize the Northland Corridor. As a result, there will potentially be industrial artifacts available from the factories for use within public art projects.

Niagara Machine & Tool Works Factory (683 Northland Avenue): The Niagara Machine and Tool Works Factory Complex is a large industrial facility designed and constructed between 1910 and 1981. The complex is a good example of early twentieth-century factory design with the original buildings designed by the noted Buffalo architectural firm of Green & Wicks, and later buildings and additions designed by local civil engineers H.E. Plumer and Jacob Fruchtbaum.

The company manufactured tools and machines for working with sheet metal, specializing in presses, punches and rotary sheets. The factory is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A National Register nomination is being submitted for the factory, which will allow BUDC to obtain state and federal rehabilitation investment tax credits. The factory is being adapted into a Work Force Training Center, which is expected to open for classes in September of 2018.

Houde Engineering Complex & Factory (537 East Delavan Street) : This factory was built in several phases: 1924-1929, 1940 and 1952. It was designed by local factory designer, Gordon M. Wolfe and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Houde was the maker of Houdaille rotary vane type shock absorbers for automobiles, train and airplanes. Due to contaminated soil beneath the factory, NYSDEC classified much of the site as a *Class 2 site* -

significant threat to the public health or the environment – action required. Most of the original complex must be removed to allow remediation of the contaminated soil and groundwater (contaminated primarily from VOCs from the factory manufacturing processes). BUDC has received approvals from the State Historic Preservation Office after a six-month public process to remove certain pieces of the factory, while restoring others.

The Otis Elevator Company Foundry Division (777 Northland Avenue): This foundry was designed by significant Buffalo architecture firm, Green & Wicks, in 1913 with several additions in 1939, 1942 and post 1950 to support Otis Elevator's activities in Buffalo. Curtiss-Wright bought the property in 1951. The factory is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Having been vacant for decades, many of the brick walls are suffering from severe deterioration. BUDC has received approvals from the State Historic Preservation Office after a six-month public process to remove certain pieces of the factory, while restoring others. Demolition will begin later in 2017.

ADDITIONAL INTERPRETIVE WORK THAT MAY SUPPORT PUBLIC ART

BUDC will develop an interpretive plan to tell the story of the Northland-Beltline Historic District. This plan may include:

- Historic exhibit or exhibits
- Interpretive plaques and/or signage and a self-guided walking tour throughout the potential historic district and neighborhood
- A gallery with historic exhibits inside of the Work Force Training Center

FUTURE PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

The construction activities along the Northland Corridor will offer a variety of opportunities for artists. The first commission will be this outdoor work at 577 Northland. As the projects progress, additional public art commissions may be sought for interior spaces and additional outdoor spaces. There may be artwork commissioned for several areas inside the new Work Force Training Center including industrial areas and the exhibit gallery.