

Call to Artists/Artist Design Teams

Request for Qualifications

Erie County Redevelopment Authority

Erie Malleable Iron (EMI) Redevelopment Project

Sculpture 1: \$50,000 - \$125,000

Sculpture 2: \$15,000 - \$35,000

Deadline to Submit Materials: 5:00 PM (EST) Friday, February 18, 2022

Project Description

The [Erie County Redevelopment Authority](#) is accepting qualifications from artists (or artist teams) for a potential public art opportunity along the 12th Street Industrial Corridor in Erie's urban core. This potential opportunity coincides with the [redevelopment of the former Erie Malleable Iron \(EMI\) complex](#). It is desired to commission up to two artists (or artist teams) from Erie County to create finished sculptural artwork to be installed at what will be a high-tech business park.



Conceptual Site Development for the Former Erie Malleable Iron Property



Former Erie Malleable Iron (EMI) Facility

Erie County Redevelopment Authority

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We are looking for artists (or artist teams) with strong portfolios of past work who demonstrate a proven track record of large-scale sculptural projects. Artists (or artist teams) will submit online

their applications for consideration. From this, the Erie County Redevelopment Authority will select semi-finalists who are most qualified for this project. The semi-finalists will be paid a modest design fee to conduct a site visit and then create and submit site-specific design proposals.

Using these proposals, one artist (or artist team) will be selected as the finalist for each project and will be expected to lead the production of the artwork from concept to delivery.

Project Budget

All semi-finalists will be paid a \$500 stipend to compensate for expenses related to the creation and submission of site-specific design proposals.

Sculpture 1 will be prominently featured inside the courtyard of the high-tech business park slated to be developed. The budget for the artwork is \$75,000 - \$125,000.

Sculpture 2 will be prominently featured inside the lobby of the high-tech business park slated to be developed. The budget for the artwork is \$20,000 - \$35,000.

Budgets shall be inclusive of:

- Artist fees
- Subcontracting fees, including but not limited to fabrication and engineering
- Materials and supplies
- Transportation to the site of installation
- Installation

Site preparation will be the responsibility of the Erie County Redevelopment Authority. Budgeted amounts are projections only and may change at the discretion of Erie County Redevelopment Authority.

Project Goals and Scope

When site-specific proposals are requested from semi-finalists, artworks should:

- Serve as statement pieces for the newly developed high-tech business campus.
- Integrate industrial materials reclaimed from the existing EMI complex.
- Pay homage to Erie's industrial past while also representing the region's forward commitment to innovation.
- Have the ability to create a sense of awe and wonderment.
- Be designed, fabricated, engineered, and installed within budget.

Any artwork that will be installed outdoors should:

- Be durable and engineered appropriately for all weather conditions.
- Include a lighting component that allows for nighttime illumination.

Description of Location

The physical location of the project is the former Erie Malleable Iron building located along Erie's 12th Street Industrial Corridor. The building was acquired in 2021 by the Erie County Redevelopment Authority. As part of a redevelopment project in progress, the western portion of the complex will be raised, while the building located along the intersection of West 12th Street and Cherry Street will be incorporated into the redevelopment project.

The Erie County Redevelopment Authority's plan calls for rehabilitating 72,600 square feet of space. The plan also calls for new construction totalling approximately 108,600 square feet. In total, the property spans 5.4-acre within Erie's urban core. The redevelopment project was conceived to both honor the site's past industrial legacy while also building for the future.

Application Requirements

- Letter of Interest
- Artist (or artist team) biography
- C.V. emphasizing experience in public art and working with public agencies or private clients. If applying as a team, please include C.V.s for all team members.
- Artist statement that emphasizes the nature of your work and your artistic process.
- Examples of past work (up to 10 labeled images)
- Work sample identification
- Artist website and/or social media

Letter of interest should address the following:

1. Why are you interested in proposing artwork for this project?
2. How would you accomplish the goals identified with this project?
3. What previous projects have you completed that are relatable to this project in size, scope, and budget?

Work Sample Identification should address the following (for each item):

1. Budget
2. Date of work
3. Client/project

4. Additional explanatory text about specific artworks may be added, although this is not required.

Application Submission Instructions

All materials should be submitted by February 18, 2022 by 5 PM EST.

Materials can be emailed to Tina Mengine, Director of the Erie County Redevelopment Authority, at tmengine@ecrda.net. If an applicant desires to send hard copies they can do so but should arrange in advance with Tina.

Selection Process and Criteria

The Erie County Redevelopment Authority will work with the artists (or artist teams) to finalize the schematic design and integration of artwork with the site. Submissions will be evaluated based upon the overall quality and merit of the artists' past works. The Erie County Redevelopment Authority will screen the artists' applications and may select up to three semi-finalists who will be paid a modest design fee for an interview with the The Erie County Redevelopment Authority and presentation of a site-specific design proposal. Contracts and final budgets will also be discussed at that time.

Criteria for scoring proposals may include, but are not limited to:

1. Detail and completeness of proposal
2. Overall aesthetic of proposed artwork
3. Does it embody the vision?
4. Does it invoke a sense of place?
5. Durability and long-term maintenance requirements
6. Artist demonstrates/provides evidence of ability to follow through and meet deadlines

Timeline

2022

January 24, 2022: Publish call, applications open

February 18, 2022: Applications close

February 25, 2022: Semi-finalists selected

March 25, 2022: Site-specific designs due

April 8, 2022: Finalists selected

Summer 2023: Installation

Commitment to Equity

The Erie County Redevelopment Authority is committed to championing policies and practices of equity that empower a just, inclusive, and equitable region. We recognize that many existing systems of power grant privilege and access unequally, and that equity is crucial to the long-term viability of both the arts and culture sector and communities-at-large. In support of this commitment, we will offer a 5% bid preference to female and minority artists and female or minority led artist teams.

About Erie County Redevelopment Authority

The Erie County Redevelopment Authority facilitates the retention and creation of jobs and increases prosperity in the Erie region while building the economic development infrastructure through the acquisition, development and redevelopment of real estate in Erie County and through grant and lending opportunities to businesses and municipalities.