Fort Worth Convention Center

Request for Artists



Rendering of the new design façade for Fort Worth Convention Center

Issued By: Kevin Barry Art Advisory (KBAA)

Application Deadline: January 29th, 2027

Total Art Program Budget: $4.9 Million

Public Unveiling & Grand Opening: 2030

Thank you for your interest in this project. This brief introduces the project vision and the story the artwork is intended to convey. It also provides information about the art locations available, application process, project schedule, and expectations for participating artists.

The project includes multiple opportunities for site-specific artwork, each with its own scope, budget, and creative considerations. Artists may be considered for one or more locations based on their portfolio, experience, and artistic approach.

The initial submission will consist of a portfolio review. Following this review, shortlisted artists will be invited to develop a proposal for a specific art location. Shortlisted artists will be compensated for their proposal, with the proposal fee established separately for each location.

Please review the brief in its entirety before preparing and submitting your portfolio for consideration.

I. THE NARRATIVE AND VISION

FORT WORTH IN MOTION

The Fort Worth Convention Center artwork program captures the energy and momentum of Fort Worth today, a place shaped by its connection to the land, the movement of people, and a continually evolving urban landscape.

Movement has long defined the region. The flow of the Trinity River, prairie grasses shifting with the wind, migration across the landscape, and the expansive Texas sky create natural rhythms and pathways. Today, these patterns intersect with a new kind of movement, flight paths, transportation networks, development, and technology reshaping how people experience and connect across the city.

Connectivity becomes a recurring thread throughout the collection. Lines cross and converge, pathways overlap, and individual elements gather into larger compositions. Woven and interlocking forms can connect the natural patterns of the region with the networks and systems of contemporary Fort Worth, expressing a landscape that is both deeply rooted and continually shifting.

Artists translate these influences through gesture, rhythm, layering, light, materiality, and shifts in perspective, creating work that feels dynamic rather than literal. Forms may gather and disperse, materials respond to light, and compositions change as visitors move through the space.

Together, the collection creates moments of discovery, connection, and unexpected perspective, capturing the movement of the natural landscape alongside the changing rhythms of contemporary Fort Worth.

II. CREATIVE BRIEF

DIRECTION

Artists are invited to explore Fort Worth as a city in motion, drawing connections between the natural rhythms of the regional landscape and the movement, connectivity, and continued evolution of the city today.

Rather than depicting Fort Worth literally, consider how landscape, pathways, natural systems, infrastructure, and human movement can become creative source material, translated through gesture, rhythm, construction, substrates, and changing perspective.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Artwork should become part of the experience of moving through and connecting across the Convention Center.

Large-scale gestures can draw visitors forward, suspended installations can activate vertical spaces and layered, or dimensional works can reveal new perspectives as people move around them. Individual artworks should create moments of discovery while also establishing visual relationships between spaces.

Visitors should experience Fort Worth as energetic, connected, and continually evolving, while still feeling a strong relationship to the landscape and regional character that ground the city.

ARTIST SHOULD EXPLORE

LAND + CITY IN MOTION

Look for connections between the movement inherent to the region and the new patterns shaping contemporary Fort Worth.
Consider how these influences might intersect, overlap, converge, disperse, or shift rather than exist as separate ideas.

NATURAL MOVEMENT

Prairie Grasses + Wind · Trinity River + Water · Migration · Native Landscape · Changing Light · Expansive Texas Sky · Natural Pathways + Patterns

CONTEMPORARY MOVEMENT

Flight + Aerospace · Transportation · Urban Pathways · Architecture + Infrastructure · Development · Technology · Changing Skyline · People + Gathering

MOVEMENT + PERSPECTIVE

Connectivity should become both a narrative and a physical part of the artwork.

Explore gesture, rhythm, repetition, suspension, transparency, light, shadow, and changing perspective to create artwork that feels active and evolves as visitors move through the space.

The strongest concepts should suggest wind, current, flight, gathering, growth, or an urban landscape in transition without relying on literal imagery.

