



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications
National Call to Artists

Project Overview

The Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) and the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) are pleased to announce a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from artists, or teams of artists (hereafter, "artists" shall mean individuals and/or teams of artists) with personal experience living in Deaf culture and DeafSpace principles to create public art for the MSD campus in Frederick, MD.

There are two opportunities to commission new works for the MSD campus. The process of selecting artists for both opportunities will happen in two phases. In the first phase, all interested artists will respond to this Request for Qualifications, indicating if they would like to be considered for one or both of the commission opportunities. In the second phase, a group of semi-finalists will be identified for each commission. Semi-finalists will then be invited to interview for their respective project.

NOTE: While this Request for Qualifications is soliciting applications for both artwork commission opportunities, the two capital projects are not occurring simultaneously. The selection and award of each commission, and project implementation will be conducted on distinct timelines.

Commission A:

Project/Facility:	Veditz Building Renovation
Project Budget:	Not to exceed \$65,000
Interview Stipend:	\$2,500 travel and interview stipend provided to each of the three semi-finalists

Commission B:

Project/Facility:	New Student Residences
Project Budget:	Not to exceed \$180,000
Interview Stipend:	\$2,500 travel and interview stipend provided to each of the three to



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications
National Call to Artists

	four semi-finalists
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Commission A & B:

Client/User Agency:	Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick, MD 21701
Issue Date:	Friday, September 6, 2024
Application Deadline: (Click the link to apply)	Friday, October 25, 2024 (Background info only, no artwork proposals) To apply, click here .
How to Apply Webinar:	Monday, October 7, 2024, from 1 - 2 p.m. To register, click here . ASL Interpreters will be provided

Table of Contents

- [Commission A:](#)
- [Commission B:](#)
- [Commission A & B:](#)
- [Table of Contents](#)
- [Project Overview](#)
- [Design Considerations*](#)
- [Artist Selection Process](#)
- [Selection Process](#)
- [Artist Selection Committee Representation](#)
- [Project Management](#)
- [Questions and Inquiries](#)
- [Commission A: Veditz Building Renovation](#)
- [Commission B: New Student Residences](#)
- [Addendum](#)



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications *National Call to Artists*

Maryland School for the Deaf

The MSD - a diverse and bilingual community, in partnership with families - provides an equitable and exemplary education in a nurturing, engaging, and challenging environment to ensure our students achieve personal excellence and become responsible lifelong learners.

Design Considerations*

**Please note that only semi-finalist artists will be expected to submit proposals:*

The final artwork must:

- Be safe, made with permanent-durable materials, and theft-resistant
- The artist must take precautions to ensure the artwork is safe for young children and young adults to touch, in so much as to consider making the artwork intentionally touchable
- Artwork should be durable and built with the understanding that it may be touched and climbed on frequently
- Consider the design principles of DeafSpace: sensory reach, space and proximity, mobility and proximity, light and color, and acoustics

Artwork Budget & Contracting

Up to four semi-finalist artists will be selected for each project. Each semi-finalist will receive a \$2,500 stipend that covers travel to the MSD campus for a site tour and interview with the Artist Selection Committee.

Individual applicants may be selected to be semi-finalists for both projects. While it is unlikely one artist will receive both commissions, MSAC reserves the right to select a single artist for both opportunities, if that is what the artist selection committee and MSD recommend.

Commission Budget:

The State intends to develop Commission A: Veditz Building Renovation for a maximum budget not to exceed \$65,000 and Commission B: New Student Residencies for a maximum budget not to exceed \$180,000.

The all-inclusive budget includes

- Artist fee and project management



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications

National Call to Artists

- Minimum of one community engagement session (time and method to be determined by the selected artist with the assistance of the project team)
- Overhead expenses (sub-consultants, travel/lodging, etc.)
- Concept and design development drawings, including budget and schedule
- Artwork fabrication shop drawings and specifications stamped by an MD-licensed engineer
- Artwork materials (including base(s), concrete footing if applicable) and
- Fabrication;
- Artwork transportation to site and installation;
- And any additional licenses, insurance, and any other costs as required to furnish and install the artwork resulting in a complete and fully functional installation.

