

**District Court of Maryland
Catonsville District Courthouse
1 Rolling Crossroads
Catonsville, MD 21228**

**Call to Artists:
Public Art Request for Qualifications**



Solicitation #:	BPM023770
Entry Lobby Wall	\$150,000 (All Inclusive)
Second Floor Mural	\$50,000 (All Inclusive)
Exterior Stone Inscriptions: Literary Art	\$8,000 (Writer Commission)
Issued:	April 20, 2021

Application Deadline: **3:00 pm, June 7, 2021 PM ET**

Apply Online: [APPLY HERE](#)

*Artwork proposals are NOT accepted at this time
Artists submit background materials only*

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District Court of Maryland for Baltimore County (Catonsville)

The Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) has completed construction on a state-of-the-art District Court of Maryland facility located in Catonsville, MD, at 1 Rolling Cross Road, near Interstate I-70/I-695. The new Catonsville District Courthouse serves the public and is home to the District Court of Maryland, and other court-related agencies that serve the public.

A budget of \$300,000 has been identified to commission new public artwork that will be incorporated throughout the new District Courthouse. The commissioned artworks will be reflective of the themes and goals described below and located in publicly accessible areas of the new facility. The artist selection process and artwork implementation will be co-administered between DGS and the Maryland State Arts Council.

Courthouse Description:

The Catonsville District Courthouse serves the western portion of Baltimore County from the County's most southwestern areas clockwise around the Baltimore Beltway (I-695). In addition to hearing cases, the courthouse provides a place for people to access self-help legal resources through a walk-in Self-Help Center to resolve disputes using a mediator through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), and to obtain other services through court-related agencies. Included among the site amenities is a public parking garage.

Although the new courthouse is available to the general public throughout Baltimore County and beyond, many westside Baltimore County neighborhoods are served including among others Owings Mills, Owings Mills New Town, Milford Mills, Randallstown, Lochearn, historic Windsor Hills, Woodlawn, Catonsville, Arbutus, Halethorpe, and Lansdowne. The Court hears landlord/tenant cases, petitions for domestic violence protective orders and peace orders, replevin and detinue actions, traffic violations, criminal cases classified as misdemeanors and certain felonies, and civil cases in the amount of \$30,000 or less.

The new courthouse has been intentionally designed as a contemporary facility with a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) "Silver" certification which is awarded to buildings that prioritize safe, healthy, and sustainable spaces. This courthouse has specifically focused on exterior views

of the landscape and providing natural light in the public and interior spaces throughout.

Commissioned Public Artwork Opportunities

The Artist Selection Committee has identified three distinct locations for artwork to be incorporated into the most public accessible areas of the Courthouse property. On the Courthouse exterior, a literary artist will be commissioned to create a site-specific piece of writing or poetry that will be engraved into the stones along the entrance walkways; and two interior locations have been set aside for unique visual artworks: the Entry Lobby Wall, and the Second Floor Hallway.

Each location has its own specifications and budget, described in detail below. Please reference the attachments for photos of each location.

Public Artwork Themes and Goals

Creating artwork for the new Catonsville District Court is an opportunity to interpret and convey the principles of the American justice system: the rule of law, equal justice under the law, due process, access to justice in the criminal system, the right to an attorney for those who cannot afford one, as well as the presumption of innocence. In doing so, every person's human dignity, intrinsic self-worth, and autonomy can be respected throughout all stages of the justice system. The artwork created for the new courthouse will interpret these concepts from a contemporary perspective. In general, the artwork should avoid relying solely on literal and traditional symbols of justice (e.g., the allegorical figure of Lady Justice).

In addition to the above, all artwork commissioned for the new courthouse should:

- Be accessible and appropriate to the broadest possible range of audience
- Reflect and speak to the diverse representation of Baltimore County residents that will visit the courthouse today and into the future
- And, reward attention and introspection by providing a personal moment for visitors, during which might be a stressful experience

Visual Art Commissions

Visual Art Commission Locations

Entry Lobby Wall (*Two-dimensional or low relief wall-mounted*)

The public enters the courthouse through a curved floor-to-ceiling glass wall and into a spacious two-story lobby filled with natural light. Opposite the front doors and 12' above the terrazzo floor is a large open wall space that has been reserved for new site-specific artwork. The designated area measures 13' (H) x 32' (L) and is visible from the first and second floors and the connecting stairwell. The artwork will be mounted over gray porcelain matte tiles installed over a plywood substrate. The wall location dictates a two-dimensional artwork in any media; however, the work could have some dimensional relief beyond the surface plane. The artwork must be installed so that its entire weight is supported by the wall, and not require additional support from ceiling hanging mounts. It should also be noted the artwork location is sited above a band of nine 24" x 42" digital monitors posting court number locations of individual trials.