OVERALL FEELING

Energetic · Connected · Expressive · Progressive · Immersive · Bold · Unexpected

The artwork should create distinct moments of visual impact and discovery throughout the Convention Center. Rather than forming a uniform collection, each work should respond to its specific location through scale, movement, material, and composition, bringing energy, individuality, and unexpected moments to the surrounding environment.

AVOID

Overly literal landscape or city imagery, predictable Western motifs, themed interpretations, and artwork that feels static, decorative, or disconnected from the surrounding environment.

III. THE SPACES

THE TOWER



Opportunity Description

The Tower is a prominent multistory architectural space with visibility from both the interior and exterior of the Convention Center. Artwork for this location should respond to the vertical scale of the space and create visual interest from multiple viewpoints and levels.

Maintaining views through the Tower and down Main Street is a key consideration. The artwork should have a strong visual presence while remaining open enough to preserve these important sightlines.

Integrated lighting is strongly encouraged as part of the artwork concept. While not required, artists should explore opportunities to incorporate lighting as an intentional design element.

Artwork Size

Height: Varies from 95' to 105' | Width: Constant at 22' | Depth: Varies from 17' to 30', depending on the floor level of the building. The artwork occupies a three-dimensional volume with varying height and depth. The available depth changes at different floor levels due to the building's architectural configuration, while the width remains constant at approximately 22 feet. Construction plans will be released to shortlisted artists for formal review.

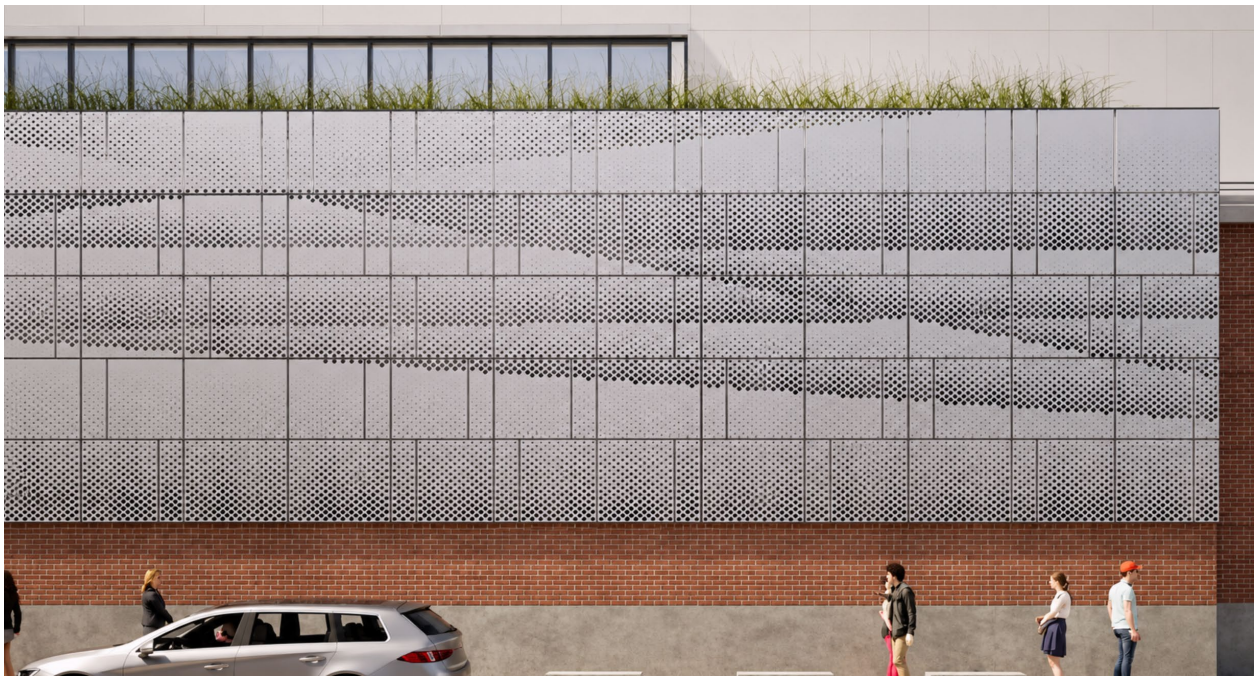
Proposal Compensation

Each shortlisted artist invited to develop a Phase 2 proposal for this location may receive a fixed stipend of $1,500 in compensation for their proposal development.

