



Public Art Mural Opportunity

Request for Qualifications

BACKGROUND

Blandin Foundation has contracted with Forecast Public Art to facilitate a call for an artist/team to design and create a mural on the outside of the Blandin Foundation building. Artists are hereby invited to submit qualifications to be considered to participate in the design phase for the public art opportunity described below.

Blandin Foundation is a private foundation based in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, with a mission to be a trusted partner and advocate to strengthen rural Minnesota communities, especially the Grand Rapids area. Their vision is healthy, inclusive rural communities.

Rural Minnesota communities – of place and practice – take distinct journeys as they imagine and claim their futures. Blandin Foundation meets communities where they're at, connects them to resources, and commits to partnerships that build vibrant, rural communities. Nothing truly worthwhile is ever easy. What they've learned is that real communities are built on hard work. On the hard work of leadership, of genuine inclusion, of reaching across boundaries and building lasting connections. On commitments—families facing hardship together, individuals prepared to make a stand when it matters most. And on belonging—that indelible sense of place that we call home.

That's the fertile soil in which healthy communities grow. And that's what Blandin Foundation is all about. Minnesotans imagining, leading, and growing healthy, inclusive—vibrant—communities. Blandin sees a world of possibilities in Minnesota's rural communities and is especially committed to the Itasca County area.

Mission

Be a trusted partner and advocate to strengthen rural Minnesota communities, especially the Grand Rapids area.

Vision

Healthy, inclusive rural communities.

Values

As stewards of the Blandin Foundation legacy, they commit themselves to a leadership role on these deeply held beliefs:

- Inclusion is Vital – We recognize all people, voices and worldviews as essential to healthy community.
- Relationships Matter – We encourage courageous dialogue, trust, and reciprocity among partners to create positive change.
- Integrity is Core – Our actions are guided by honesty, transparency and trustworthiness.

ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY

Blandin Foundation has proudly made its home in Itasca County (north central Minnesota) for more than 75 years. This region was the "wood basket" of the Grand Rapids-based Blandin Paper Company when it was owned by Foundation founder Charles Blandin in the early 20th Century. We continue to stand with Itasca area communities as they design and claim vibrant futures in the 21st Century.

Blandin Foundation's "home giving area" is Itasca County, plus Blackduck, Hill City, Northome, and Remer, and would like to honor these communities on the outside of their building. This mural will be highly visible, as the wall on Blandin Foundation building faces a major entry point into the city of Grand Rapids and highway 169, which sees heavy vehicle traffic. The building also sits on the edge of the Mississippi River, in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids. This Request for Qualifications is for an outdoor mural on the Blandin Foundation building, to be unveiled at in fall 2019.

Blandin Foundation would like to use this public art initiative to reflect the values on which it is based, honor the communities it serves, and reflect the identities of smaller, rural communities. One artist/team will be commissioned to create a mural which will be located on the outside of the building. See following pages for location map and images of the building.

SELECTION CRITERIA + PROCESS

Phase 1: Selection of artist/designers will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality of letter.
- Quality of work samples.
- Ability of artist/team to successfully complete projects based on bio and prior work experience.

Phase 2: Design concepts must meet the following criteria:

- Design concepts are reflective of Blandin Foundation's values and mission.
- Project must engage people in the Grand Rapids area in some way.
- Artwork highlights, honors, and is reflective of the communities that the Foundation serves, considers the past and present of these communities, and projects the future.
- Artwork is high-impact and easy to maintain
- Artwork conveys artistic excellence and innovation.
- Artwork is considerate of all seasons in MN, are considered safe and low maintenance, and consider lighting.

Additional considerations:

- Art should be welcoming, accessible and appropriate to the site.
- Artists should address how they would engage people in the Grand Rapids area in the project.
- One member of the team must be currently based in the Grand Rapids area.
- Mural should last 15 - 20 years.

Blandin Foundation Selection Committee will review eligible applications and select a group of up to three finalists/finalist teams to invite to Grand Rapids for an in-person interview. Each artist/team will receive a stipend of \$1000 to cover fees associated with design and travel to in-person interviews. Further information will be provided to the finalists. Deliverables include graphic depictions of the proposed artwork a brief narrative description, a budget, and a timeline. Artists/teams will have approximately four weeks to prepare preliminary concepts, including a visit to the site and the presentations to the Selection Committee.