Second Floor Hallway Mural (*Two-dimensional wall-based*)

The second floor of the courthouse is home to the walk-in Self-Help Center and the Courthouse Clerk's office. To the left of the Clerk's office is a long open wall space that has been identified as a location to host a two dimensional wall-based artwork or mural. The open area measures 54' feet long and 14' feet high (floor to ceiling). The selected artist will not have access to the courthouse to create the mural on-site. The final artwork must be created off-site, transported to the courthouse and professionally installed in the hallway. The second floor hallway is a high traffic public space that also receives sunlight throughout the day from south facing windows. The material and coatings of the final artwork should be durable to light exposure and an easy-to-clean surface.

No artwork proposals are submitted at this time.

Visual Art Commission Budget Details:

The individual budgets for each site-specific artwork commission are:

Entry Lobby Wall	\$150,000 (all inclusive contract)
Second Floor Hallway Mural	\$50,000 (all inclusive contract)

Three semi-finalists will be selected for each location. Each semi-finalist artist or artist team will receive a \$2,500 stipend to develop an artwork concept proposal.

Visual Art Selection Process

Semi-Finalists Selection

All applications will be reviewed by MSAC staff for eligibility. Eligible applications will be forwarded to the Artist Selection Committee for review and scoring. For each of the visual art locations, the three semi-finalists are invited to tour the site to inform their concept proposals.

Semi-finalist artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Background work reflects technical skill, authenticity, originality, commitment to material(s)/media and artistic practice, evokes response or inquiry
2. Artist experience as demonstrated by resume
3. Artist demonstrated experience and Statement of Interest connect to the artwork themes and goals outlined for the public art project

Selected Semi-Finalists will be asked to provide two professional references who have worked with the artist and have detailed knowledge of the artist's work.

Finalist Selection

Each Semi-Finalist Concept Proposal must include the following:

1. Written description of the proposed artwork
2. Concept renderings/drawings of the proposed artwork including location, dimensions, materials, colors and finishes.
3. Artwork budget, including identification of fabricator and fabricator fees (if applicable)
4. Artwork schedule including final design through installation
5. A brief summary of maintenance requirements for the proposed artwork.
6. Background art experience of artist and fabricator (if applicable)

Each semi-finalist artists or artist teams preparing concept proposals must agree to the following:

- The artist or artist team shall retain intellectual property rights to the artwork commissioned for *District Court of Maryland, Catonsville Courthouse*

- The Maryland Department of General Services and Maryland State Arts Council shall have the unconditional right to retain the proposal materials (drawings, illustrations) for public art education purposes, whether or not the artwork is selected for implementation. Full credit will be given to the artist or artist team if the proposal is disseminated by print or digital means.
- If utilizing the proposal for future public art applications, the artist shall give credit to the *Maryland State Arts Council's Public Art Across Maryland* program and the *District Court of Maryland, Catonsville Courthouse*
- Proposed artwork must be original and unique to the District Court of Maryland, Catonsville Courthouse project.

Following the concept proposal presentations, the Artist Selection Committee will select the final artist or artist team.

The Finalist artist or team will be scored and selected, based on the following criteria:

1. **Artwork Concept:** Artwork reflects authenticity, originality, evokes response or inquiry, demonstrates relevance, and is appropriate for the site, architecture, occupants and environment. Addresses artwork themes & goals defined in RFQ
2. **Feasibility:** Proposed budget is clear, specific, and detailed indicating the artwork can be fully implemented. Schedule is clear, specific, and detailed indicating the artwork can be fully implemented.
3. **Durability, Permanence and Safety:** The artwork is materially and structurally sound. Artwork is resistant to theft, vandalism, and is low maintenance. Proposed artwork does not create unsafe conditions nor utilize unsafe materials. Concept is able to adhere or adapt to ADA guidelines and applicable building code requirements.
4. **Experience:** The background professional experience of the artist and fabricator indicate that the proposed artwork can be implemented on time and budget

Literary Artwork Commission

Literary Artwork Commission Location

Exterior Stone Inscription (*literary composition engraved onsite*)

In addition to the visual artwork commissions described above, the Artist Selection Team will also solicit an original literary work for the new Courthouse. A literary artist or poet will be commissioned to write an original piece of poetry to accompany the building's public art program. The poem, or a selection of the text, will be engraved onto indigenous granite boulders arranged alongside the building entry walkways.

