

Call for Art

DEEP Western District Headquarters Watertown, Connecticut

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About the Art in Public Spaces Program:

Connecticut's Art in Public Spaces program was established in 1978 and requires 1% of the cost of construction or renovation of publicly accessible state buildings be allocated for the commission or purchase of artwork as part of the building's construction project. The [Connecticut Office of the Arts](#) and the Department of Administrative Services jointly administer the Art in Public Spaces Program. Visit the [Art in Public Spaces](#) program webpage for further information about the program and to view past installations throughout the state.

Project Summary:

The Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) and the [Department of Energy and Environmental Protection](#) are currently seeking to either commission new work or purchase existing artwork by Connecticut artists for the new Western District Headquarters located in Watertown. The committee may consider a variety of new acquisitions (interior/exterior) including two-dimensional artwork and three-dimensional sculptural works.

Budget: Up to approximately \$115,000

Call for Art Deadline: March 5, 2024

Eligibility & Submission Process:

Connecticut Artists may submit up to four (4) digital images of their work. The Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) is accepting submissions through COA's e-granting portal <https://ctofficeofthearts.smapply.org/> and submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Additionally, COA may utilize NEFA's [CreativeGround](#) database as a tool to find artists for this opportunity.

- **COA's e-grant portal:** create a new account or log into your existing account. Then select **1% Art – Call for Art: DEEP Western Headquarters** and begin your submission.
- **CreativeGround:** developed and managed by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA). COA often uses CreativeGround as an Artist Directory when seeking artists for a variety of opportunities.

About the new Western District Headquarters Facility

Construction is complete for the new facility that will serve as DEEP's Western District Offices for Agency Support Services, State Parks, Inland Fisheries, Forestry, Conservation Law Enforcement, Boating and Wildlife. In addition to housing the DEEP offices, labs, and support spaces for staff, the facility also serves as a public access point for CT residents to interact with DEEP. Located at Black Rock State Park which includes a large campground, the large meeting room may serve as a space for park related programs such as Movie Night and other gatherings.

There is a sustainability education component that will have public access and the new facility is designed to be Net Zero energy, operate free of fossil fuels and achieve LEED Platinum certification, and much of the building interior is finished with wood harvested from Connecticut State Parks and Forests,

Project Description:

The public art committee for the DEEP project will focus on Parks, Forests and Wildlife. Potential consideration for artwork include:

- Exterior sculpture for the front of the building. Possibly a large stand-alone sculpture that encourages photo engagement,
- Exterior sculpture for the front of the building and placed in up to three possible locations: along the seating area, between the parking lot and the facility, or towards a nearby walking trail.
- Interior artwork for a large open wall in the interpretive lobby.
- Interior artwork such as photos, prints, and paintings for the meeting room, lobby, and general public locations.

The committee has outlined several qualities and characteristics they hope to achieve through this project.

- Artwork should align with the mission of DEEP and compliment the visitor experience.
- Promotes the appreciation of Parks, Forests and Wildlife.
- May become an iconic feature of Black Rock State Park.
- Provides an educational opportunity for visitors.
- Complements the architecture of the new facility and assists with wayfinding.
- Pleasing environment that encourages a positive and welcoming experience for visitors and staff.
- Connects to sustainability and net zero goals.



Visitor Entrance: DEEP Western District Headquarters

Selection Process and Timeline:

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Western District 1% for Art project is administered as a Call for Art. Therefore, artists interested in this project must submit a portfolio of up to four (4) artworks. Artworks

may be available for purchase, they may be samples of past work, or a combination of the two. Additionally, artists registered in [CreativeGround](#) may be invited to submit artwork for consideration.

The selection committee will review submissions on a rolling basis, and they will begin the review as soon as the first submission comes in through the e-grant portal. COA will contact artists who are selected by the committee for further review and possible site-specific proposal development.

COA will initiate a contract with selected artists which will be administered by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Contracts can only be administered between DAS and the artist, contracts cannot be issued with a gallery representing the artist, an estate, etc.

The overall timeline is fluid and may involve a combination of purchasing existing art and commissioning new work. Acquisitions will be carried out on an ongoing basis and until the 1% for Art project funds have been expended.

The new acquisitions at DEEP will be added to the [Art in Public Spaces Collection Tour](#) which features a range of work on display in publicly accessible locations across Connecticut.



Employee Entrance: DEEP Western District Headquarters

For all questions related to the Art in Public Spaces program and the Call for Art at the DEEP Western District Headquarters, please contact: Tamara Dimitri, Art in Public Spaces Program Specialist, Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA), tamara.dimitri@ct.gov