

## University of Northern Iowa, Lawther Hall Renovation Public Art RFQ

**Project:** The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in Cedar Falls, Iowa has issued this RFQ to commission an artist or artist led team to produce a three-dimensional exterior artwork for permanent installation at a site near Lawther Hall. This project will be funded through the State of Iowa, Art in State Buildings Program.

Lawther Hall is the oldest residence hall on campus, constructed in 1938 with a substantial addition in 1950. The renovation will modernize virtually all aspects of the building but given that Lawther is a historically-valued facility on campus efforts to maintain the outward appearance of the building was an important consideration.

Once modernized, Lawther Hall will serve as a suite-style residence hall for second-year and upper-class students. Suite housing provides a natural transition for students: first-year students reside in traditional residence halls to facilitate their adjustment to college and relationship building; second-year students transition into modernized suite-style accommodations offering more privacy and independence; upper-class students transition into apartment-style accommodations to achieve even greater autonomy and self-reliance.

The modernization of Lawther Hall also provides an opportunity for gender inclusive housing, which is not currently offered in traditional residence halls with community bathrooms. Additionally, the building will be upgraded to become ADA accessible.

Lawther Hall is centrally located on campus, will be fully air conditioned and highly attractive to students beginning their second and third years at UNI. The new interior space will include recreation areas, lounge and kitchen space, a computer lab and study nooks throughout the corridors. In addition to the suite-style rooms, it will also offer traditional double rooms and single rooms with semi-private restroom facilities.

Lawther Hall will serve a secondary role as an attractive academic conference center. It will have air conditioned suite-style accommodations, faculty offices in Bartlett to the east, a parking ramp to the North, programming space and catering/retail services in Commons to the West and a park-like courtyard for outdoor events to the South.

**Art Budget:** A minimum of \$90,000 is anticipated to be available for this project. The exact budget will be provided to finalists prior to the development of their concepts.

**Eligibility:** This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) project competition is open to all professional public artists or artist teams, including those who are new to the field of public art, from throughout the United States. Artists from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply for this project.

**Timeline:** (tentative)

Applications due: November 30, 2016

Selection of finalists: December 8, 2016

Conceptual designs due: January 15, 2017

Construction completion and installation of the artwork: August 1, 2017

**Context:** The University of Northern Iowa is a four-year comprehensive university that prides itself on putting "Students First" and has a reputation for providing exceptional undergraduate education, as well as complementary programs at the master's, specialist, and doctoral levels.

Building on its historic excellence in teacher education, the university has developed outstanding programs in business, natural sciences, humanities and fine arts, and social and behavioral sciences.

One of three state universities, UNI enjoys national recognition for its high educational standards. U.S. News and World Report has ranked UNI second among Midwest public universities for 13 consecutive years. The university's size – around 12,000 students – allows it to offer faculty, facilities and academic choices of a large university, while retaining a friendly, small-college atmosphere on a compact, park-like campus. For more information, see [www.uni.edu](http://www.uni.edu).

**Sites for the Artwork:** The committee anticipates the selected artist will create a free standing artwork(s) located in the south facing courtyard and/or along the greenspace between Lawther and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. See attached photos of these sites.

**Conceptual Considerations:** The UNI Art and Architecture Committee's focus is building a collection of public art works that encourages a global perspective. This focus is not meant to exclude any aesthetic or conceptual direction determined by the artist but rather encourage the production of artwork that contributes to an expanded worldview.

In addition, the selection committee is interested in artwork that might:

- Function as collection or a body of work—multiple images or objects located throughout the space.
- Changes and/or is revealed over time.
- Contains multiple layers of metaphoric meaning.
- Has a strong intellectual and poetic dimension.
- Is timeless and bears repeated viewing over time.
- Is complex enough to allow viewers to learn from it over time and provides a sense of discovery.

**Potential Materials:** The selection committee is interested in permanent durable materials that support the artist's vision. The campus is not interested in materials with inherent technological obsolescence, such as components utilizing video or other electronic media that will be challenging to maintain in the future due to rapidly evolving technology.

**Selection Criteria:** Artist selection will be based on:

- Appropriateness of the artist's past work as it relates to this project
- Quality of work samples
- Durability of the artwork relative to environment, theft and vandalism
- Ability of the artist to meet deadlines
- Interest level of the artist, as expressed in the cover letter
- Experience and accomplishments

**Finalists:** Up to three artists (or teams of artists) will be selected to prepare conceptual designs for this project. These proposals will then be submitted to the UNI Art & Architecture Committee with the opportunity to interview the finalists in person or by phone at that time. Once the proposals are reviewed, final selection will take place as quickly as possible and the selected artist will be notified.

**Application Checklist:** To be considered for the Lawther Hall Art Project, please submit one copy each of the following items:

- Brief letter of interest: Not to exceed one page. Describe your interest in the project and general vision or plan for the artwork. Explain any relevant details to your involvement, such as your process, medium and method by which you create your work.
- A CD of recent artwork or projects: Include 10-15 images of relevant art projects and work. Please label the images (LastNameFirstInitial\_Image Number).
- Annotated image list: Complete image descriptions that include the title, medium, size, and date that corresponds with the image number of the CD.
- Resume: Professional resume.
- References: Names and contact information for three professional references familiar with your experience and/or potential in the field of public art.

**SUBMITTALS:**

Send application materials electronically to:

Steve Carignan, Chair  
Art and Architecture Committee  
University of Northern Iowa  
Gallagher-Bluedorn PAC 13B  
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0801