Upon completion of an in-person interview, one artist/artist team will be commissioned to design, create, and install a mural on the building. Additional requirements will be

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be experienced visual artists or artist-led teams.
- Lead artist must have professional qualifications to complete a mural project of this scale. Additional team members may have a variety of experiences.
- At least one member of the team must be currently based in the Grand Rapids area.
- Applicant/team must provide evidence of producing at least two commissioned public art projects of a similar scale and budget within the past ten years.

We are committed to a policy of providing opportunities to people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, veteran status, or physical ability.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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| November 30, 2018 | RFQ announced. |
| January 3, 2019 | RFQ submission deadline. |
| January, 2019 | Committee review and selection of 3 finalists |
| Middle January, 2019 | Selected finalists site visit to Blandin Foundation |
| February, 2019 | Preliminary design concepts presented to Selection Committee |
| End February, 2019 | Contract with selected artist/team. Commence design development. requested to attend |
| March, 2019 | Based on approval of final design, artist/team commences with project |
| early October, 2019 | project installed/project completion/project unveiling |

BUDGET

The budget for the mural is \$70,000. This do-not-exceed amount must include all fees, materials, transportation, installation, permits, storage, insurance, community engagement activities, and any other costs associated with the project. Total expenses cannot exceed this amount. More information about the site will be made available to the selected artist[s].

SUBMISSION DETAILS

Please provide the following text in 12-point font, in a single PDF document:

- Contact information for lead artist and, if applicable, all team members
- Three references (contact information only) for recently completed projects
- One-page letter describing interest in project and approach to design; please include information about how you would engage the community in your project
- One-page listing of each work sample; please provide a brief description and budget for each work sample
- One-page biography or resume; if you have multiple team members, please keep biographical information for each team member to one page
- Work Samples: Up to 10 digital images of your recent and relevant projects. Individuals and teams are limited to 10 images maximum. Save all images as standard JPEG and label each with applicant's full name and number in sequence corresponding with list of work samples.

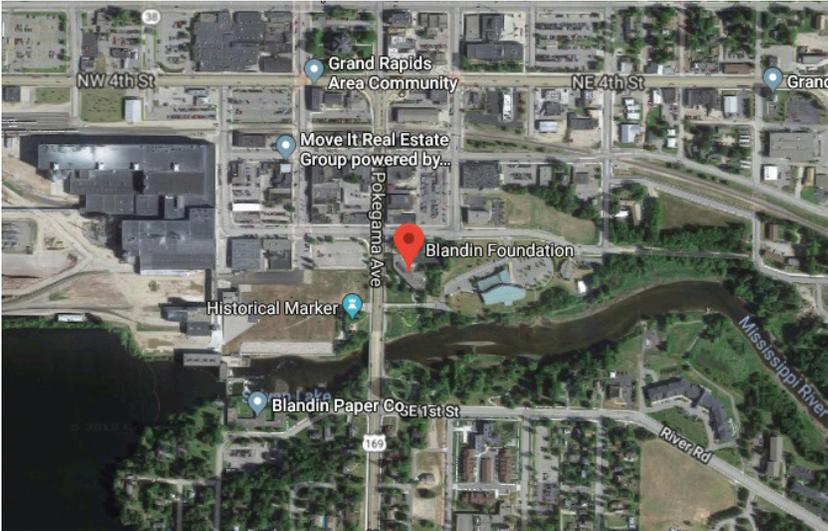
NOTE: Do not submit a proposal for artworks at this time.

Please submit all RFQ materials via email to: jenk@forecastpublicart.org. All materials must be received by **4 p.m., CST, Thursday, January 3, 2019**. No RFQs will be accepted after this time. If you need clarification or further information, contact Jen Krava, Forecast Creative Services Manager, at jenk@forecastpublicart.org



Mural here!

Blandin Foundation
Building signage is copper with Frutiger font. Wall material is stucco. 10,000 vehicles pass by this building each day.



Grand Rapids, MN

FORECAST

Forecast Public Art is an internationally known nonprofit public arts service organization and publisher of *Public Art Review*. Headquartered in St. Paul, MN's Creative Enterprise Zone, Forecast activates people, networks, and proven practices to advance the transformational power of arts in public life, providing guidance with planning and commissioning efforts.