

CALL FOR ARTISTS

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hay Lake School and Erickson Log Home Museum Complex

The Washington County Historical Society invites you, the artists of the St. Croix Valley to participate in a community public art project.

This request for proposal (RFP) will tell you everything you need to know before you begin.

This project is designed to enliven the electrical utility box located at the Hay Lake School and Erickson Log House Museum Complex and to create a piece of art related to the history and use of the historic site.

Artists whose work is selected will receive a stipend of \$200 for artwork installation and materials.

Timeline:

Artist application due May 13, 2018

Artists notified on May 23, 2018

Project can begin May 27, 2018

Project completed by June 15, 2018

Please submit all materials either via mail or electronically to:

Washington County Historical Society

Attn: Gibson Stanton

P.O. Box 167

Stillwater, MN 55082

Gibson.wchsmn@gmail.com

Location

The Hay Lake School and Erickson Log Home Museum Complex is located at 14020 195th St N, Marine on St Croix, MN 55047.



Front of Utility Box



Back of Utility Box

Specifications

1. Artists should be from the approximate area.
2. Artists proposals should be based on dimensions of the box and include all sides (can include wood the box is mounted on). Artist signature must not exceed 3"x5".
3. Artwork in draft must closely resemble the art that will be installed on the box.
4. All submitted proposals will become the property of the Washington County Historical Society. There is no guarantee of how long the artwork may remain on box due to maintenance or replacement.
5. Applicants should view and become familiar with the proposed box and the location around it to contextualize their proposal.
6. Judging will remain anonymous.
7. Selected artists will be notified by email on May 23, 2018 and will receive instructions about necessary contract forms to be signed and returned prior to project start.
8. Please submit your application to Gibson Stanton by May 13, 2018.

A copy of the application is available at the end of this RFP.

Eligible Proposals

The first priority is that the boxes should become high quality artwork that would enliven the community. Proposals should be positive, original, and to reflect one or more of the following themes:

- History of the St. Croix Valley
- History of early Swedish Settlement
- History of early agriculture

Proposals will be ineligible if they involve:

- A breach of intellectual property rights (all artwork must be original).
- Trademarks, brands, business names, logos, or copyrighted images.
- Anything harmful to a third party.
- Majority of proposal consisting of dark paints (darks paints can overheat a box)

Policies and Guidelines

NOTE: The surfaces of the box will need to be properly prepared by the individual artist.

1. The artwork purposed must resemble the art that will be painted on the box.
2. Be prepared to measure and adjust your artwork to fit the size of the box.
3. Painting may begin any time after May 27, 2018 but must be completed by June 15, 2018.
4. The property owner and its contractors must have access to the components in the box at all times.
5. During installation, artists may want to block off the box to keep the public from disturbing wet paint.
6. When washing or painting the box, it should be done in a manner so that no moisture gets inside the box through any vents. There is sensitive electronic equipment inside the boxes.
7. The vents should not be covered as not to restrict airflow from the cabinet.
8. Artwork must not consist primarily of dark colors due to the potential overheating of the box.
9. The levers, hinges, and keyholes on the box should not have any coating over them.

Artist Benefits

- Artist Recognition via your signature on utility box (no larger than 3"x5")
- Notable mention of artist in media information relating to this project. Information could appear on Washington County Historical Society's website and social media platforms, as well as promotional material through the City of Scandia/Marine on St. Croix, including artist name, artwork title, and photography of artwork.
- A stipend of \$200 for artwork installation and materials.

Instructions for Selected Artists

Selected artists will be notified on May 23, 2018.

Prepping Utility Box:

Follow these steps to prep your utility box.

1. Clean the surface of the box with biodegradable cleaner.
2. Rinse and allow surface to dry completely.
3. Sand the cabinet with a fine grade sandpaper until the surface feels rough. Be sure to

wipe surfaces with a damp cloth to remove all dust/grit after sanding. It is recommended that the box be sanded prior to painting.

4. Apply one coat of metal primer on box.
5. After primer coat is completely dry, a colored base coat should be applied.

Painting:

Supplies based on similar project in different cities. Materials may vary by artists.

Use only Acrylic Paint; Golden or Liquitex high-viscosity paint, lightfastness 1.

Below is a comprehensive checklist of recommended supplies for the best painting outcome and your personal comfort. This may not be a complete list as all artists work differently and will require different supplies:

- “Approved Utility Box Art” signage to identify the artist while working
- Paint Stool or chair for comfort
- Buckets to hold water for paint brushes
- Paint brushes
- Painters tape, masking tape
- Cloth or plastic sheeting for protecting surrounding area
- Biodegradable cleaner
- Rags and/or paper towels

Preserving Your Work:

1. Allow paint to dry completely. It is recommended that acrylic paint have 24-48 hours cure time before varnishing.
2. Use a cloth to wipe down the box before applying the clear coat. Recommended: Apply two coats of Liquitex Gloss Varnish, each coat in the opposite direction, with adequate dry time in between. This is a permanent coat and will protect the paint from the environment, block UV, and will not amber. Let dry for a minimum of 5 hours. Apply a second coat. Allow to dry for a minimum of 5 hours. Apply a top coat of Liquitex Soluvar. This is not a permanent varnish but is weather and UV resistant. This will enable better graffiti clean off if needed. The first permanent coats will protect paint from cleaning.

Cleaning the site:

Artists are responsible for cleanup of their area and safe disposal of all paint materials.

Submission Checklist

- Completed Application
- Artwork Information - Artwork title and brief description (100 words or less) of submitted piece, including reasons or inspiration behind your proposal. (May be used in promotional materials.)
- Proposed Box Design - Include a color rendering with an accurate depiction of your proposed design for the box including all sides and artists signature. All submitted proposals become the property of the Washington County Historical Society.

Please submit all materials either via mail or electronically to:

Washington County Historical Society
Attn: Gibson Stanton
P.O. Box 167
Stillwater, MN 55082
Gibson.wchsmn@gmail.com

Utility Box Examples



Menomonie Arts Power



High Water by Tom Maakestad

ARTIST APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Washington County Historical Society's Call for Artists. Please fill in all information and print clearly.

Artist Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Current Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Artist Bio

Please attach a brief artist bio with any portfolio of previous work with your submission.

Why do you believe public art is an important part of the community?

Tell us how your proposal fits in with the theme?

Artwork Information

Please attach color rendering, title of submission, medium, and description in no more than 100 words.