



Renasant Convention Center - Rotating Art & Exhibits Program | RFP

Release Date: October 2022

Budget: Up to a 1,000 stipend, based on demonstrated need and other criteria

Deadline: On-going until terminated

Eligibility: Arts and culture organizations, museums, galleries, non-profits, foundations, curators, companies, families, and individual artists living within the Memphis metropolitan, statistical area.

BACKGROUND

The Renasant Convention Center (RCC) has recently been reimagined and rebranded, as the facility has undergone an important \$200 million expansion and upgrade with modern enhancements, completed in the Fall of 2021. Originally opened in 1974, the RCC normally hosts approximately 450,000 visitors annually and has generated an average economic impact of \$135 million a year. The adjoining Cannon Center for Performing Arts was opened in 2003. As part of the overall remodeling of the building, \$1 million of construction funding was allocated to produce new site-specific public art projects at key locations throughout the facility, including 4 permanent art installations, 9 rotating display cases, and one gallery wall.

Memphis Management Group (MMG), has been contracted by the City of Memphis (City), thought its agent the Memphis Convention Center Commission (MCCC) to manage the RCC facility. Therefore, MMG in furtherance of its management mandate from the City and the MCCC, requests proposals for temporary themed exhibits from arts and culture organizations, museums, galleries, non-profits, foundations, curators, companies, families, and artists for these 10 rotating exhibition spaces. MMG will coordinate the installation process and will work closely with these organizations and individuals to select attractive, informative, and original exhibits.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Rotating Exhibit component of the RCC will provide the public with ongoing opportunities to experience a variety of interesting exhibits highlighting Memphis, regional, national, and international arts and culture, history, and philanthropy. All exhibits will align with the Program's mission, organizing concept, and goals.

Selected rotating exhibits will be especially effective in providing at least one (if not more) of the following:

- Thought-provoking and memorable experiences for visitors
- Meaningful introductions to the culture, history, and civic life of Memphis, particularly highlighting the experiences of indigenous, black, and Hispanic communities
- An encouragement to further explore local cultural resources or attractions
- Enhancing a venue with national exposure for local regional, national, or international artists and artisans
- Introductions to the mission and programs of local non-profits, attractions, and community-based or philanthropic organizations.
- The furtherance of historic, current, or future, cultural or artistic insights, into the human condition as either a physical, emotional, spiritual, or existential representation.

Rotating exhibits may be historic, scientific, educational, or artistic in nature. Museums and similar institutions have the opportunity to show pieces of their permanent collections to a broad cross-section of visitors and residents, thereby strengthening awareness and support for their endeavors. Exhibition materials must be relevant for a duration of at least one year.

Exhibit design and display requirements will vary depending on the value, size, dimension, and composition of the items exhibited. All exhibit cases are glass-fronted, and provide lighting, security and a hanging system. There are limited podiums available upon request. Exhibition spaces are available in three basic sizes (39', 32', 23'), although dimensions vary slightly for each display case. Some cases are straight, while others wrap around corners (right).



MMG is committed to equity and inclusion in the artists and organizations supported through the development of public art. MMG is especially interested in applications from artists and organizations which have not recently received City public art projects. People of color, differently-abled persons, indigenous peoples, youth, LGBTQ+, seniors, and women are strongly encouraged to apply.

PROJECT EXPECTATIONS

The MCCC Art Committee will select proposals based on the criteria outlined in this document and the feasibility of installations.

Rotating exhibits will be coordinated by MMG staff solely, or in cooperation with, artists or organizations as appropriate. The extent of another party's involvement will vary depending on the exhibit or the agreement reached with that party. Parties may be required to assist with any aspect of exhibition coordination up to and including assuming full responsibility for fabricating, handling, transporting, installing, maintaining, and removing exhibit items and displays depending on the agreement reached with that party.

Exhibits will be subject to specific design and curatorial criteria. Interpretive signs shall be included in all exhibits and will be subject to approval by MMG staff. MMG staff will monitor the design, curation, installation, and maintenance of exhibits to ensure quality standards are met. The MCCC Art Committee and MMG staff will be involved in the design process as needed.

The rotating exhibit calendar will be planned approximately 12 months in advance. Duration for any rotating exhibit shall be approximately 12 months. Title to the art and/or exhibits shall remain with the artist or entity that submitted the proposal, and all materials comprising such shall be returned thereto within 30 days of the termination of the exhibit period.

