

**Office of Chief Medical Examiner  
PUBLIC ART PROJECT OUTLINE**



**BACKGROUND (CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW)**

San Francisco Public Works (DPW) is managing the relocation of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to 1 Newhall Street in the India Basin Industrial Park. The new facility will house approximately 50 employees who are organized into the four units of Field/Investigations, Medical/Autopsy, Laboratory, and Administration. The architects, Kaplan McLaughlin Diaz (KMD), have redesigned the current industrial warehouse to be seismically safe, to have a second floor, and to provide more natural light to the interior of the building. Visitors from the general public come to the building with the main purpose of identifying and retrieving belongings of the deceased.

**PROJECT GOAL AND ART OPPORTUNITIES**

The goal of the Public Art Program is to commission artwork that provides a sense of calm, peace and tranquility to members of the public who visit and staff who work in the building. Applying the findings of evidence-based design studies showing that art reduces stress and improves well-being, the goal will be to commission artwork that may include the following attributes:

- Nature based imagery, landscapes, waterscapes, and local environs depicted in calm weather and warm seasons
- Visual depth with openness in the immediate foreground
- Still life imagery where elements look healthy and fresh
- Figurative art with emotionally positive faces; the figure at leisure in nature or other comfortable, non-stressed situations
- Ethnically focused art acknowledging the larger “life story” of cultural heritage and identity
- Imagery that empathetically portrays emotion and/or provides solace in trying times
- Artwork with colors that are more soothing in nature (for example, blue and green, rather than red)

SFAC has worked with the project team to identify three main art opportunities:

1. **SCULPTURE:** A three-dimensional, sculptural opportunity located at the entrance to the building. This would include the purchase or commission of a sculpture that marks the entryway to the building. The sculpture must be made of durable materials suitable for permanent installation outdoors.
2. **INTEGRATED ARTWORK:** Integrated artwork opportunity located at a 10’ x 10’ area on wall opposite the entrance in the visitor services center.

3. **FRAMED WORKS:** Two-dimensional program of framed artwork in the waiting room, viewing room, and public corridor. Wall sizes in these spaces vary from approximately 10' x 10' to 10' x 19'. The two-dimensional program may consist of multiple artists.

**PROJECT BUDGET**

SFAC Administration	\$125,428.80
Artist selection, signage and documentation	\$29,600.00
Artwork Budget for Sculpture	\$210,000.00
Integrated Artwork in Visitor Services Center	\$75,000.00
Artwork for Interior 2-D Program	\$60,000.00
Contingency	\$64,400.80
Conservation	\$62,714.40
Art Enrichment Total	\$627,144.00

**ARTIST RECRUITMENT APPROACH AND ELIGIBILITY**

For the sculpture and integrated artwork opportunity, Arts Commission staff will post an RFQ/RFP. The call is open to professional practicing artists who reside in the United States.

For the two-dimensional program of framed artwork, Arts Commission staff will use the 2015/16 2D registry, for which an RFQ/RFP will be posted.

**ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS**

**For the sculpture and integrated artwork opportunity,** after the application deadline, the Arts Commission staff will screen applications to establish the pool of artists meeting the minimum eligibility requirements, which are professional practicing artists who reside in the United States. The eligible applications will be presented to an artist qualification panel consisting of one arts professional and two SFAC staff, who will review and score the applications to identify the short list of qualified artists to be considered for the two artwork project opportunities.

The two lists of qualified artists will be presented to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Project Selection Panel consisting of one representative of the OCME, one Arts Commissioner, one community member, one member of the design team, and three arts professionals.

**SCULPTURE:** After the panel has considered the sculpture list and the artists' qualifications, they will score and rank the list. If the top-ranked is an artwork purchase, the panel's recommendation will be to purchase that work for the opportunity. If the top-ranked is based on an artist's qualifications, the top three ranked artists selected based on qualifications will be invited to develop site-specific conceptual proposals after attending an orientation session with the project team and key stakeholders. These finalists will be paid an honorarium of \$1,500 for development of a conceptual design proposal, plus reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses. Any top ranked artists included in this group of finalists who were selected on the basis of an available artwork will be paid an honorarium of \$1,000 for participation in the selection process and panel interview (including travel).

**INTEGRATED ARTWORK:** After the panel has considered the integrated artwork list, the panel will identify at least three finalists for the integrated artwork opportunities who will be invited to develop conceptual site-specific proposals after attending an orientation session with the project team and key stakeholders. These finalists will be paid an honorarium of \$1,500 for development of a proposal, plus reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses.

After completion of conceptual proposals for both the sculpture and integrated artwork opportunities, the proposals will be on display for public comment for an approximately two-week period. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Project Selection Panel will then reconvene to consider the finalists' proposals in

an interview format, as well as a summary of public comments, and will select one artist and an alternate for each of the two opportunities for recommendation to the Arts Commission.

**For the two-dimensional program of framed artwork,** Arts Commission staff will use the 2D registry. The list of qualified artists will be presented to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Project Selection Panel. The panel will rank the artist's work, with the highest-ranking to be selected for installation at OCME.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Presentation of the artwork opportunities to a community group in the India Basin neighborhood.
- A community representative will serve on the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Project Selection Panel and will participate in the Artist Orientation.
- The finalists' proposals will be on display for public comment near the project site and on the SFAC website for approximately two weeks prior to the final selection panel meeting.
- All selection panels, Visual Arts Committee (VAC) and Arts Commission meetings are open to the public.

**TIMELINE (Subject to change)**

Project Outline Approval (VAC)	July 16, 2014
<b>SCULPTURE AND INTEGRATED ARTWORK</b>	
RFQ/RFP Issued	July 28 – August 29, 2014
RFQ/RFP Deadline	August 29, 2014
Qualification Panel	beginning of September 2014
First Project Artist Selection Panel	week of September 8, 2014
VAC approval of finalists	September 17, 2014
Artist Finalist Orientation	end of September 2014
Conceptual Proposals due	November 7, 2014
Public Display of Proposals	mid-November 2014
Final Project Artist Selection Panel	beginning of December, 2014
VAC Approval	December 17, 2014
Arts Commission Approval	January 2015
Artists Under Contract	January 2015
<b>FRAMED WORKS</b>	
2015/16 2D Registry RFQ Issued	November 2014
2015/16 2D Registry Selection Panel	December 2014
Arts Commission Approval of 2015/16 2D Registry	January 2015
OCME 2D Selection Panel	TBD Summer/Fall 2015
Arts Commission Approval	TBD

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Contact Mary Chou, Public Art Project Manager, at (415) 252-2551 or by email at [mary.chou@sfgov.org](mailto:mary.chou@sfgov.org).