Technical Considerations

This opportunity will require significant coordination with KBAA and the broader project team. The selected artist should be prepared to collaborate with architects, structural engineers, lighting designers, installers, and other project consultants as required.

COMMERCE STREET - EXTERIOR FAÇADE



Opportunity Description

The Exterior Façade presents an opportunity for an artist-designed pattern to be incorporated into the perforated metal screening of the Fort Worth Convention Center. The design should explore movement, rhythm, and visual interest while remaining scalable and repeatable across the façade.

The selected artist will provide original artwork files only. Fabrication and installation will be completed by others.

Artwork Size

Approximate Dimensions: 435' W × 24' H - Final panel configurations will be provided to shortlisted artists.

Proposal Compensation

Each shortlisted artist invited to develop a Phase 2 proposal for this location may receive a fixed stipend of $500 in compensation for their proposal development.

Technical Considerations

The artist must provide original, production-ready artwork files suitable for perforated metal fabrication. Coordination with KBAA and the project team will be required to ensure compatibility with fabrication requirements.

NORTH CONCOURSE — LOBBY ENTRANCE



Opportunity Description

The North Concourse Lobby Entrance presents a prominent opportunity for a large-scale artwork that creates a memorable focal point for visitors.

Artists are encouraged to explore a variety of mediums, including sculptural and kinetic installations. The artwork should respond to the architectural scale and create visual interest from multiple viewpoints.

This location is adjacent to a large digital display featuring motion-based content. Artists should consider how their proposed artwork will complement, rather than visually compete with, the neighboring display. Coordination between the two locations will be required to ensure a cohesive visual experience.

Artwork Size

Overall Wall Dimensions: 64' W × 30' H | Minimum Artwork Dimensions: 15' W × 20' H

Artists may propose larger installations within the available wall space. Construction plans will be provided to shortlisted artists for formal review.

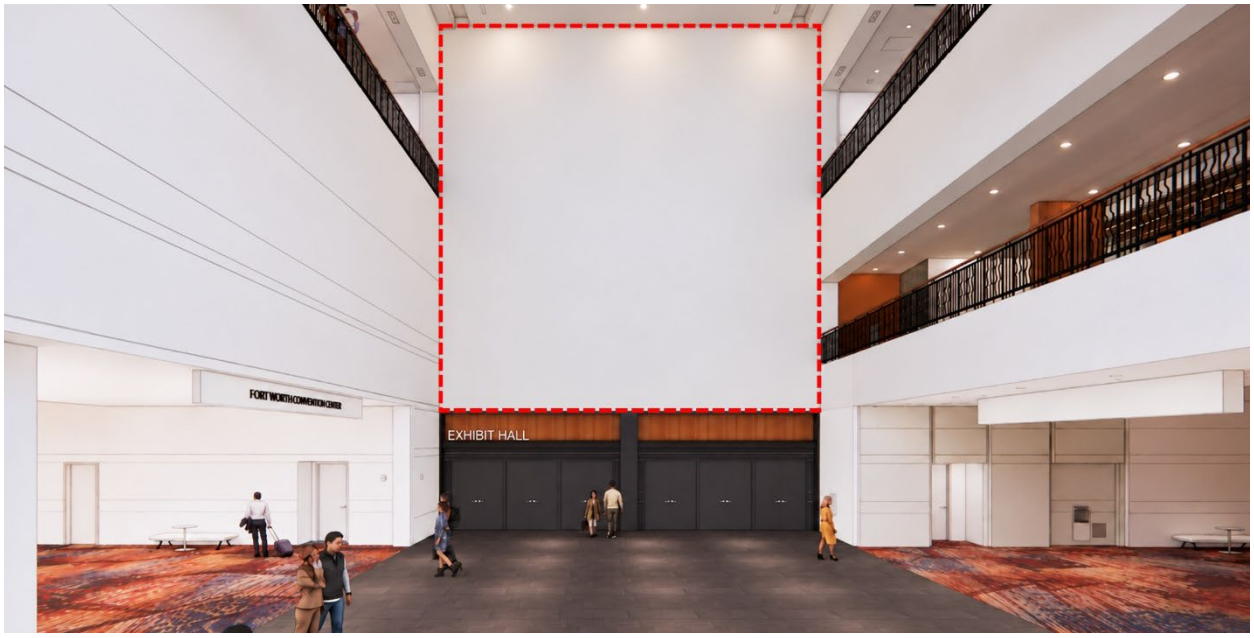
Proposal Compensation

Each shortlisted artist invited to develop a Phase 2 proposal for this location may receive a fixed stipend of $750 in compensation for their proposal development.

