



RFQ – Bondurant Community Library Sculpture Project

Entry Deadline: January 2, 2025

Opportunity:

The City of Bondurant, the Bondurant Community Library, and the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation seek artists / artist teams living and working in Iowa to create a sculpture or sculptural installation for an exterior site at the Bondurant Community Library, located at 104 2nd Street NE, Bondurant, IA.

Founded in 1884, the [City of Bondurant](#) is a regional trail hub with access to the 25-mile Chichaqua Valley Trail and is home to numerous parks. It is located about 15 miles east of Des Moines. Over the last several years, Bondurant has prioritized public art with projects such as their Creative Water Tower project (2023), and installations by artists i/thee at Lake Petocka (2024) and Eagle Park's Mud Creek (2025).

The [Bondurant Community Library](#) has been operating since 1976. It was originally located in a small brick building in the downtown area. In 1997, the library moved ½ block north to a location at 17 Main St. SE, where the library resided until November 2008. In December 2008, work was completed on a new facility and in September 2021, an expansion project was completed with three separate additions added to the existing building. This expansion project doubled the size of the library to over 14,000 square feet. The Library received state accreditation in 2003.

The [Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation](#) will oversee the artist selection and installation processes together with the City of Bondurant and the Bondurant Community Library. The Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation is a non-profit organization that places art in increasing



numbers of visible public spaces through public-private collaborations and partnerships. We educate and engage the community in an awareness and understanding of public art identity and culture.

The Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation is a catalyst for outstanding public art projects with the power to inspire people who reside in, work in, and visit Greater Des Moines, and to shape a fair and just community. With our priorities, we seek to be a world-class destination for transformative public art.

This project is funded by the City of Bondurant, the Des Moines Community Library, and a Capacity Building Grant from the Iowa Arts Council, Iowa Economic Development Authority.

Eligibility:

Professional visual artists, or teams of artists, at least 18 years of age **who are living and working in Iowa** are eligible. Emerging artists are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to artists whose work is historically underrepresented and / or is not currently represented by public art in Central Iowa. Employees and Board Members of the City of Bondurant, the Bondurant Community Library, and the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation are ineligible to apply.

Commission Description:

The exterior location is depicted and described in the **attached Appendix**. **The all-inclusive project budget should not exceed \$25,000.**

The proposed artwork should be a sculpture or sculptural installation that is made of durable materials and fits within the area described in the **Appendix**. The artwork will withstand the harsh weather, being situated

outdoors for a period of no less than 10 years. The proposed artwork should also be interactive. It must be safe for people of all ages, including children, to engage with the installation and durable enough to withstand interactivity. The proposed artwork should speak to the inspirational nature of reading; how it opens the mind to ideas, spurs the imagination and inspiration, and allows one to travel to unknown or fantastical destinations.

The budget includes, but is not limited to, stipends, \$250 design fee, travel, fabrication, any proposed site alterations, supplies, material costs, delivery, approval by an Iowa-licensed engineer, installation, and a three-year workmanship warranty pertaining to any defects. Lighting will be added by the City of Bondurant and is not part of this budget. Artist will be consulted in the installation of lighting.

Selection Process: A selection panel consisting of representatives from the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, the City of Bondurant, the Bondurant Community Library, and community stakeholders will select the final artist/artist team.

Submission Materials and Instructions:

- Artist contact information: email, phone number, address, website, social media if applicable.
- Written letter of interest describing your vision for the sculpture / sculptural installation. The letter of interest should not exceed 2 pages.
- A relevant body of work that demonstrates conceptual, aesthetic, and technical mastery in the artistic medium / media relevant to your proposal. Include up to 5 images and / or up to 3 video links. Links to images are also acceptable.

- A list providing details of your selected body of artworks, including the title, year, materials, dimensions, and brief budget.
- Biographical information and resume/CV. If an artist team, please provide biographical information and resume/CV for all team members.
- The contact information of 3 professional references.
- Please submit all materials as **one PDF document** via email to executive.director@dsmpublicartfoundation.org.

The Selection Panel will use the following evaluation criteria to select an artist or artist team:

- Works of art in the artist's portfolio are original, innovative, of exceptional quality and enduring value.
- Works of art in the artist's portfolio indicate that the artist is sensitive to the social, economic, cultural, political, historical, and physical context of the site, the City of Bondurant, the Bondurant Community Library, and the surrounding communities, and the State of Iowa. We are committed to sustaining a diverse and inclusive community. We recognize that multiple voices and perspectives enrich our work.
- Works of art in the artist's portfolio utilize materials and processes likely to contribute to the longevity of public works of art.

Up to 4 finalists will be chosen to create a proposal. Each finalist will be provided a \$250 design fee to generate a concept.

Timeline:

November 15, 2024 – RFQ Announced.

January 2, 2025, 5pm CDT – RFQ deadline. Email submissions to executive.director@dsmpublicartfoundation.org.

February 18, 2025 – Finalists Notified

April 28, 2025, 5pm CDT – Final Proposal Deadline



June 2, 2025 – Selection Announced
Installation early fall 2025

Selected artists / artist teams will be required to sign a contract outlining expectations, timelines and requirements.

Please direct any questions to:

Alexa McCarthy, PhD
Executive Director
Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation
executive.director@dsmpublicartfoundation.org

**Bondurant Community Library Project
RFQ Appendix
Fall 2024**



Images: FEH Design and the City of Bondurant

Site Map:



Site Images:







