

Request for Qualifications

Public Art Proposals for Contributing Artwork and Works on Consignment to Kate Furbish Elementary School, Brunswick, Maine

Contact Email: PPerzanoski@brunswick.k12.me.us

Entry Deadline: 4:30 p.m., Friday, November 1, 2019

Project Description

The Brunswick School Department and the Public Art Committee for Kate Furbish Elementary School seek an artist or team of artists to submit their qualifications to contribute a public art work for the new school, scheduled to open in 2020. Both site specific and existing artworks are welcome. In keeping with the spirit of self-taught naturalist and botanical artist Kate Furbish, for whom the school is named, artworks and projects responding to and expressing the natural world of Brunswick, Maine are particularly encouraged.

Because Kate Furbish Elementary School is locally funded, there are no funds for public art projects as part of the building's construction. There are, however, various ways to allow artists to make a meaningful contribution to this project, should they choose. See more under **How to Contribute**.

Potential sites in and around the building are indicated under **Site Information**, below. While our committee is primarily interested in large-scale, site-specific projects that engage the architecture or landscape of a given site on the school grounds, there is also the possibility of installing existing original artwork in or around the building, either permanently or on loan.

Media must be durable, low maintenance, permanent, safe for both children and adults, and be ADA compliant. At the selected artist's expense the artwork may require certification by an electrical, civil and/or structural engineer licensed to practice in the State of Maine, and review by a professional fine art conservator.

Qualification packages are due **no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 1, 2019**, submitted electronically to PPerzanoski@brunswick.k12.me.us, by fax to 207-725-6663, or in hardcopy to the Brunswick School Department Central Office at 46 Federal Street, Brunswick, Maine 04011.

Eligibility

This request for qualifications is open to all artists or teams of artists working in the United States, but those with ties to Brunswick and the state of Maine are particularly encouraged to apply. Artists submitting qualifications should demonstrate a level of experience and professionalism that is commensurate with the project scope.

About Kate Furbish Elementary School

The new Elementary School in Brunswick has been named for Kate Furbish, a renowned botanist and artist who lived from 1834-1931 in Brunswick and devoted much of her life to the study and illustration of plant species.

Kate Furbish Elementary School is a 660-student school serving grades Pre-K through 2 that is being built with local funding approved at referendum. It is one of four Brunswick schools that include Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary (grades 3-5); Brunswick Junior High School (grades 6-8); and Brunswick High School (grades 9-12).

Site Information

(Insert a link here from PDT with highlighted locations, dimensions, and any narrative descriptions).

How to Contribute

Kate Furbish Elementary School is a local, rather than state-funded project, supported by a bond issue voted on by the citizens of Brunswick—a community-wide gift to future generations. As such, there is no funding available for public art in the general budget.

With greatest respect for the talents and labor of artist applicants, this request is for a gift or loan of an artwork to the school and the Brunswick community, offered in the spirit of this community-based project.

To make this valued contribution more feasible, any of the following arrangements might be considered:

1. Making your artwork an outright gift.

2. Undertaking fund-raising for your project, with the cooperation and support of the Public Art Committee, once it's been chosen.
3. Loaning your work to the school on a limited term or consignment basis (for sale).

In addition, artists whose work is included in the project will receive a legal Deed of Gift that will enable them to deduct the fairly determined market value of their donation for tax purposes.

Application/Selection Process

Overview

This call is open to all qualified artists or teams of artists, with at least one member residing in the United States.

The Kate Furbish Elementary School Public Art Committee is made up of representatives from the Town of Brunswick and local citizens. Under the guidance of the committee chair, this group of individuals is responsible for prospectus development, submission review, finalist selection, and ultimately recommending the artist or artist team to be awarded a commissioned project to the Building Committee for final approval.

Based on the first round of applications (see **How to Apply**, below), up to five finalists will be invited to submit a formal proposal of their project. The selection of finalists will be based on a review of their past projects of a relevant nature, success of the projects previously undertaken--with an emphasis on collaboration with stakeholders and commissioning organizations--and aesthetic merit. Awareness of contemporary issues in place-making and contemporary Public Art aesthetic issues will be weighed alongside demonstrable success in design, material selection, and installation.

Following their selection, each of the finalists will be interviewed by the Public Art Committee. A presentation of the artist's qualifications and past work, as well their proposed project for the school, will be followed by a question/response period, allowing the artist/artist team to offer the committee a greater understanding of their individual approach, their viewpoints, and why their particular history and experience will be best suited for the Furbish project. Detailed requirements for further consideration will be provided to the finalists prior to their interview.

It is the intention of the Kate Furbish Elementary School Public Art Committee to seek out artists/artist teams who can conceive a unique work that addresses the local environment and speaks directly to the natural world on the coast of Maine. Artists may research the project using any resource with the exception of discussion with individual members of the Public Art Committee.

All renderings, maquettes, samples, and written proposals will become the property of the Town of Brunswick and the Kate Furbish Elementary Public Art Committee.

The final selection criteria shall include, but are not limited to:

1. The professional qualifications of the artist(s) as evidenced by the supporting materials.
2. Proven ability to undertake projects of the described scope.
3. Artistic merit and superior caliber craftsmanship as evidenced by the images.
4. Suitability of submission to project intent and site.

Artists or artist teams short-listed as finalists for these projects will be required to enter into a Contract with the Town of Brunswick.

How to Apply

Please read the following information carefully. Incomplete or late submissions will be at a disadvantage.

All materials must be submitted via email to Paul Perzanowski (PPerzanowski@brunswick.k12.me.us), ***no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, November 1, 2019***, according to the specifications outlined below.

1. **A succinct letter of interest, via email**, no longer than 3 paragraphs, written specifically to address the needs of this project. Please provide a brief outline your professional qualifications, a statement about what excites you about the opportunity, and how you might approach the project if selected as a finalist.

Please include all contact information—home or studio address, email address, and phone, and a link to your website (if available).

2. **A current chronological resume or curriculum vitae** demonstrating relevant work experience, particularly public art or privately funded commission projects, submitted as an attachment to the email.
3. **Ten images of previously completed work**. All images should be submitted as JPG or PDF files, either in the body of the email or as attachments. Please title each file as follows: 1. Artist's last name.jpg (or 1. Artist's last name.pdf), and so forth, numbers 1-10.

Please also submit, in the body of the email, a checklist of the images submitted, corresponding to the numbers on the files. On the checklist, please include the title of

each artwork, date of completion, medium, height, width and depth, price or value, and a description of the piece or project.

Each applicant is also encouraged to include a link to their website.

All requests for clarification and or additional information must be submitted in writing via email PPerzanoski@brunswick.k12.me.us, or by fax, 207-725-6663, to Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent.

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Project Timeline

September 30, 2019 – Request for Qualifications Announced

November 1, 2019 – RFQ Submission Deadline

November 25 – Notification of Finalists

January, 2020– Finalist Presentations

July 2020 – Artwork completed and installed