The stones were excavated during construction and sited on landscaped lawn areas and passed by daily by workers, officers and security staff, lawyers and the public entering and exiting the building. The selected literary artist will work collaboratively with a professional stone mason and sculptor to determine the typeface and layout on the stones for the composition to be visible and legible to passers-by.

The area available for text is limited to approximately 150-250 characters spread across multiple stones. While the full text of the commissioned writing may extend beyond this limitation, the selected writer will be expected to work closely with the project team and the stone mason to select and layout exactly which text is selected for the stones and how it is placed. The selected literary artist will also be asked to perform/read their work, in-person, at the artwork dedication ceremony. **No proposed literary work is submitted at this time.**

Literary Artwork Budget Details:

Stone Inscriptions

\$8,000 (Writer commission)

The contract with the stone mason/engraver will not be the responsibility of the selected literary artist. All expenses for the stonemason/engraver's time and work on-site will be covered under a separate agreement.

Literary Artwork Selection Process:

Literary Review Panel

All applications will be reviewed by MSAC staff for eligibility. Eligible applications will be forwarded to a panel of literary arts specialists to review and score each application.

Literary artist applications will be scored based on the following criteria:

1. Creativity: refreshing style and imaginative ideas; rhythm and flow of language.
2. Unique voice, strong sense of audience, and relevant to the themes and goals listed on pg 3.
3. Community Connection: relation in form and substance to the cultures, people, natural or built surroundings, or history of the Baltimore County communities that will be served by the new Courthouse.
4. Accessibility: writing that is engaging and accessible.
5. Suitability: writing that is relevant and befitting to the broad range of the public that will be served by the Courthouse.

The Literary Review Panel will review and score all of the applications received. Based on scores they will recommend up to three (3) literary artists to the Artist Selection Committee. The Artist Selection Committee will then have an opportunity to review the recommended artists' applications in further detail, and interview each of them before selecting the writer who will receive the \$8,000 commission. Literary artist interviews will be scheduled in conjunction with the visual art semi-finalist interviews.

Artist Contracts:

The final selected artists will contract directly with the Maryland Department of General Services and work with the Maryland State Arts Council Public Art staff who will oversee all aspects of the artwork from design development through project implementation and installation. An example of the artist's contract will be posted on [\(LINK\) eMaryland Marketplace](#). Please be advised that the following will be required of the contracted artist: 1) The artist must maintain registration as Maryland vendor and adhere to all applicable state permitting and licensing and tax requirements for the duration of the contract 2) Contracted visual artists will be required to submit an artwork maintenance manual upon installation as part of the final completion of their contract and following artwork installation. 3) The artist is expected and required to attend the artwork dedication event in-person if and when such an event takes place.

Eligibility:

All professional artists or artist teams living in the United States may apply. If artists are applying as a team, the team should be listed on the application form, specifying a team leader to receive notifications. Artists currently enrolled in a university or college degree program are not eligible to apply.

Submission Procedure

Artists and or artist teams must apply online through PublicArtist.org
[APPLY HERE](#)

The **Application Deadline is: Monday, June 7, 2021 by 3:00 pm (EST)**

“How to Apply” webinars will be held on: May 25, 6:30-8:00 pm, and May 26, 12:00-1:30 pm. Go to [HERE](#) to register.

Requirements of the Online Application:

- **Contact Information:** for Lead Artist (and artist team if applicable)
- **Statement of Interest:** Explain why you (or your team) are interested in creating an original artwork for the Catonsville District Courthouse. Explain why you would be a good candidate for this opportunity and how your experience as an artist will inform how you will respond to the themes and goals of the project. (300 words maximum)
- **Artist Resume/CV: No more than 2 pages.** Teams should include resumes of all artists combined into a single PDF.
- **Work Samples:**

For Visual Art Commission:

Ten (10) JPEG Images of existing artwork. *Work samples may include more than one photo of an individual artwork (showing different angles or details) but please do not composite more than one image per JPEG file. If applying as an artist team, identify all artists of the work.*

For Literary Art Commission:

Writing Sample (Required): Please submit examples of existing writing (up to 5 pages) saved as a single PDF document.

