

Greater Manhattan Community Foundation

Community Arts Committee
Manhattan, Kansas



Request for Proposals

Deadline: June 30, 2022

The Community Arts Committee of the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation in partnership with the City of Manhattan is seeking a qualified artist or artist team to design, fabricate, and assist with the installation of original **outdoor sculptures** to be permanently installed in the area encompassing the Douglass Recreation Complex, 900 Yuma Street, Manhattan, Kansas. Proposal applications are due on **June 30, 2022**.

1. The scope of this project is to create and install a sculpture to be positioned outside the Douglass Community Center, which originally served as the United Service Organization for WWII African American soldiers, honoring the history of the USO and community.
2. The project also must include two African American schoolchildren playing, one boy, and one girl, to be placed outside the former Douglas School (Douglass Center Annex), which served several generations of African American students prior to desegregation. Historical accuracy in design and dress is necessary to represent the time period. See additional history below.

Design mock-ups are required with the online submission.

Total Project Budget: The GMCF Community Arts Committee has earmarked \$100,000-\$150,000 total for this project but is seeking reasonable proposals regardless of cost. For requested proposals, the depiction of the concept and historic relevance and accuracy is key. The committee understands changes in fabrication methods and material costs can vary dramatically and can be further discussed after selection.

How to apply:

Artists interested in this project must prepare and submit the following using the online application: <https://www.mcfks.org/call-for-artists.cfm> by June 30, 2022.

- The proposal shall include conceptual design drawings/sketches sufficient to communicate the artist's concept. It should include the proposed medium or materials, proposed dimensions, and a detailed cost estimate including materials, fabrication, delivery, and installation
- Requirements for foundation, fabrication time, life expectancy, and any special maintenance needs must be included
- Letter of Interest, no more than one page in length, which explains your interest in the project
- Current Resume, including at least three professional references familiar with your work

- Work Samples - up to three examples, descriptions, and photographs of past projects
- Artist website information and social media handles (if applicable)

Only proposals submitted through the online application form with all required documentation uploaded will be accepted. However, if you need assistance please contact Kendra Kuhlman at kendrak@mcfks.org

Selection Information:

GMCF shall submit a City of Manhattan Donor-Initiated Public Art application on behalf of the selected artist. Final approval of the proposed project will be subject to City of Manhattan Donor-Initiated Public Art policy procedures. See www.cityofmhk.com/3116/Donor-Initiated-Public-Art for the City of Manhattan's program and policy details.

The Commissioned Artist(s) will work with the Community Arts Committee and City of Manhattan staff to create site-specific, durable pieces for this outdoor installation. Applicants who wish to be considered for this project should have experience working within the public process, in public settings, as well as a proven ability to fabricate their own work or to work with fabricators and installers. The artworks for this site must reflect the Project Intent as described. The Commissioned Artist(s) will be required to provide evidence of appropriate liability, property damage, and workers' compensation insurance while working on the site.

Description of location:

History of Yuma Street and the Douglass Center, Manhattan, KS:

Yuma Street in Manhattan is rich with African American history and culture. Beginning with the establishment of the Bethel A.M.E. Church by the Exodusters in 1879 and continuing through the opening of the new Douglass Activity Center, the neighborhood's buildings and activities have brought together many generations of African American families.

Founded in 1904, the Douglas School served several generations of African American students prior to desegregation. The building is now known as the Douglass Center Annex, offering community space for tutoring and mentoring programs, meetings, and public services. Built in the 1940s, the Douglass Community Center originally served as a United Service Organization for WWII soldiers. The only swimming pool open to African American residents at that time was located in Douglass Park, on the grounds where the new Douglass Activity Center has been constructed. The Douglass Center continues to be a vital and vibrant part of the Manhattan community. Its presence continues to be essential for African American students at KSU and soldiers stationed at Fort Riley, however, it has evolved over the years to encompass education, recreation, fellowship,

and kinship for all members of the community. The construction of the new Douglass Activity Center provides the opportunity to represent, celebrate, and honor the rich history of the African American community within Manhattan.

Review process:

- Proposals accepted until June 30, 2022. All materials must be submitted via online application. If you are unable to submit via online application, please contact Kendra Kuhlman at kendrak@mcfks.org.
- Proposals will be reviewed by the GMCF Community Arts Committee for concept and budget
- Chosen proposal will be submitted as a City of Manhattan's Donor-Initiated Public Art Application and submitted to said policy's procedures
- The City of Manhattan City Commission will have the final approval of the proposal
- Proposal is approved, and timeline is set for fabrication and/or installation of work

Considered proposals should:

- Demonstrate artistic quality, innovation, and historic accuracy
- Be conceptually timeless and enduring
- Reflect the Manhattan, KS community and the history of the location
- Show sensitivity to the surrounding community and address site characteristics
- Complement the scale of the surrounding streetscape and buildings
- Be safe for the public and maintain clear site lines for traffic
- Be made of highly permanent materials that are suitable to the environment and require minimal maintenance
- Comply with all building and electrical codes and bylaws

For questions, please contact Kendra Kuhlman, kendrak@mcfks.org, or 785-587-8995.
<https://mcfks.org>

Photographs of the site:

1. Site of the proposed WWII sculpture- stamped concrete patio planned



2. Site of the school children sculpture or sculptures (one boy/one girl separate, playing OR one boy/one girl together in one sculpt