PROJECT TIMELINE

MMG and the MCCC Art Committee will review proposals within 60 days of their submission, and selected proposals will be notified no later than 7 days thereafter. Exhibits must be fully installed by an agreed-upon date thereafter.

PROJECT BUDGET

Each selected exhibit proposal may receive up to a \$1,000 stipend to support the development and production of exhibition materials and are subject to the sole discretion of MMG staff (stipends vary based on the proposed exhibit, display case size, and demonstrated need). Stipends, if awarded, shall be memorialized in writing between MMG and the entity submitting the proposal for the exhibit, prior to the exhibit being created.

SALE OF EXHIBITS

The RCC recognizes that many artists make a living off the sale of their work. Artists are welcome to provide QR codes that link to sales portals for visitors to purchase artwork on display. The RCC has over 450,000 visitors annually so this can provide significant exposure for selected artists. Upon any sale of a piece, artists agree to submit images of a proposed replacement piece to the MCCC Art Committee for approval within 1 week of the finalization of the sale. Upon approval of the new piece, the artist will have 2 weeks to install the new piece in the display. If for some reason this timeline cannot be achieved, please speak with Savanna Gifford for modifications.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- To apply, submit your contact information to MMG's staff member, Savanna Gifford at sgifford@memphisrcc.com, and cc: artcommittee@memphisrcc.com. You may also submit your proposal to Savanna at that same time, or create a dialogue with Savanna regarding your idea for an exhibit. Potential exhibitors may visit the RCC facility during normal working hours to view current exhibits.
- All exhibits that are accepted by the MCCC Art Committee shall be subject to executing a written agreement between MMG and the exhibiting entity or artists.

Please submit the following materials:

- Concept statement and exhibition plan:
 - Up to 10 relevant images, drawings, examples, or renditions
 - Anticipated installation needs

If you have difficulty accessing the website or require assistance with your submission, please contact MMG staff member Savanna Gifford.

DISCLAIMERS

Applicants will be notified as to the status of their application. Commissioning of artists by MMG and the pursuit of all MMG, City, or MCCC activities are implemented without preference to racial or ethnic origins, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, disability, or age.

MMG reserves the right to modify this solicitation and/or to request additional information from participating artists and organizations.

MMG reserves the right to accept or reject, at any time prior to the commissioning of a work or exhibit, any or all proposals when the acceptance, rejection, waiver or advertisement would be in the best interest of the project.

MMG staff will be responsible for all correspondence and communication by and between applicants and members of the MCCC Art Committee.

This program is subject to the Art Policies established by the Memphis Convention Center Commission (which are published and available upon request).

For more information about this project, please contact:
Savanna Gifford | MMG Marketing Manager
sgifford@memphisrcc.com

RFP Exhibition Style Guide

About the RCC Public Art Program

The newly-renovated Renasant Convention Center features nine display cases for rotating arts and culture exhibitions. The program is managed by Memphis Management Group (MMG), who has been contracted by the City of Memphis to manage the facility, and who will work closely with selected organizations and curators to design and install attractive, informative, and original exhibits.

This document contains everything you need to start designing your installation, including details about the exhibition spaces, options for displaying artwork, and requirements for posters and interpretive signage. In addition to ensuring a consistent look and feel throughout the facility, we hope that these guidelines provide a selection of “drag-and-drop” elements which will help you to create an attractive exhibition quickly and easily. In addition, the program is subject to the Art Policies established by the Memphis Convention Center Commission (which are published and available upon request).

Exhibition Spaces

MMG staff will select one of nine glass display cases for your proposed installation. All cases have integrated lighting, electrical outlets, and secure access doors. The RCC offers 24/7 on-site security, standard climate control, and Wi-Fi.

Cases are available in three configurations:

- **32' Straight**
Cannon East, Cannon West, Long Vitrine
- **23' Corner**
Grand Lobby Cases 1-4
- **39' Corner**
Lower Hall East, Lower Hall West

All cases are located 18" above floor level. The 2nd floor cases have 7ft ceilings. The lobby level cases are 11ft 2 inches tall. The lower-level cases have 8 ft 6-inch ceilings.