Performed Poetry (Optional) Literary artists may also choose to submit a video file of performed poetry. Recordings should be edited or compiled into a single video file no longer than 10 min long.

NO ARTWORK PROPOSALS ARE SUBMITTED AT THIS STAGE. Work samples must be existing visual or literary works. Literary artists should not submit samples of work written in response to this opportunity.

Selection and Production Schedule:

RFQ Posted:	April 20, 2021
RFQ Application Deadline	Monday, June 7, 2021 3:00pm ET
Semi-Finalist Notification	July 16, 2021
Semi-Finalist Site Visit (half-day)	HOLD: August 5-6, 2021
Semi-Finalist Proposals & Presentations	Week of August 30, 2021
Finalist Notification	September 2021
Artist Contract Signed	October 2021
Artwork Design Development Phase & Community Mtg.	Oct-Nov. 2021
Artwork Final Design Phase	December 2021
Fabrication Period	January-February 2022
Expected Installation Period	March 2022
Opening/Unveiling	Spring 2022

Artist Selection Committee:

Each of the following seats receives one-vote in the Artist Selection Committee review process.

User Agency	Department of General Services
Design Representative	Design Architect
Building Representative	District Court of Maryland
Community Representative	Baltimore County Residents (2)
Art Community	Local Arts Stakeholder
Maryland Public Art Commission	Commission Member
Non-Voting	MSAC Public Art Program Staff

Questions and Inquiries

All questions and inquiries must be in writing and directed to:
Ryan Patterson, Maryland State Arts Council, Public Art Project Manager,
ryan.patterson1@maryland.gov.

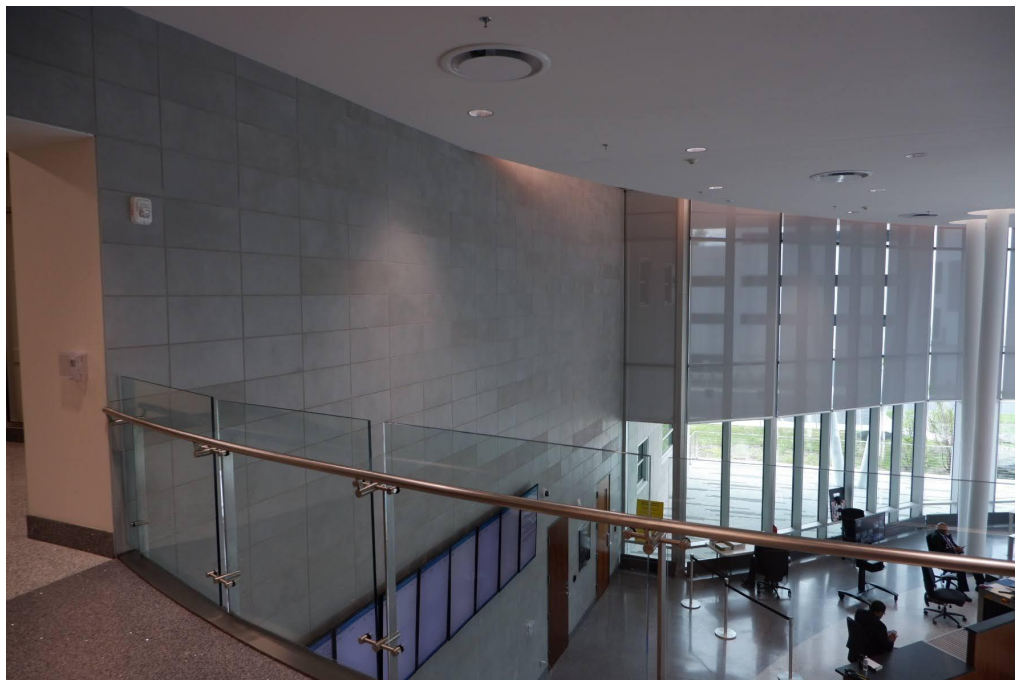
About the Public Art Across Maryland Program:

