

Request for Qualifications

University of Nebraska Kearney | Celebrating Diversity & Inclusion Plaza



RFQ Submission Deadline: March 7, 2022

Total Budget: \$100,000

Project Description

The University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) is a public, residential university committed to be one of the nation's premier undergraduate institutions with excellent graduate education, scholarship, and public service. UNK will achieve national distinction for a high quality, multidimensional learning environment, engagement with community and public interests, and preparation of students to lead responsible and productive lives in an increasingly diverse, interconnected, and multicultural society.

One of UNK's core values is that people matter: UNK promotes an inclusive environment that affords equitable access and opportunity to every individual. The framework for UNK's vision is centered on being an environment that is inclusive and explicitly values diversity of individuals, cultures, thought and expression, that centers on student success through personalized teaching and mentorship relationships, and extends broad access to quality education. For more on UNK's Mission, Vision and Values, visit:

<https://www.unk.edu/about/plan/mission,-vision,-and-values.php>

The UNK strategic plan stresses commitment to diversity and inclusion in the recruitment, nurturing and retaining of diverse students and faculty, the promotion of student-centered learning environments, building bridges to the community and state through athletic, cultural, and educational events. For more UNK goals and priorities, visit: <https://www.unk.edu/about/plan/strategic-goals,-strategies-and-implementation-priorities.php>

UNK is a Nebraska Statewide Arboretum site near the heart of the charming and growing city of Kearney, which has numerous cultural activities, restaurants and parks. UNK has emphasized the renovation of campus buildings and amenities over the last decade, and has many public artworks around the campus. Students come to UNK from 91 of the 93 Nebraska counties, all 50 states including the District of Columbia, and over 50 foreign countries.



Some nearby artwork and experiences on campus: "Athleta" by John Raimondi, the Cope Fountain, cast glass entrance to Copeland Hall.

Site and Artwork Overview

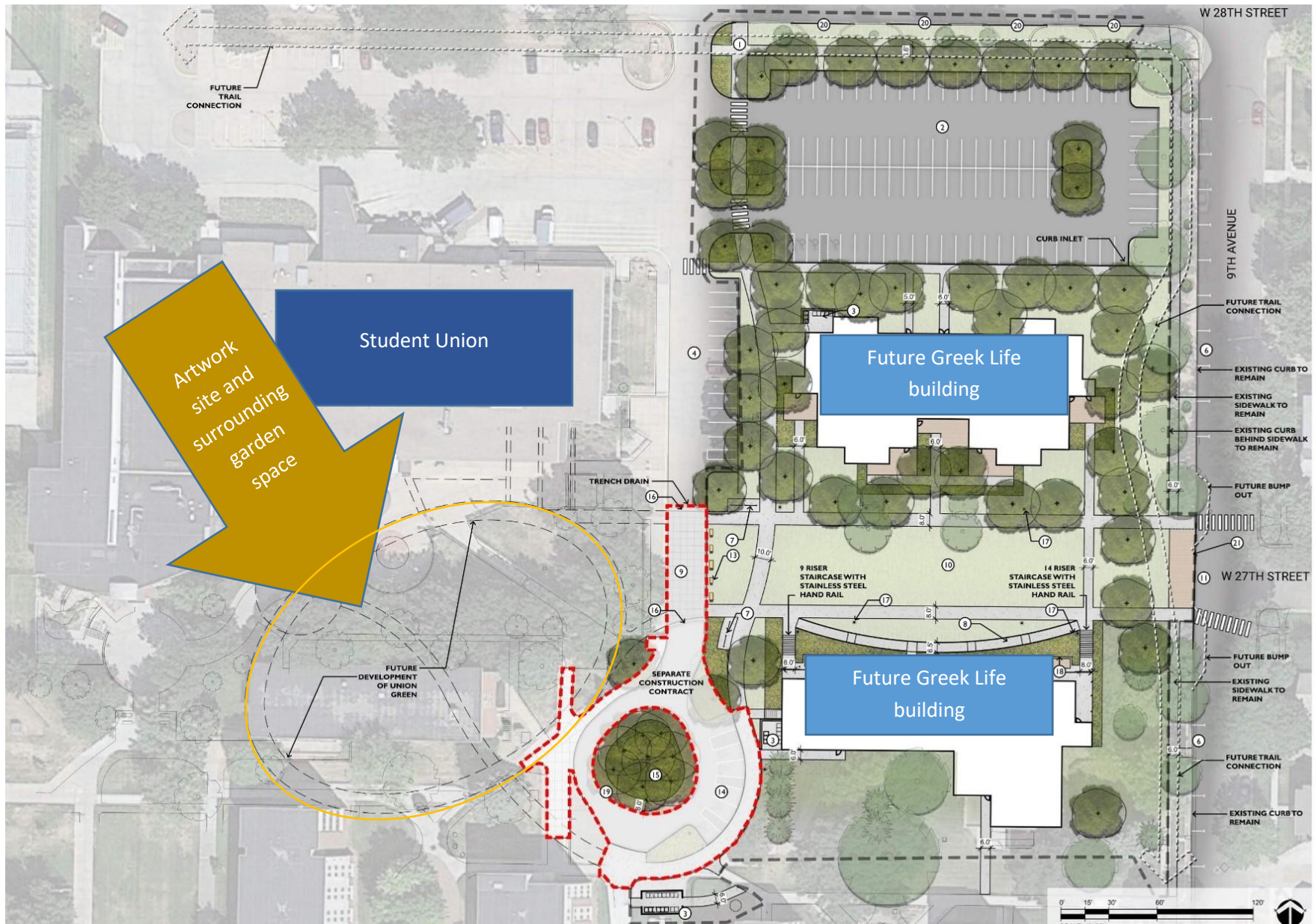
The Committee is approaching the theme “Celebrating Diversity & Inclusion” within the context of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, where Diversity means a mix of different identities and cultures, Equity to acknowledge that we do not always start on a level playing field, and Inclusion to acknowledge individuals voices and power. “Celebrating Diversity & Inclusion” is a priority on the UNK Campus, and the Committee hopes that the artwork and surrounding space should feel welcoming and inclusive for different identities and cultures to enjoy and experience the artwork in their own way. The goal is to offer a vision of how DEI can evolve and provide a better, more equitable and inclusive future. Along with that, people with different abilities should be able to experience the artwork and should follow ADA regulations.

