

## Request For Qualifications: Public Art for Enoch Pratt Free Library Hampden Branch Renovations

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**Overview:** The [Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts](#) (BOPA) in collaboration with the [Enoch Pratt Free Library](#) and the **Baltimore City Department of General Services** seeks a professional artist or artist team to design and produce unique, site specific public artwork for the interior of the soon-to-be renovated Enoch Pratt Free Library Hampden Branch (3641 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21211). The planned renovations will retain the historic nature of building, create a more contemporary library layout and increase accessibility. The renovations also include the addition of a community meeting space on the lowest floor of the building. This request for qualifications seeks to identify an experienced professional artist to design and create new work to be permanently installed at the branch, and become part of the City of Baltimore's public art collection.

**Budget:**

\$20,000

(All Inclusive)

**Schedule:**

RFQ Issued: 9/29/16

**Applications Due: 11/6/16**

Artist Notification: 11/23/16

[\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

**to apply online**

This RFQ is managed by the [Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts](#)  
For Questions, please contact [Ryan Patterson](#), Public Art Administrator

### **History of Hampden Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library:**

In 1885, Robert Poole, owner of Poole and Hunt's Machine Shops, established a circulating library in Woodberry. Four years later he donated \$25,000 toward erecting a new branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library on Falls Road, across the street from his Maple Hill estate. Poole became the first large donor to the Library system since Enoch Pratt established its first six branches. The Hampden and Woodberry Enoch Pratt Branch opened its doors on July 2, 1900.

The library was designed by Joseph Evans Sperry, who with his partner John Wyatt, designed a number of significant buildings in Baltimore, including the Bromo Seltzer Tower and the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Building.

Poole's foundry provided the ionic columns for the library. The foundry also provided the thirty-six iron columns of the U.S. Capitol Building dome. Poole died in 1903, shortly after the opening of the library.

In 1936, Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds were used to double the size of the Hampden Library and today, the library remains both an architectural landmark and community resource for the area.

*(history text: Nathan Dennies, "Enoch Pratt Free Library Hampden Branch," Explore Baltimore Heritage, accessed September 28, 2016, learn more at:*

*<http://explore.baltimoreheritage.org/items/shows/321> )*



Figure 1 Enoch Pratt Hampden Branch ( c. 1950) Source: Maryland Department, Enoch Pratt Free Library



Figure 2 Front, Hampden Branch Library (2011) Source: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Highsmith Archive, LC-DIG-highsm-20458

## **Renovations and Opportunities for Public Art**

The renovation plans for the Enoch Pratt Free Library Hampden Branch call for the preservation of the existing historic structure; while redesigning the interior for increased accessibility and visibility for library patrons. Once renovated the new library will feature increased ADA accessibility and a lower counter height and book shelves, as can be found in other recently renovated branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library(i.e.: Canton and Waverly). In addition to the main floor renovations, the basement or ground floor of the branch will become a community meeting space. The basement space, which had been used for storage, will be able to host presentations and utilized as a community meeting room. This space will be accessible from the interior as well as exit directly to outdoors via a new exterior ramp and stairs along the side of the building.

As the library is a City-owned building, and the renovations are being performed with public funding, this project is included in the City's [Percent for Public Art program](#). The Public Art Commission has recommended that the artwork be located on the interior of the library. There is no restriction to acceptable medium or approach. The artist or team will be selected on previous work and should not submit a proposal as part of their application. Once selected, the artist will develop concepts for artwork to be installed on any interior location or surface. Final location of artwork, materials and



Figure 3: Interior (2011) Source: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Highsmith Archive, LC-DIG-highsm-20459



Figure 3: Conceptual rendering for renovated interior, Source: Manns Woodward Studios, 2016