The contracted artist is expected to visit the MSD a minimum of four times:

1. Concept design development kick-off and community engagement
2. Pre-construction site visit
3. Artwork installation
4. Artwork dedication at a date to be determined

The artist will be expected to conduct at least one community engagement presentation during the design phase in collaboration with the Artist Selection Committee. Additional visits may be necessary depending on the specific needs of the project as required to ensure the successful installation of the artwork. The cost for all anticipated visits shall be included in the artist's proposal budget. Any expenses that exceed the contracted amount will be the artist's responsibility. The artist will be responsible for submitting an artwork maintenance manual upon completion.

The MSD will work with the artist to develop a plaque or signage for the artwork and be funded by the DGS outside of the artist's budget.

Contract

The selected artist will contract directly with the Department of General Services (DGS). Prior to being awarded the commission, or receiving any payment, the selected artist must become a registered vendor with the State of Maryland and pass the state's tax clearance. The artist must adhere to all applicable licensing and tax requirements for the duration of the contract. The artist will work with the DGS Project Manager and MSAC Public Art project team to oversee all



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications *National Call to Artists*

aspects of the artwork from design development through project implementation and installation.

Artist Selection Process

Eligibility

All artists or artist teams with personal experience living in Deaf culture, living in the United States may apply. If artists apply as a team, the team should be listed within the application, specifying a “Lead Artist” to serve as the point of contact.

Artists currently enrolled in a university or college degree-granting program are not eligible to apply. Employees or appointees of MSD, DGS, and MSAC are not eligible to apply.

Application Requirements

All applicants must submit the information listed below. Artists may apply as teams who submit a joint application in the Submittable.com application portal.

- **Contact Information**

If applying as a team please apply for the name/account of the “lead artist”.

- **Artist Resume/CV:** Five pages max. (If applying as an artist team, please combine all team members’ CVs into one PDF to be uploaded)

- **Ten (10) Artwork Samples:**

Artwork samples may be submitted as a JPEG or video file, but the majority of samples should be still images. Video files should not be longer than 3 minutes each. Samples may include multiple images of the same artwork from different angles or highlighting specific details, but it is recommended applicants avoid submitting collaged or composite slides of multiple images. Proposal renderings for projects that have been designed but not fabricated/installed may be included, but labeled ‘not built’ under metadata.

Artwork Samples must include metadata to communicate the artwork and lead artist who designed the work. Please add metadata in the “Artwork Description” area and include all relevant information: scale/dimensions, materials, year completed, artwork budget, location, commissioning organization, etc... Additionally, include any collaborators and specify their role in the project (i.e. Artist, Assistant, Fabricator...).

- **Statement of Interest:** This is an opportunity for the artist or artist team to demonstrate a personal connection to creating an artwork that demonstrates personal experience living in Deaf culture. For the artist to address their personal connection to this



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications *National Call to Artists*

particular commission opportunity and why their experience and background align. Include how you will engage the MSD community in your public art design process.

Artwork proposals are NOT accepted at this time. Applications including visual or written proposal ideas for the artwork commission will be removed from the review. Incomplete applications may be returned or rejected.

Selection Process

RFQ Eligibility Review

All applications will be reviewed by staff for completeness and eligibility based on the submission requirements and the unique contexts of this project as described above. Applicants must be residents of the United States or a U.S. Territory. Students in high school, undergraduate, or graduate degree programs at the time of application are not eligible to apply.

RFQ Selection Criteria:

Applicant includes contact information, lead artist, resume/CV, Ten (10) artwork samples, and statement of interest. Please refer to the Application Requirements section for complete details.

Round 1

All applications deemed eligible by staff will be advanced to the Artist Selection Committees for review and scoring based on the Selection Criteria below. The Artist Selection Committees will advance the top-scoring applicants to Round 2.

Round 2

The artist selection committees will review and rescore top-scoring applicants from Round 1. Ultimately the committee will advance up to four top-scoring applicants to the Semi-finalist round.

Round 1 and 2 Selection Criteria:

1. **Experience:** Demonstrated experience through past works reflects originality, technical skill, sensitivity to site, and knowledge/experience of materials and fabrication methods suitable for a permanent installation in a public environment.
2. **Statement of Interest** demonstrates a personal connection to creating an artwork that demonstrates personal experience living in Deaf culture.



