

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS - MORRIS CANCER CENTER

Commission Opportunity - SCULPTURE

COMMISSIONING ENTITY

RUTGERS CANCER INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY (RCINJ)
in partnership with
NEW BRUNSWICK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (DEVCO), New Brunswick, NJ

BUDGET

\$450,000

DEADLINE

February 12, 2023

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey (RCINJ) is seeking an Artist or Artist Team to design and install site-specific feature artwork(s) for their new Jack and Sheryl Morris Cancer Center. Developed in partnership with the New Brunswick Development Corporation (DEVCO), the 12 story, 520,000 square foot center is currently under construction and is scheduled to open in 2025 across from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and the existing Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. It will serve as a hub for treatment, patient services and research in a first-of-its-kind facility in New Jersey.

Designed around a four-story atrium lobby that spans the depth of the building and serves as its town square, the hospital will invite visitors into a space filled with ample natural light and lush plantings. This welcoming, biophilic environment has been designed to enhance the well-being of patients, visitors, clinicians and staff.

The lobby will be accessible at street level from the north side via a new North Drive being developed as part of the project and from the south via Somerset Street. A spiral staircase will anchor the north atrium space, connecting the third floor to the first floor lobby. The stairs will continue one flight down on the south side through a large cut away in the lobby floor, providing visibility and allowing natural light from the upper floors into the lower level.

To accelerate the delivery of leading cancer therapies and treatment, the building also includes state-of-the-art laboratories on the second floor and clinical trial labs on the third. Interactions with patients building-wide will also contribute to these trials. The ability to translate scientific findings from 'bench to bedside' and back to the laboratory will provide physician-scientists with more immediate feedback on clinical trials. In an effort to put "science on display" for patients and visitors, the labs were designed to have as much openness as possible, fostering collaboration and flexibility while creating a bright, comfortable environment.

ARTWORK OVERVIEW

The hospital will be building an extensive art collection to be enjoyed by patients, caregivers, and staff throughout the building in waiting areas, exam rooms, corridors, and patient rooms. Potential sites for feature artwork(s) to welcome visitors and set the tone for their journey include both exterior and interior locations:

- Multiple landscaped areas located around the hospital on Somerset Street and North Drive. Visitors heading west on Somerset Street will get their first view of the hospital at the corner of Somerset and Hardenberg Streets. This corner fronts the street level entrance to its conference center and the 12-story building rising above. A raised landscaped area at this site has a footprint allowance for art of approximately 7' x 12'. Further along Somerset, a landscaped divider separating the main street traffic from a drop-off point to the hospital's south entrance can accommodate art with a footprint of approximately 6' x 25'. Additional landscaped areas along North Drive to the parking garage and the north entrance drop-off are also available to provide aesthetic continuity in support of the primary work.



- The lobby's soaring atrium with its distinctive staircase offers opportunities to site complementary sculptural work(s). This includes work suspended from the ceiling over the open staircase to the lower level, with other sculptural applications open for consideration.



For further information about the new building design including renderings and virtual walk-thrus, visit:

- <https://www.cinj.org/about-cinj/jack-sheryl-morris-cancer-center>
- <https://www.hok.com/projects/view/rwjbarnabas-and-rutgers-cancer-institute-of-new-jersey-cancer-pavilion/>

RCINJ MISSION

The Jack and Sheryl Morris Cancer Center has been designated by National Cancer Institute (NCI) as one of the nation's 71 comprehensive Cancer Centers and the only accredited Cancer Center in NJ. This accreditation is awarded to only an elite group of centers that meet the rigorous standards for transdisciplinary, state-of-the-art research focused on developing cutting edge treatments, prevention and education. RCINJ provides advanced, comprehensive and compassionate cancer care to adults and children through transforming laboratory discoveries into clinical practice.

ART THEME

As scientific discovery is one the core pillars of the Rutgers Cancer Institute, the goal is to develop an art collection that not only contributes to a restorative and healing environment - treating the "whole" patient by addressing emotional as well as physical needs - but also reflects and reinforces the hospital's focus on science and research as a pathway to recovery. Artists will be asked to create feature artwork within the theme of Recovery/Discovery, expressing the healing attributes of art through the lens of science/technology. The artwork should also:

- Integrate art into the daily life of the medical center, fostering a restorative environment for patients, families, caregivers, physicians, associates, students, and community
- Create a positive environment to redirect patients' fears, pain, and loneliness, and encourages healing
- Be mentally or physically engaging/interactive
- Complement the architectural design

PROCESS

Artists can submit their materials to be considered for interior and/or exterior sites. An Art Committee will select finalists who will be asked to create site-specific proposals for one or more artworks as appropriate. Finalists will be provided further information about the project and learn about the multiple site opportunities including plans, dimensions, material finishes, etc.

An honorarium of \$3,000 will be provided to finalists to create a comprehensive proposal and budget to be presented before the Art Committee.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all practicing artists who meet the following minimum eligibility qualifications:

- Completion of at least one site-specific public art project using durable and permanent materials.
- Experience in the installation of, or ability to oversee the installation of, commissioned artwork.
- Availability to comply with project deadlines as indicated.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each applicant must submit the following:

- Up to ten (10) JPG images of completed relevant artwork. Size images with longest dimension set to no larger than 1920 pixels. Name files as follows: LAST NAME_FIRST INITIAL_## (e.g. 01, 02, etc.)
- Corresponding image list with the following information:
 - Title & Date of artwork
 - Location
 - Materials
 - Dimensions
 - Budget
 - Project description
 - Links to Vimeo or YouTube video if necessary to demonstrate dynamic work.
- Letter of Interest/Artist Statement. Describe your interest in this project and site preference, if any. Include a brief description of overall themes/concepts reflected in your artwork and how they may relate to this project (no more than 1 page).
- Resume (max two pages).
- Save Image List, Letter of Interest/Artist Statement and Resume as separate PDF files, named as follows: **LAST NAME_FIRST INITIAL_ProjectList/Statment/Resume**

Place all submission files into one folder titled LAST NAME_FIRST INITIAL_RCINJ_SCULPTURE and email to art@devco.org

Submissions will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Artist’s experience with projects of similar scale and scope.
- Artistic excellence, innovation, and craftsmanship.
- Relevance to site.
- Demonstrated ability to translate art concepts into durable and safe materials.
- Evidence that the artist’s existing public art have maintained an appropriate level of quality and integrity.
- Experience working cooperatively with multiple professionals including but not limited to architects, engineers and project management personnel.
- Assessed ability and availability to meet project deadlines and to perform the work in a timely manner.

TIMEFRAME

RFQ submission deadline.....	February 12, 2023
Art Committee Meeting 1 (selection of finalists).....	Early March 2023
Artist Finalists' Orientation.....	March 2023
Artist Committee Meeting 2 (finalists' proposal presentations).....	April/May 2023
Commission award.....	June 2023
Execution of Contract.....	July 2023
Final Design/Production/Delivery/Installation.....	July 2023-Q1 2025