Technical Considerations

The selected artist will coordinate with KBAA and the project team on structural requirements, lighting, installation, and long-term maintenance. Kinetic or illuminated proposals may require additional technical coordination. Artwork should consider durability, maintenance, and appropriate materials for a high-traffic public corridor.

11TH STREET ENTRANCE - EXHIBIT HALL ATRIUM



Opportunity Description

The 11th Street Entrance presents a prominent opportunity for a large-scale artwork within the Exhibit Hall Atrium, creating a memorable focal point for visitors.

Artists are encouraged to explore a variety of mediums, including murals, sculptural, illuminated, and kinetic installations. Proposals should consider how the artwork can coexist with temporary event signage and branding, as this location may be utilized for convention marketing throughout the year.

Artwork Size

Overall Wall Dimensions: 43′ W x 48′ H

Artists may propose installations utilizing the available wall space. Construction plans will be provided to shortlisted artists for formal review.

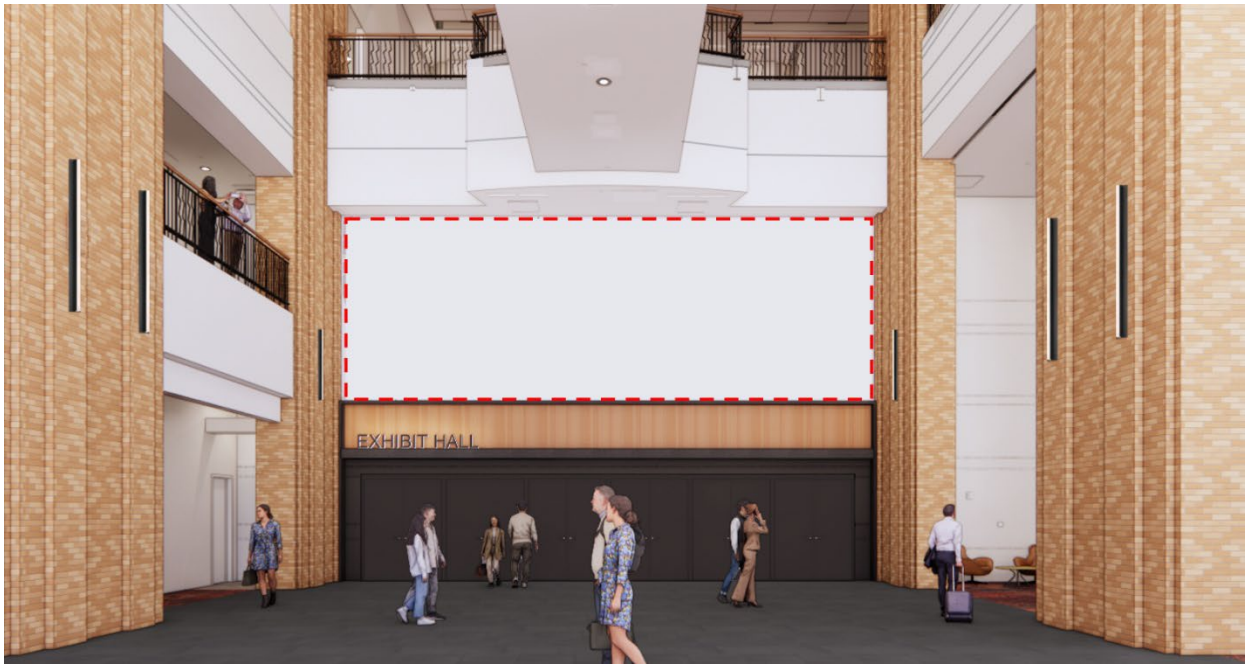
Proposal Compensation

Each shortlisted artist invited to develop a Phase 2 proposal for this location may receive a fixed stipend of $750 in compensation for their proposal development.