Established in 2013, the Public Art Across Maryland Program is the State of Maryland's Percent-for-Art program. For all new or renovated State-owned

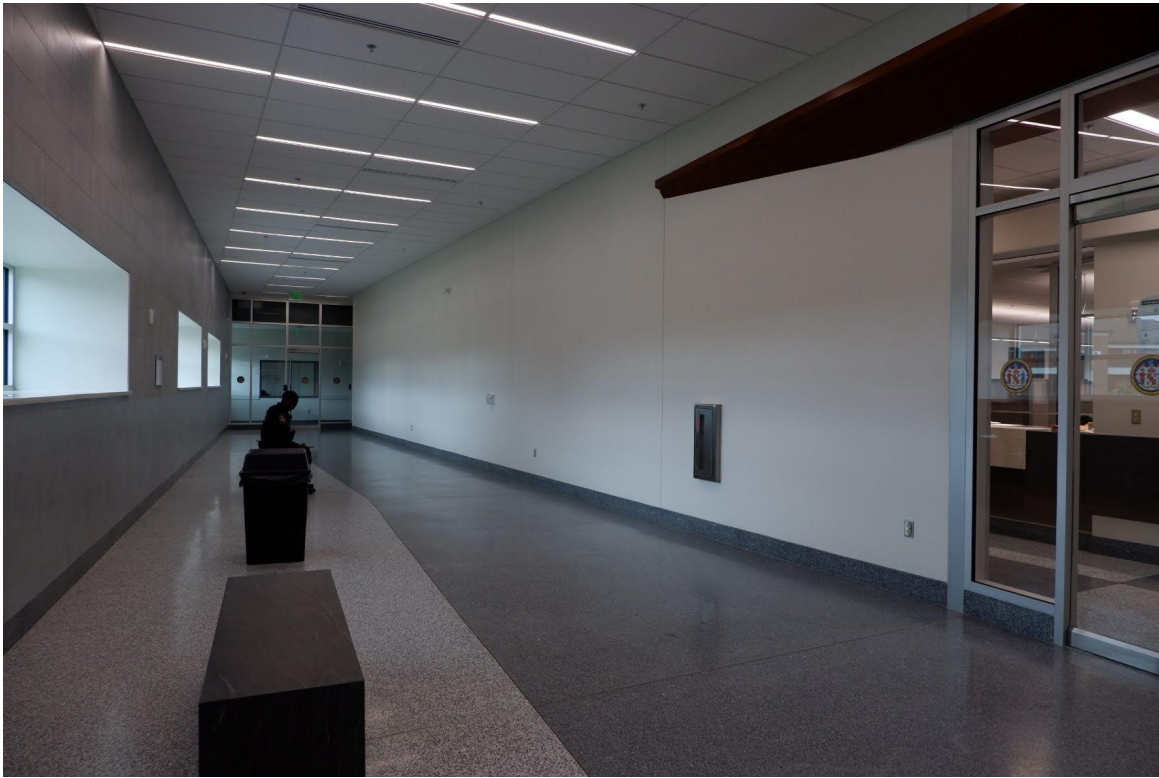
buildings, a percentage of the construction budget is set aside for public art. Independent artists apply for a project through an open Call to Artists and are selected by an artist selection committee. MSAC manages the process from artist selection, through design, fabrication, and installation and the work becomes part of the State public art collection. msac.org

-Attachments Follow-

Attachments



The designated area of the **Interior Lobby Wall** measures 13' (H) x 32' (L) and is visible from the first and second floors and the connecting stairwell. It should also be noted the artwork location is sited above a band of nine 24" x 42" digital monitors posting court number locations of individual trials.



The **Second Floor Hallway Wall** is reserved for a two dimensional mural. The open area measures 54' feet long and 14' feet high (floor to ceiling). The artist will not be able to work on site and will need to plan for the mural to be created off-site and transported and professionally installed. The artwork and installation will need to accommodate building infrastructure (i.e. outlets, fire safety alarm...) along the wall.

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Some examples of the **Exterior Stones** that will receive engraving. The selected literary artist will work with the project team and stone carver/sculptor to determine the layout and design for the writing across the stones in the landscape.

Additional plans, photographs and information for each location will be presented during our **How to Apply Webinar**. Please visit <https://www.msac.org/about/msac-events> to register.