



# LEXINGTON

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

### REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR LEXINGTON DETENTION CENTER

#### OFFICER DINING ROOM - ART INSTALLATION

#### The Project

The City of Lexington, Mayor's Office, is seeking an artist(s) to create a site-specific original artwork for the Officer Dining Room in the Lexington Detention Center. The Lexington Detention Center is located at 600 Old Frankfort Circle, Lexington, KY. This opportunity is open to established professional artists living in Fayette, Jessamine, Woodford, Scott, Bourbon, Clark or Madison Counties. **The application deadline for receipt of proposals is 11:00 PM (ET), Wednesday, May 17, 2023.**

#### Project Intent

The work of art is to be installed within the Officer Dining Room of the Lexington Detention Center. The Lexington Detention Center is a direct supervision correctional facility that houses adult inmates. Detention Center staff interacts continuously with inmates in the housing units. Nearly 200 Community Corrections Officers work within the Lexington Detention Center and the Officer Dining Room is in frequent use as a dining and break room.

The vision for this project is to commission a local artist, or artist team, to create a site specific and significant work of art that will contribute to a positive and stress-reducing environment and that will create a visual break from the institutional setting.

The artist will work on site, providing an opportunity for Detention Center employees to see the art project develop and to engage with the artist. The artwork should:

- Reflect the mood, ideas and themes as identified by the Detention Center employees and included in this RFP
- Enhance the environment of the dining room with a distinctive aesthetic experience
- Provide excitement and interest for the employee environment
- Work within the site specifications and be adequately and safely displayed and secured.
- Create a significant portion of the artwork on-site, within the Officer Dining Room. Artist schedules can be accommodated during weekday and weekend day and nighttime hours.

#### Information about the Site and Environment

The Officer Dining Room is located within the interior of the Detention Center and does not have any windows or daylight exposure. The room includes tables, chairs, a small cafeteria line for hot food, a tv, and vending machines. *(Other upgrades to the room will take place after the art installation.)* A photo is included with this RFP. The room is accessible only to Lexington Detention Center Officers.

The lighting in the room is bright and white.

All or part of one primary wall within the dining room is available for artwork.

The surface of the wall is painted concrete slab and will be prepared with a freshly painted base coat.

All work must be durable, low-maintenance, sturdy, and must pose no hazards. For example, unprotected sharp edges and breakable mediums are not appropriate.

A lift and/or ladders will be provided for the artist to utilize.

## **Space for Artwork Installation**

The artwork is intended for an interior wall of the Officer Dining Room. The full wall is 42 feet wide x 10 ft. 10 inches tall. A TV will be mounted in one corner of the room therefore **the artwork will be centered on the wall and should be no wider than 34 feet wide x 10 feet 10 inches tall.**

There is a 5-inch wide chair rail located 3 ft. from the floor. Artists may choose to leave the chair rail in place or they may ask for the chair rail to be removed for an uninterrupted surface.



## **Eligible Media**

Desired mediums include, but are not limited to: painting, photography, mixed-media, tile, ceramic, fiber, metal, wood, wire, silk screen, prints.

Works may include murals, low relief wall sculpture, collage, mosaics, panels, etc.

Artwork may be painted directly on the walls or created on panels or materials that will be mounted on the walls.

## **Themes**

Lexington Detention Center Corrections Officers have indicated the following themes, imagery and tone for artists to consider. Corrections Officers have suggested that the artwork should predominantly feature a calm, peaceful and cheerful atmosphere, while also providing some element of connection

between the peaceful atmosphere and the Detention Center Officers. Proposals should convey or represent ideas and imagery from the following list. Artists may consider the following:

- Represent a calm, peaceful and positive atmosphere.
- Utilize the natural beauty of the bluegrass region --- horse farms, pastoral fields, woods, streams, and other natural elements
- Connect Corrections Officers with the community that they live in and serve
- Recognize the team/family environment and human element of Detention Center employees and the importance of a work/life balance.
- Other interests include the incorporation of fun "hidden" objects or ideas that will engage viewers in finding specific imagery and experiencing new elements of the artwork over time.

### **Selection Criteria**

The Art Selection Committee will be composed of Detention Center employees and arts professionals, and will review all submitted proposals and make recommendations based upon the following criteria:

- Quality of the design concept
- Appropriateness of the proposed design concept and mediums to the stated themes in the RFP
- Suitability of the proposed artwork to the location
- The artist's ability to carry out the commission, and to successfully complete and install the work on schedule. Assessment will be based on evidence of successful projects undertaken and completed in the past as noted in the artist's resume and work samples.
- Any contracted artist must agree to a background check to work on-site at the facility.

### **Project Budget**

The artist fee for the project will be \$8250. The fee is inclusive and must cover all artist fees as well as supplies and materials, any subcontracting related to the project, and travel costs.

No design fees will be paid for preliminary sketches or designs submitted with the proposal. A contract and project approval will be based upon a final design rendering.

### **Timeline**

**Deadline for RECEIPT of Proposals: 11:00 PM (ET), Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

No late proposals will be accepted.

*Please note that the Government Center is typically open to the public from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, M – F. Hand delivered proposals must be delivered by 5:00 PM, Friday, May 12.*

**Selection of Artist:** On or before June 9, 2023

**Anticipated Project timeline:** The timeline for the project and completion has some flexibility. Preference is for the project to start in July and be completed in September. Some accommodations can be made per the artist's schedule.

## **How to Submit a Proposal:**

To submit a proposal for The Lexington Detention Center commission, artists must submit proposals and artwork, via email or paper copies. Proposals must include:

- A current resume, that includes a list of commissioned and/or exhibited work
- A concept statement of the proposed work and how it relates to the identified themes of the RFP
- A description of proposed medium, materials, process and work timeline
- At least TWO (and up to five) concept images for this proposal
- At least three (and up to 10) work sample images of previous completed commissions The images should be similar in scope and/or mediums to the site specific artwork that is being proposed.
- A brief description of each work sample image

## **Electronic Submissions – via email:**

Electronic submissions must utilize PDF's, Word Docs and/or JPEG files. Artist name must be included as part of the file name – along with file content. For example: "HLyons Resume" or "HLyons Concept Statement"

Submissions should use this as the Email Subject Line: **Artist Name – Detention Center**  
For example: **Heather Lyons – Detention Center**

Please submit email proposals to: Heather Lyons – [Hlyons@Lexingtonky.gov](mailto:Hlyons@Lexingtonky.gov)

## **Print Submissions – via mail or hand delivery**

Mailed or hand delivered proposals must include all of the above listed requirements. Mail or drop off proposals during regular business hours to:

Heather Lyons  
Director, Arts & Cultural Affairs  
LFUCG – Government Center  
200 E. Main St.  
Lexington, KY 40507

Questions?

Contact: Heather Lyons, Director of Arts & Culture  
Mayor's Office  
[Hlyons@Lexingtonky.gov](mailto:Hlyons@Lexingtonky.gov)  
859-258-3123