Corner case



Hanging Systems & Pedestals

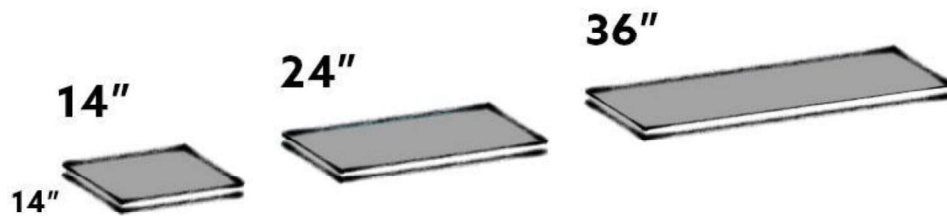
All cases include NovaDisplay rail and cable hanging systems. These systems support up to 130 lbs. per cable and can be easily adjusted to position artwork and signage at any height.

There are no size restrictions for framed artwork, unframed canvases, or wall-bound sculptures. For signage size guidelines, see *Print Materials* below.

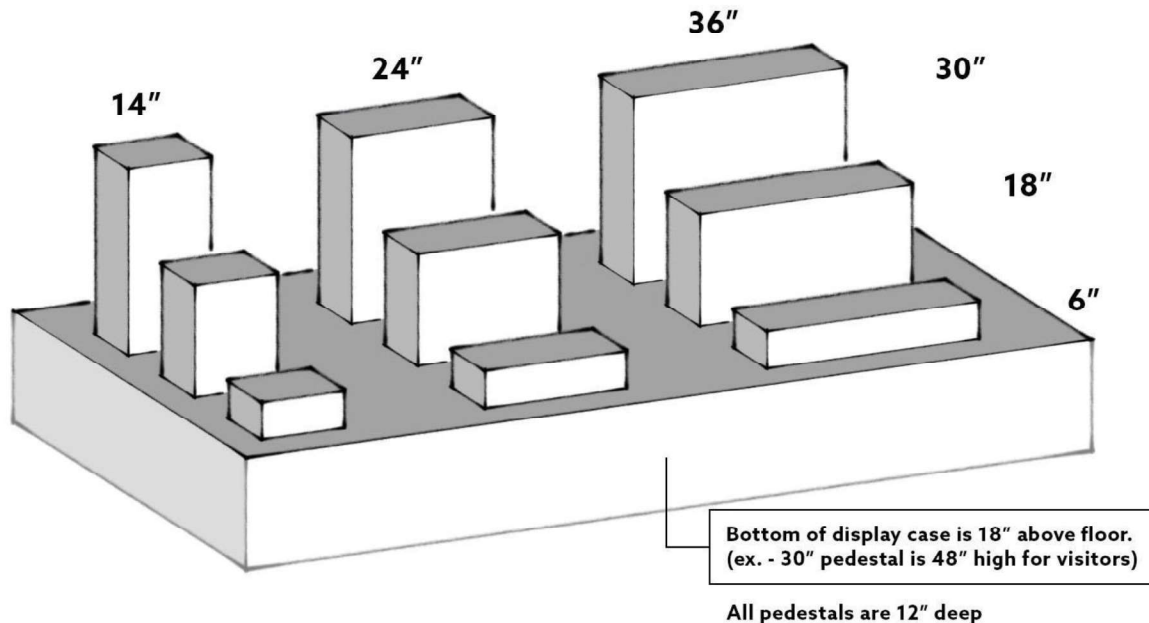
Example NovaDisplay system



Suspended glass shelves are available in three sizes:



Pedestals are available in a variety of sizes, subject to availability:



Print Materials

To maintain consistency throughout the Convention Center, all printed signage should adhere to the following branding guidelines. These guidelines do not apply to framed artworks or works on canvas.

Posters and signs should be professionally printed on PVC or acrylic or mounted on foam core or a similar rigid material. Posters may be printed in 7 sizes:

- 18 x 12
 - 18 x 18
 - 18 x 24
 - 24 x 24
 - 36 x 24
 - 14 x 11*
 - 22 x 14*
- *Use above/below 14" shelves & podiums only*

Text should be printed no smaller than 18-point to ensure readability. The official font of the RCC is Montserrat, which is available for free at fonts.google.com.

Use only the following variations:

- Montserrat Normal
- **Montserrat Semi-Bold**
- **Montserrat Bold**

- **Montserrat Extra Bold**
- **Montserrat Black**

Object labels are required for all artworks and cultural/historical artifacts. Please follow the template below.

