

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Naugatuck Valley Community College

Founders Hall Renovations & Parking and Site Improvements
Waterbury, Connecticut

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About the Art in Public Spaces Program:

Connecticut's Art in Public Spaces program was established in 1978 and requires 1% of the cost of construction or renovation of publicly accessible state buildings be allocated for the commission or purchase of artwork as part of the building's construction project. The [Connecticut Office of the Arts](http://www.cultureandtourism.org) and the Department of Construction Services jointly administer the Art in Public Spaces Program. Visit the [Art in Public Spaces](http://www.cultureandtourism.org) program webpage for further information about the program and to view past installations throughout the state.

Project Summary:

The Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) and Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) are currently seeking the qualifications of artists for an exterior work of art for NVCC in Waterbury, CT. This site-specific public art opportunity should specifically address work planned for Founders Hall in addition to the various parking lots and walkways undergoing improvements. Therefore, this opportunity seeks at least two distinct works of art (and possibly more) by one or more artists.

Budget: approx. \$300,000.00

RFQ Deadline: Wednesday, August 27, 2014

Eligibility:

Artists MUST register a portfolio in the Art in Public Spaces Registry. Submit a new registration or update an existing profile by the deadline indicated above. Review the [registry webpage](http://www.cultureandtourism.org) for more information about the registration process or email questions to ArtistRegistry@ct.gov. The NVCC Founders Hall building project is open to both in-state and out-of-state artists.

About NVCC, Founders Hall and the Site Improvements:

[Naugatuck Valley Community College \(NVCC\)](#) resides on a 110 acre parcel of land located at the western edge of the City of Waterbury and visible from I-84. The college provides educational services for students throughout the region and is one of 12 community colleges within the statewide network.

Once considered commuter schools, Connecticut's community colleges now serve a population of students who seek a campus-like environment. As a result, these colleges have been adapting to the changing needs by providing students with an experience that is in greater alignment with universities, both academically and through building and site considerations.



Rendering of Founders Hall

Currently a major renovation to Founders Hall is underway to repurpose the building for Health Sciences. Construction documents are in development with anticipated project completion and occupancy in Summer of 2017.

In addition, a separate site improvement project will be carried out addressing two large parking lots and public walkways. One is located between Founders Hall and the greater NVCC campus and the other is near the campus gateway.

Project Description:

The NVCC public art committee convened and developed the framework for the new NVCC public art opportunity. The committee expressed an interest in works of public art that would unite the campus by addressing both project opportunities (Founders Hall renovations and NVCC Parking and Site Improvements). The art should project a calming effect and create a sense of tranquility, centeredness, permanence, dignity and kindness as part of the campus environment.

NVCC is intent on strengthening the student experience through both academic space improvements and with the overall way in which students move about the campus. As a result, NVCC has undergone a transformation in recent years greatly improving its grounds, expanding the number of gardens, enhancing its arboretum and developing a Poet's Circle. Further plans are underway to improve and enhance access to walkways and hiking trails. A unique feature on campus is that NVCC's buildings are interconnected by a long corridor known as "Fifth Avenue" with the exception of Founders Hall, the former Waterbury State Tech building, which stands alone on the eastern edge. Therefore, embracing Founders Hall as part of the greater campus would be instrumental in achieving this goal on the eastern half of campus.

Currently a parking lot separates Founders Hall from the greater campus. General site improvements, including a walkway, will be addressed as part of the Parking and Site Improvements project. This walkway is approximately 300 feet long and divides the large parking lot and extends "Fifth Avenue" towards Founders Hall. While an improvement, the walkway on its own does not fully fulfill the need of creating a sense of campus connection; therefore, the committee has identified the need of a more integrated approach. Public art in this location has the potential to successfully frame the walkway, define the connection between the two ends of the campus, and promote a pedestrian friendly experience.

In addition, the parking lot near the West Entrance of NVCC will include site improvements. As part of these improvements, the committee is seeking a work of art appropriately designed and positioned as a gateway that welcomes and humanizes the campus experience. In the end, the full array of new public artworks should encourage students to explore the greater campus and feel part of the NVCC community.

Selection Process:

The NVCC Founders Hall project is administered as a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Therefore, artists interested in this project must first register a portfolio in the [Art in Public Spaces Registry](#). There is no application process. The NVCC selection committee will review the portfolios of artists registered in the database and will shortlist a group of artists who will be invited to submit site-specific proposals for the project.

Portfolios of artists already registered in the Art in Public Spaces Registry will automatically be reviewed. The registry is designed as a one-time registration process allowing artists to be considered for multiple projects; therefore, portfolios should indicate a range of work samples. Updates may be made but COA recommends limiting updates to no more than once a year.

Project Timeline *(all dates are subject to change):*

RFQ Deadline:	August 27, 2014
Shortlisted artists selected by:	November 1, 2014
Artist selected by:	mid-January, 2015
Projected fully executed contract / project start date:	June 2015
Project installation / work completed by:	Spring/Summer 2017

Contact:

For ALL questions related to the Art in Public Spaces program and the NVCC RFQ contact:

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For questions related to the Artist Registry email ArtistRegistry@ct.gov