

Request for Proposal and Artist: UW Madison Department of Physics Mural
Artist Request for Proposal (RFP)

A Public Art Mural Project at Chamberlin Hall, 1150 University Ave, Madison, WI 53706

Introduction to the Project

As part of an effort to invigorate the main floor of Chamberlin Hall, the University of Wisconsin – Madison, Department of Physics is eager to install a mural in the main entrance of the building, which will act as a bright, welcoming sign to the thousands of students, visitors, and community members entering the building each year.

The physics department is accepting proposals from experienced artists for the design and execution of an 11.5 ft tall by 24.5 ft wide mural that will foster a sense of community, and celebrate physics education and research. The mural should encourage a feeling of community, inclusion, and eagerness to learn physics.

The selected artist will interview a group of faculty, students, and staff to inform their final piece, to inform accurate depictions of science and the historical components of the department.

Our goals for this mural project are:

- To become a “welcome sign” to people as they enter Chamberlin Hall from University Avenue.
- To foster and celebrate community, diversity, and inclusion within the physics department.
- To highlight and celebrate physics education and/or research in the department (which may potentially pull from research being done in the department)

About the Physics Department

The [UW–Madison Physics Department](#) awarded its first PhD in 1899. Since then our students have earned degrees in virtually [every area of physics](#), and our [faculty](#) have played key roles in a myriad of important research efforts. Some of the main research efforts in the department include plasma research, space physics, collaboration in the IceCube neutrino project, high energy physics and collaboration with CERN, and quantum information research. Additionally, we have the first [MS in Physics–Quantum Computing program](#) in the country.

Each year, our instructional teams teach introductory physics to nearly 2000 undergrads from majors across campus, learning physics concepts from electricity and magnetism to quantum mechanics.

We’re also proud to have the longest-running hands-on science museum (the [Ingersoll Physics Museum](#)), which educates and entertains visitors and school groups year-round. Additionally, we have one of the longest-running science demonstration shows every spring, [The Wonders of Physics](#), which enthalls hundreds of young children, their parents, and community members every spring.

Mural Site Location and Specification

The UW-Madison Physics department will commission an artist(s) to design and install a large-scale mural that welcomes everyone to the physics department and celebrates physics education and research. We are seeking proposals that convey bright physics-related themes and that will send the message that the department welcomes and engages students and visitors to the building.

The chosen wall is in the interior of Chamberlin Hall, and located opposite of the main entrance coming in from University Avenue. Thousands of students, faculty, and staff walk through the second floor to classrooms, graduate student offices, administrative offices, and the main auditorium, all of whom will pass by this mural. Additionally, hundreds of K-12 school groups and visitors come through this entrance year round to play in the Ingersoll Physics Museum – directly to the right of the mural wall – and will be greeted by this mural.

The chosen wall for the mural is 24.5 ft wide and 11.5 ft tall. The mural can be painted directly on the chosen wall, or created on panels which will be mounted on the wall. The wall will be appropriately prepped before work begins. Currently, there is a historic department sign hanging on the wall, as well as smaller informational signs, and display cases in front of the wall – all of which will be removed prior to work on the mural and located elsewhere. There are two electrical outlets near the floor that can be covered. There is a digital clock and a fire alarm in the wall that cannot be removed, but could be incorporated into the mural design. Lastly, there is a wooden rail at waist-height running horizontally along the wall that may be removed.



Eligibility

This call is open to all artists, however, we strongly encourage local artists from Madison or the south-central Wisconsin area to apply. Candidates must be eligible to work in the United States; and age 18 and older. The artist must be available to oversee the installation of the mural.

Deadline (recently extended)

The deadline for all proposals must be submitted electronically through this Google form link <https://forms.gle/x2DBVUpFRaxJbaec8> by **November 27, 2022 at 5:00 PM Central**.

Budget

We estimate an amount of \$10,000 will be paid to the chosen Artist. Artist will be responsible for their own travel costs, materials, and personal liability insurance. The UW-Madison physics department staff will collaborate with the artist to attempt to offset costs by seeking in-kind support (materials, ladders/lifts, etc.). The department will be responsible for the treatment of the surface prior to installation.

Up to three semi-finalists will be chosen from all submissions. Semi-finalists will be invited to interview and asked to provide sketches of an initial mural design. Each semi-finalist will be paid a \$200 honorarium for their proposal and additional sketches.

Proposal Requirements

The application can be found at this Google forms link <https://forms.gle/x2DBVUpFRaxJbaec8>. The following is required for consideration as a completed proposal and will be asked for in the form:

1. Contact information: Name, address, telephone number, email address
2. Resume/CV for lead artist(s)
3. Written narrative describing your artistic vision, proposal for design, and process of creating the mural (up to 2 page, single-spaced pages)
4. Examples of past work, either attached as a PDF or with a shared web address to a digital portfolio (Maximum of 5)
5. References (Minimum of 2)
6. Optional additional support materials (i.e. news article on past work). Also, should the artist envision incorporating community or student engagement in the design/installation process, we would welcome those ideas/suggestions as our desire is to use the mural process for public engagement to the extent possible.
7. Your proposed fee for design, materials, installation, and commissioning of the mural, if they differ from our estimate above.

Selection Process

A diverse, representative committee has been established and will review all completed proposals. Committee members include physics department faculty, staff, and students.

We will select up to three semifinalists to interview and will ask them to provide sketches of their initial mural proposal. We will select one finalist for the project.

The following will be considered in the selection process:

- Artist met the requirements outlined in the RFP; the proposal was submitted by the deadline
- Attention to the mission of the project
- Evidence of ability to create large-scale, distinctive work
- Demonstrated ability to maintain project timelines

- Originality and creativity

Project Timeline (subject to change)

- October 15, 2022 – Announcement and distribution of RFP
- November 27, 2022 – Deadline for receipt of proposals
- December 10, 2022 – All submissions reviewed and semifinalists selected
- December 15, 2022 – Interviews with semifinalists
- December 20, 2022 – Artist selected
- December 20-30, 2022 – contract process initiated and completed
- January 5, 2023 – Art design finalized and approved
- January 5, 2023 – Work begins
- February 15, 2023 – Work finalized

Further Questions

Additional questions about the project or application can be sent to Aedan Gardill gardill@wisc.edu.

Ownership

The artist will retain ownership of any ideas submitted for consideration until a final selection has been made and a contract will be signed between the UW Madison Physics department and the selected artist. At that time, UW-Madison Department of Physics will take 100% ownership of artwork produced, in whatever stage of completion, and the artwork shall become the property of UW-Madison Department of Physics as a work made for hire as defined by the copyright laws of the United States. UW-Madison Department of Physics shall be the sole and exclusive owner and copyright proprietor of all rights and title in and to the results and proceeds of artist's services hereunder. In addition, artist will represent being the sole author of the Work and that all services are original by artist and not copied in whole or in part.