Technical Considerations

The selected artist will coordinate with KBAA and the project team on structural requirements, lighting, installation, and long-term maintenance. Proposals must consider the potential integration of temporary event signage without compromising the artwork's overall composition or functionality.13th STREET

ENTRANCE - EXHIBIT HALL ATRIUM



Opportunity Description

The 13th Street Entrance presents a prominent opportunity for a large-scale artwork within the Exhibit Hall Atrium, creating a memorable focal point for visitors.

Artists are encouraged to explore a variety of mediums, including murals and sculptures. Proposals should consider how the artwork can coexist with temporary event signage and branding, as this location may be utilized for convention marketing throughout the year.

Artwork Size

Overall Wall Dimensions: 41′ W x 14′ H

Artists may propose installations utilizing the available wall space. Construction plans will be provided to shortlisted artists for formal review.

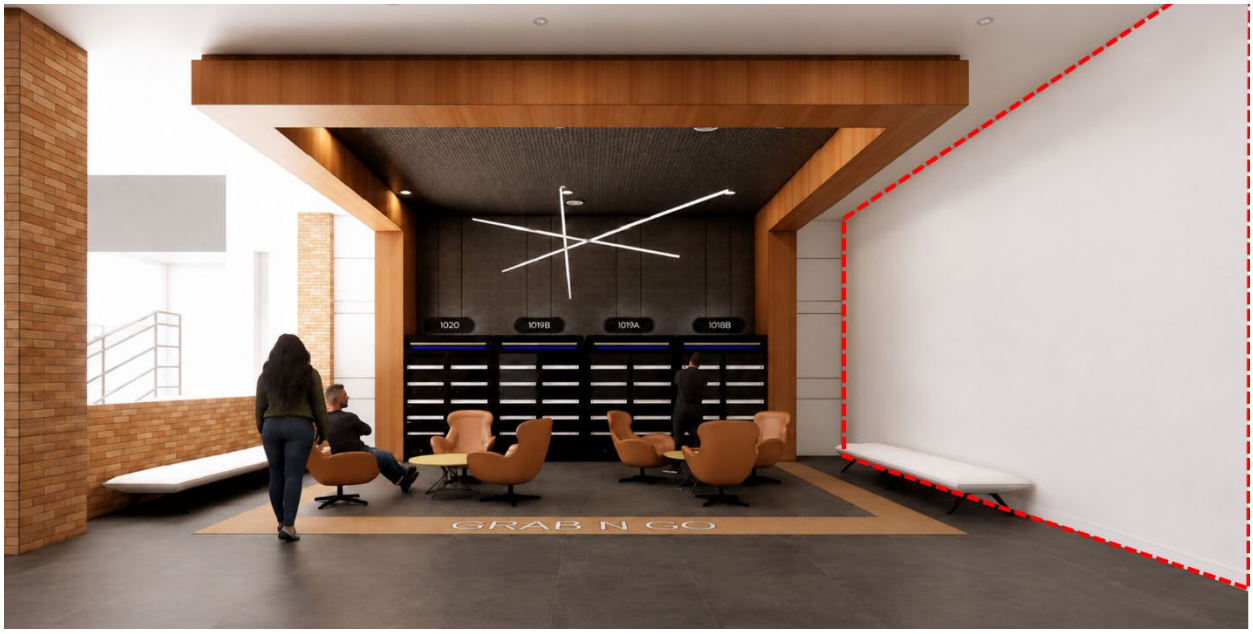
Proposal Compensation

Each shortlisted artist invited to develop a Phase 2 proposal for this location may receive a fixed stipend of $500 in compensation for their proposal development.

Technical Considerations

The selected artist will coordinate with KBAA and the project team on structural requirements, lighting, installation, and long-term maintenance. Proposals must consider the potential integration of temporary event signage without compromising the artwork's overall composition or functionality

GRAD AND GO



Opportunity Description

The Grab and Go location presents an opportunity for a feature artwork within a casual food and beverage area of the Convention Center.