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications *National Call to Artists*

Semi-Finalists

Up to four semi-finalists per commission will meet in person to tour the site with Project Managers. Following the tour, each semi-finalist will individually present and be interviewed by the Artist Selection Committee. Presentations should cover the following:

1. **Examples of past work:** Share artwork that is relevant to the site context and goals outlined in this project charter, artwork should demonstrate the artist's depth of experience and quality of past work. Include the presenter's specific role in each project and identify collaborators and partners relevant to each project.
2. **Experience:** Illustrate and tell the story of your/your team's experience, qualifications, practice, and approach to developing site-specific public art projects
3. **Interview with the Artist Selection Committee.**

The presentation format must be digital slides and a PDF of the presentation should be provided to the Project Manager following the interview. Artists will have the opportunity to ask specific questions related to the project.

Semi-Finalists Selection Criteria:

1. **Examples of past work** are relevant to the site context and goals outlined in this project charter, artwork should demonstrate the artist's depth of experience and quality of part work. Include the presenter's specific role in each project and identify collaborators and partners relevant to each project.
2. **Experience:** Illustrate and tell the story of your/your team's experience, qualifications, practice, and approach to developing site-specific public art projects
3. **Statement of interest.** The artist demonstrates a personal connection to artwork themes and goals and demonstrates a commitment and passion for developing this artwork commission.
4. **Site Specificity:** The artists demonstrate a site-specific design approach to the location's opportunities and challenges.
5. **Engagement:** The artist presents a well-defined plan for engaging building users and stakeholders, providing thoughtful opportunities for interaction and exchange between the artist and stakeholders.



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications

National Call to Artists

6. **Project Management.** Artist demonstrates a specific and detailed strategy for managing and maintaining relationships with project partners including but not limited to building leadership, project managers, and facilities personnel.
7. **Feasibility:** The artist can meet the project design expectations within the provided timeline and budget. The artist provides clear and specific examples of working within past project budgets and timelines.
8. **Durability, Permanence, and Safety:** The artist clearly and specifically describes how their design approach ensures the artwork is structurally sound, resistant to theft, and vandalism, and is low maintenance. Additionally, the artist demonstrates how their design process will ensure the artwork will be safe and able to adhere or adapt to ADA guidelines and applicable building code requirements.
9. **Questions.** Artists ask insightful questions that demonstrate background knowledge of the specific project and an understanding of the public art process.

Following the interview, each semi-finalist artist or team will submit an invoice for the \$2,500 stipend.

*Semi-finalist artists must be available to visit and tour the campus, and then interview in person with the Artist Selection Committee. Applicants, please mark your calendar.

Artist Selection Committee Representation

The committee established to review applications and recommend an artist to the school's leadership for the artwork commission includes representatives from the following:

- Maryland School for the Deaf
- Building Architecture Firm
- Maryland Public Art Commission

Project Management

The selected artist will work with the MSD Project Manager to finalize the siting of the artwork within the proposed site to ensure a cohesive project.

Staff of MSD and MSAC Public Art Across Maryland Program, are responsible for project administration and management and will administer the work of the Artist Selection



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications *National Call to Artists*

Committee. The artwork will be incorporated into a building renovation or construction project, as detailed in the Commissions below.

The MSAC Artwork Commissions Program

MSAC's Artwork Commissions program is the state's Percent-for-Art program and allows independent artists and artist-led teams to apply to be included on a Public Artist Roster for a two-year cycle or to apply directly to an open Call to Artists when one is issued. Artists are selected for projects by an Artist Selection Committee specific to the project. MSAC manages the process from artist selection, through design, fabrication, and installation. Finished work becomes part of the state's public art collection. MSAC issues RFQs for works with particular specifications that cannot be accommodated by the Maryland Public Art roster selection process.

Questions and Inquiries

Nora Howell
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The Maryland State Arts Council is committed to making sure all Marylanders can access its programs and services. Guests with further accessibility questions or who require accommodations may fill out the [Accommodations Request Form](#) or contact the MSAC Office Secretary at msac.commerce@maryland.gov.



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications *National Call to Artists*

Commission A: Veditz Building Renovation

The Veditz Vocational School offers academic, career, and life-based learning leading to a Maryland high school diploma. Originally constructed in 1974, the building required modernization and space reconfigurations to accommodate contemporary vocational education curricula and meet current building codes and accessibility standards. The school building spans 46,515 square feet on two levels, which features classrooms, Career Technology Education areas for culinary arts, a wood shop, and an automotive shop, as well as office areas, meeting rooms, and support spaces. The updated building will be equipped with modern technology to support a variety of classes including American Sign Language, culinary arts, computer technology, graphic design, introduction to engineering, robotics, art, woodworking, and drama/video production. Additionally, the building will house a job training center to help students gain skills in resume writing, interview etiquette, and completing applications.

