

Rahr-West Art Museum

The Art Experience

City of Manitowoc Utility Box Art Project Request for Artist Proposals

Summary

The City of Manitowoc, in conjunction with the Rahr-West Art Museum's Public Arts Committee in collaboration with Manitowoc Public Utilities, is seeking applications from artists for the City of Manitowoc's Public Art Utility Box Project. We invite amateur and professional artists to apply, as well as artist teams and educational institutions. We will be selecting 10 different designs, inspired by artwork held within the permanent collection of the Rahr-West Art Museum, for the **10 utility boxes**. This project is an expansion of the utility box across from the Manitowoc Public Library that was painted by artist Erin LaBonte in 2019 with a design inspired by a piece in the Rahr-West Art Museum's Collection by Wisconsin artist Ruth Grotenrath. This project is funded by the City of Manitowoc, the Wisconsin Arts Board, and Hallman Lindsay Paint.

Objectives

- To increase awareness and understanding of local art and the Rahr-West Art Museum
- To present an affordable and accessible art experience for people of all ages
- To enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Manitowoc
- To promote Manitowoc as a cultural destination for visitors, artists, and residents
- To provide a showcase for local artists

Artwork Criteria

- Artwork must be inspired by a work from the Rahr-West Art Museum's permanent collection. See collection here: <https://www.manitowoc.org/2251/Collection-Image-Albums>

- Artwork will be painted on the utility boxes
- Intent of artist's design should be to wrap the utility box on all four sides
- Design may be duplicated on more than one side of the utility box
- Preferably no borders around artwork
- Feedback provided by MPU and the Public Arts Committee may alter the final design and positioning on the utility box
- Current projection is a 10-year life span, pending weather conditions

Artwork Specifications

- Design to be inspired by artwork held in the Rahr-West Art Museum's permanent collection

- Artists must utilize the exterior paint provided by the Rahr-West Art Museum. Brushes and any other necessary supplies are the responsibility of the artist. The utility boxes will be primed and prepped for artists to begin painting.
- Painting of the utility boxes will initiate between August – October 2021 and can be continued between April – June 2022

Selection Process

The selection committee will review the applications and select potential designs. Upon notification of selection, exhibiting artists will be required to sign an Artist Agreement. The selection committee makes siting recommendations. Some modifications to design may be needed to accommodate actual size and dimensions of utility box selected by the committee. A \$500 artist honorarium will be paid for each final design chosen.

Selection Criteria

- Works are appropriate for viewing by residents and visitors of all ages
- Artwork criteria are met
- Received by deadline
- Designs by Manitowoc County artists are preferred, but not required
- 10 unique pieces from the Rahr-West Art Museum will be highlighted as part of this project; preference will be given to designs that do not share the same inspiration so that the breadth and depth of our permanent collection can be promoted.
- Permanent collection pieces can be viewed online at <https://www.manitowoc.org/2035/Collection>
 - Actual artwork may be viewed by visiting the museum. Please contact the museum ahead of time - dbolander@manitowoc.org - to schedule an appointment.

Project Timeline/Deadlines

- July 23, 2021: Deadline for all submissions
- July 28, 2021: Selection notification to all artists
- August-October 2021: Installation (Installation may be extended through Spring 2022 if necessary)

Responsibilities

- Once selected, Rahr-West Art Museum staff will work with each artist to approve the design and modify it to fit the selected site.
- The City of Manitowoc, in conjunction with the Rahr-West Art Museum's Public Arts Committee, reserves the right to photograph and reproduce images of the work for marketing and educational materials.
- The Rahr-West Public Art Committee will promote the exhibit with the museum's artwork app (under development), on the city's website, and media releases.
- Artists may be asked to participate in interviews or other promotional activities during the installation process.

Submission Process

- Complete attached form and submit with a sketch of your proposed artwork.
- Up to three entries per artist are accepted. Submit separate forms for each idea.
- Email the form and sketches to dbolander@manitowoc.org by 5:00 pm on July 23, 2021.
- If mailing hard copies, they must be received by the same deadline.
- Incomplete applications and/or those received after the deadline will not be accepted.
- No application fee is required.

Application Deadline

Complete applications must be received by July 23, 2021.

Resources for Questions/ Submission Address

For additional information, please contact:

Diana Bolander
Assistant Curator/Director – Rahr-West Art Museum
610 N 8th Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 686-3090

This link may give you some ideas to designs that were chosen in Fond du Lac, WI. For their project.:

<http://downtownfdl.com/utility-box-art.html>

MPU and the Rahr-West Public Arts Committee reserve the right to provide feedback on the design submitted as part of the selection process.



This project is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Art Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

City of Manitowoc Utility Box Art Project

For consideration, please complete this form and include a sketch of your artwork by July 23, 2021.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Anticipated date of painting being finished: _____

Title of Artwork: _____

Briefly describe the artwork from the Rahr-West Art Museum's collection that has served as inspiration for your artwork:

I understand and agree to all the terms of this Request for Proposal and confirm the artwork submitted is my own personal creation.

Signature and Date

If submitting by mail, send application and preliminary sketch of artwork to:

Diana Bolander
Assistant Curator/Director – Rahr-West Art Museum
610 N 8th Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220

If submitting digitally, email all materials to: dbolander@manitowoc.org