



**MAINFRAME DONOR
RECOGNITION RFQ**

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Plaques...

are not always a good sign

INTRODUCTION

Mainframe Studios is a new nonprofit model providing permanent affordable workspace to artists of all disciplines. It is fundraising towards a goal that allows the facility to operate sustainably. Mainframe Studios seeks artists' qualifications and proposal development to create an ongoing donor recognition system for public display.

Mainframe Studios is renovating a four floor building and its basement into artists' studios in phases. Phase I—which is completed and operating—features 75 artists studios, 5 nonprofit offices, an event rental venue, commercial kitchen and common areas. This includes studios and spaces on three levels. Phase II is underway. The building will be financially self sustaining once all renovations are complete.

Artists local to the Des Moines metro area are highly desired. Artists must demonstrate local understanding and are encouraged to stretch Des Moines' imagination regarding what public art can be and what it can do.

APPLY BY SUBMITTING

- three to five images and descriptions of related work
- two page CV
- Artist's statement
- Statement of experience, intent, or direction with regard to this project
- send to submissions@groupcreatives.com

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Mainframe Studios seeks qualifications from artists ahead of proposal development for a donor recognition system that uses an artful presence to recognize the donors making Mainframe Studios possible.

The artists' job is to create a system that evokes the spirit and mission of Mainframe Studios and expands expectations for what a donor recognition display can be. In addition to being imaginative and beautiful, successful work will approach most of these considerations.

- Embodies Mainframe Studios and the Arts as foundational pillars in the Des Moines community
- Reflects current generations and will welcome generations to come
- Is structural or integrated with the site's existing infrastructure
- Can be added to in an ongoing manner
- An interactive work or collaborative construction method would be compelling, but not at the expense of complexity
- A simpler aesthetic is appreciated
- Work must be solid in its quality: Mainframe is foundational to its community.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

- Additive system to recognize large and small donors
- Spacious, unusual interior site
- Project budget of \$25,000
- Work to complete in Spring 2020

The project must include an ongoing mechanism for adding new donors at various scales. Methods of distinguishing donor levels should be integrated. The vast majority of major donors are already known and so have predictably finite number (about twenty).

Site

The primary location* for this work is the entrance to the building which is a two story atrium.

The Atrium at Mainframe is a large, irregularly shaped space with several distinctive features. It has a translucent glass enclosure reminiscent of a greenhouse, two flanking diagonally oriented walls, several tall columns and a number of built-up circular structures built in to the floor. Work might be wall-based, attached to columns, or free standing. It should be compatible with the space's frequent use for art exhibits and installations.

***Upcoming renovations to the front landscaping to incorporate a retaining wall, circular drive, and patio area could be addressed by uniquely qualified artist-applicants. Details will be made available if this remains an option at time of proposal development.**

Process

With the help of Group Creative Services, Mainframe Studios is issuing a call for artists to submit their qualifications for consideration for proposal development. Three artists (or groups) will be asked to prepare a detailed proposal for the

Mainframe donor project. Participating artists are contracted for this work and are paid a \$1,000 all-inclusive fee for the proposals. Payment is in two equal installments. One at the start of work and one at proposal delivery.

Artists are invited but not required to present their proposals in person at a date to be determined.

One proposal will be selected for project completion. With artists' agreement, Group Creative Services is excited to maintain a file of unrealized proposals hoping to find good matches to make more good work in time.

Schedule

Dates at this writing are tentative and subject to change.

12/13/19	Three candidates commissioned to develop proposals at \$1,000 each —RFP and briefs distributed
1/17/20	Artists' proposal presentations
1/31/20	Selected artist(s) notified
2/14/20	Final art, revisions + production plan
6/01/20	Project completion and final installation

DESIGN CRITERIA

The primary consideration for this project is to create a sophisticated and substantial method of artfully displaying the names of generous supporters of the arts. It should be imaginative enough to reflect the mission of Mainframe Studios.

Successful proposals will include aspects of diversity and an insightful awareness and unique perspective. The character of the artwork should be authentic to the artist's typical mode of work.

BUDGET

Total project budget is inclusive of time, labor, materials, travel, insurance, engineering, power, permits, security, etc. The budget for full project realization is \$35,000.

SELECTION PROCESS

The artist(s) selection will be based on:

- Demonstrated experience on projects of similar size and prominence
- Success translating/expressing the concept/goals through their work
- Quality of sample work
- The durability of previous artwork relative to environment, including theft and vandalism
- Ability of the artist to meet deadlines
- Expression of vision, as expressed in the cover letter

Evidence of Artist's Experience

Eligible artists must have attained a level of expertise and recognition in their medium, as demonstrated by one or more of the following:

- Works included in private, public, corporate or museum collections;
- Receipt of awards, grants or fellowships;
- Completion of public commissions on a similar scale
- Participation in exhibitions at museums or galleries.

PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FEE

Up to three proposals from selected artists will be funded at \$1,000 each. Proposals are paid with two \$500 installments—one at the beginning of work and one at proposal delivery. Completed proposals may be retained for consideration in future, similar projects in the region. Artists are encouraged to attend and present their completed proposal to the selection committee.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

IF SELECTED FOR A FUNDED PROPOSAL, the artist must provide a proposal including at least one fully developed concept communicated with appropriate visualization, an estimated budget, and estimated timeline, along with information on any anticipated needs for professional services or installation. These needs are the artist's responsibility.

Complete budget, timeline, and plans are expected as part of a revised proposal and implementation plan after selection.

Proposals must also include the following:

- artist statement of intent
- description of project
- concept and approach
- proposed timeline
- proposed budget and materials
- site plan or analysis, appropriate visualization and planning documents such as drawings, models, or CAD
- presentations, or videos
- maintenance needs and proposals



CONTACT INFORMATION

The artist(s)' primary contact will be through representatives of Group Creative Services. Julia Franklin: Program assistant and researcher
julia@groupcreatives

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Atrium location on first floor and adjacent entrance porch