George Veditz is among the most well-known MSD alumni for his numerous endeavors, including the 1913 “Preservation of Sign Language” project and the National Association of the Deaf presidency. In 1892, Mr. Veditz also founded the MSD Alumni Association.

Existing Conditions

Concrete walks are to remain. All existing trees will remain in place, their root structure is not to be disturbed. Accessible walkways are to be unencumbered. Sightlines between the street and the building entrance are to be unencumbered. The side entrance near the gymnasium will be redesigned to accommodate ADA requirements, including a ramp and a redesigned stairway entrance.

Artwork Location

Artwork Location #1 (required): Exterior Entrance of the Veditz Building

The front entrance of the building will be a storefront-enclosed porch entrance. There are large existing trees and a planter adjacent to this entrance and walkways. Any location adjacent to these walkways shall be considered in a manner that does not inhibit accessible routes and sightlines from the building to the street. Large mature trees shall not be removed. See site drawings in the addendum.



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications *National Call to Artists*

Artwork Location #2 (optional): Outdoor teaching courtyard

A new outdoor learning courtyard will replace the service courtyard on the east side of the building. A greenhouse and fence will enclose the courtyard and complete a secure perimeter.

The surface of the courtyard will be painted asphalt, crushed stone, and grass areas and was organized around the concept of “conversation circles” that define the outdoor classroom environments. See the site drawings in the addendum.

Themes and Goals

The Veditz artwork commission should embody the pride of the Deaf community and embrace DeafSpace principles. The artwork commissioned should reflect the programs housed in the Veditz’s building that emphasize innovation, technical, and hands-on learning and focus on students choosing their path. The artwork could explore the significance of our hands and eyes, as they serve as the foundation of American Sign Language and the means through which we create things.

The redesign of the building’s architecture allows students to learn about its construction, reinforcing the vocational and technical training taught within. The artist should consider this aspect when creating the artwork. The artwork should inspire our students to pursue their creativity and achieve their desired post-secondary goals at the Veditz building and evoke feelings of joy, pride, hope, and fun.

Project Schedule

- Applications Due: **Friday, October 25, 2024**
- Applicants Notified of Selection Status: Early January 2025
- Semi-finalist Site Visit and Interview: Thursday, February 13, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Finalist Artist Contract & Procurement Approvals: March - June, 2025
- Design Development - Shop Drawings: May - October, 2025
- Fabrication - Installation: November 2025 - August 2026
- Dedication: Fall 2026



Maryland School for the Deaf Request for Qualifications *National Call to Artists*

Commission B: New Student Residences

High School and Middle School Residences on the Frederick Campus Project consists of the construction of three new dormitory buildings on MSD's Frederick campus that include space for a health center, student center, and administrative offices. The project also includes the demolition of three obsolete dormitory buildings. The new dormitories will increase the school's capacity to accommodate students and provide adequate supervision of residential students while providing a home-like environment. An estimated 18% of students enrolled in the Frederick campus are residential students. Improved dormitory spaces are anticipated to result in a high share of residential students.

The project will be completed in three phases to accommodate residents throughout the project. The state is investing \$55.5 million into this capital project. The project will encompass 66,800 square feet and incorporate the guidelines of DeafSpace in the design.

Existing Conditions

Concrete walks are to remain. All existing trees will remain in place, their root structure is not to be disturbed. Accessible walkways are to be unencumbered. Sightlines between the street and the building entrance are to be unencumbered. This artwork will be placed in a historic district of the town and it must be in alignment with the Maryland Historic Trust review to ensure that it preserves the historical integrity of the area.

Artwork Location

The artwork may be an exterior artwork sited in the green space of the historic entrance of the Maryland School for the Deaf or an interior space of one of the new residence halls. The New Student Residences are entering the design phase, and the additional specifics of the artwork location will be shared with the semi-finalists.

Project Schedule

- Applications Due: **Friday, October 25, 2024**
- Applicants Notified of Selection Status: estimated Summer 2025
- Semi-finalist Site Visit and Interview: estimated Fall 2025
- Finalist Artist Contract & Procurement Approvals: Estimated 2025
- Design Development - Shop Drawings: estimated Fall 2025 - January 2026
- Fabrication - Installation: estimated January 2028 - January 2029
- Dedication: estimated Spring 2029