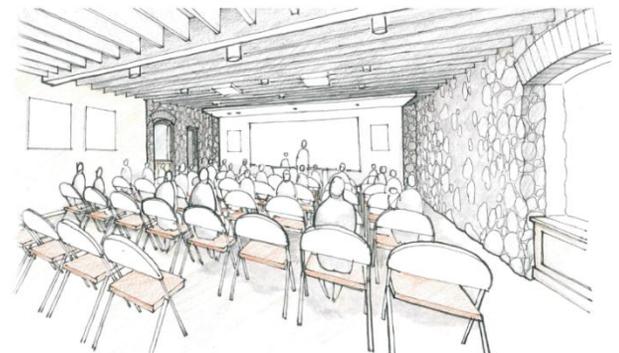


Figure 5: Conceptual rendering of ground floor community space Source: Manns Woodward Studios 2016

design will be proposed by the artist, and must be approved by the Public Art Commission and project stakeholders.

### **Application Requirements**

All applications are required to provide:

- **Name/Team Name**
- **Contact information (address, telephone, email, website)**
- **Brief personal, or team biography (300 words max)**
- **C.V. or Resume (2 pages max)**
- **Professional References**
- **Statement of Interest (500 words max)**

In 500 words or less, please describe why you or your team are well suited to create art for the Enoch Pratt Free Library Hampden Branch.

- **Samples of Previous work & description sheet (1 page)**

Please submit 6 photos, video or audio samples documenting of previous work. Work samples should illustrate your artistic practice, qualifications for this project, and public art experience. While proposals and concept renderings are acceptable, realized and completed projects are encouraged. Proposals for the project you are applying to should NOT be included.

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE VIA [THIS LINK](#).**

### **Selection Process & Timeline**

- Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued: September 29, 2016; calling on qualified designers, artists, and firms to submit their interest and previous work samples to be considered for this project. **RFQ Due: November 6, 2016**
- An Artist Selection Panel, composed of project representatives, local stakeholders and art professionals review all applications received and select three (3) to seven (7) semi-finalist artists to recommend to the Public Art Commission (PAC). Artist Selection Panel to convene November 7-15, 2016.

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- At the the November 16, 2016 Public Art Commission meeting, the semi-finalists will be presented with notes from the Artist Selection Panel.
- Selected Artist will be notified by November 23, 2016 with a goal of entering into a contract by December 9.

\*All dates are estimated delivery dates and subject to change based on variations in availability and the Public Art Commission schedule.

### **Selection Criteria**

**Artistic Quality and strong design skills:** Applicants should be able to produce a creative and functional plan that meets the goals and the specifications set forward for this project.

**Strong verbal, written and graphic communication skills:** Applicants should exhibit good people and communication skills and be able to effectively collaborate with multiple project stakeholders and agencies as they develop, present, and receive feedback on their designs.

**Previous experience:** Applicants should have professional experience working on public art or design projects that include project development, planning, fabrication, public integration or way finding design.

**Accessibility and Availability:** This project requires collaboration and a familiarity with Baltimore City. Applicants should maintain reasonable availability to perform this work and complete the project.

### **Public Art Program Goals**

- To enrich and enliven the experience of Baltimore City for its citizens and visitors
- To establish a significant public art collection for the City.
- To create an engaging space, artwork, and environment that accentuates construction efforts, and is sensitive to the community where the artwork is located
- To commission public artwork that is durable and able to withstand high-traffic, unmonitored outdoor environments that include extreme adverse weather conditions, with very little maintenance

### **Eligibility:**

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RFQ- Public Art for Hampden Branch- EPFL  
Issued: September 29, 2016

**BALTIMORE**  
OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS



Any artist or artist team, over the age of 18, legally living or working within the United States, is eligible to apply. Current Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts employees and Public Art Commission members may not apply.

### **Contact**

RFQ- Public Art for the Hampden Branch Enoch Pratt Free Library is a project of the Percent-for-Art program of the City of Baltimore, managed by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts

For questions or more information on this document please contact:

**Ryan Patterson,**

*Public Art Administrator*

Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts

443-263-4338

[rpatterson@promotionandarts.org](mailto:rpatterson@promotionandarts.org)

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