The artwork site is outside the Student Union, which is a major hub for student activity, meals, study groups, club meetings, conferences, etc. The outdoor sculpture and surrounding garden should be an extension of that hub, and encourage interaction with the artwork and with each-other. The artwork should have the potential of becoming an iconic and memorable emblem for the University, and be a place where students want to go for milestone events and photos.

The Committee hopes to select an artist, artist team who are willing to collaborate with and involve the UNK community during the project development. As a part of the RFQ submission, it is important to the Committee to understand the artist’s/team’s personal and artistic approach to promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts on and with the UNK Campus, and how their approach is relevant to the artist.

The following are some ideas that were inspiring for the Committee, although we understand that even with the university’s help in developing the full surrounding garden, it is possible we may not achieve every concept. A space to encourage use as outdoor classes or performances where a platform, seating, or possibly an element of shelter. A garden that is designed by or with Native Americans and focuses on plants native to the area, and could possibly include a land acknowledgement within the space. A space that is welcoming at all times of the day – and perhaps incorporate light at night. The Committee is open to the idea of text in this space.

The artwork should be constructed of materials that can withstand Nebraska weather, which includes extreme wind, precipitation, and sun. The artist should consider maintenance requirements. The Committee may be open to commissioning two artists to work together, if agreeable to everyone involved.



Aerial map of Student Union, future Union Garden and Artwork site, with surrounding area and development.

Selection Process

The “Celebrating Diversity and inclusion” Selection Committee, which is made up of a variety of students and faculty from the campus, has oversight for the selection of an artist for this project, with final approval by the UNK administrators. Professional public artists/teams within the U.S. are eligible. The committee reviews RFQ submissions on SlideRoom. Finalists will receive a presentation honorarium and a travel stipend, if applicable. Finalist presentations should include concept, design, detailed budget for the available funds, installation method, projected maintenance.

Budget

A maximum of \$100,000.00 is allocated for this artwork. All expenses for the selected design and commission are the responsibility of the artist/team, including but not limited to: travel/lodging, fabrication and supplies. The University may like to collaborate with artist for additional lighting, landscaping or other installation expenses (as needed, like footings for example)

Selection Criteria

Of particular weight is the artist’s ability to describe their approach to DEI and this work with the UNK Community. The Artist Statement and the artwork clarity and quality will also be ranked.

Timeline *subject to change.

RFQ Open:	December 30, 2021
Submission Deadline:	March 7, 2022
Finalists Notified by:	March 25, 2022
Artwork Installed:	June-Aug 2023

Application Requirements

Submit materials on SlideRoom: nebraska.slideroom.com

Visual Support Materials

Image descriptions: Label each uploaded image with title, medium, year, project budget, and any relevant description.

Images: Ten (10) jpg images of completed relevant artworks.

Video: Optional video file may demonstrate moving parts, time-based work, functionality, etc. (mov, wmv, or flv files, no larger than 60MB each, nor longer than five minutes each.)

Required Materials

DEI Statement: Please describe your personal and/or artistic approach to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and how is that relevant to you? Use 500 words or less.

Artist Statement: Describe your work and style and how it is relevant to this project. Use 500 words or less.

CV/Resume: List previous education, relevant work, public art projects, etc. Limit to three pages.

Three Professional References: Complete contact information for references with a deep knowledge artwork and work methods, and for which project they worked with you.

Application Fee: N/A

Contact

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