Artists are encouraged to explore a variety of mediums, including murals, digital artwork which can be printed on Type II wallcovering, mosaics, and other creative surface treatments. Proposals should complement the surrounding architecture while considering materials and substrates appropriate for a high-traffic food service environment.

Artwork Size

Overall Wall Dimensions: 20' W x 13' H | Artwork Dimensions: Full Wall

Construction plans and final dimensions will be provided to shortlisted artists for formal review.

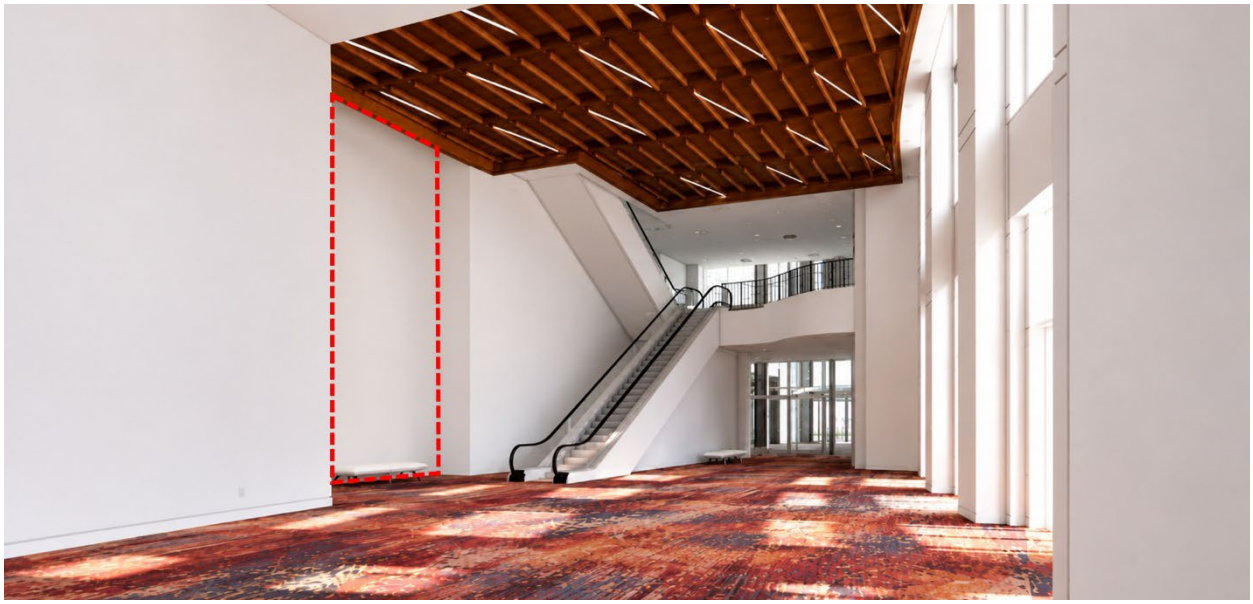
Proposal Compensation

Each shortlisted artist invited to develop a Phase 2 proposal for this location may receive a fixed stipend of $500 in compensation for their proposal development.

Technical Considerations

Artwork should utilize durable, cleanable materials and finishes suitable for a food service environment. Consideration should be given to moisture resistance, maintenance, and long-term durability. The selected artist will coordinate with KBAA and the project team on fabrication, installation, and technical requirements.

SOUTH CONCORSE – LOBBY (SERIES OF 2)



Opportunity Description

The South Concourse Lobby presents an opportunity for a coordinated series of two artworks located within a secondary entrance to the Convention Center. Both artwork locations are identical in size, with mirrored configurations.

Artists are encouraged to explore a variety of mediums, including murals, digital artwork which can be printed on Type II wallcovering, and other dimensional or mixed-media applications. The two artworks should be developed as a cohesive series, with complementary compositions that create a visual connection between the locations.

Artwork Size

Walls 1 & 2 each measure 26″-5″ W x 29′ H | Artwork Dimensions: Full Wall

Both artwork niches are identical in size. Construction plans and final dimensions will be provided to shortlisted artists for formal review.

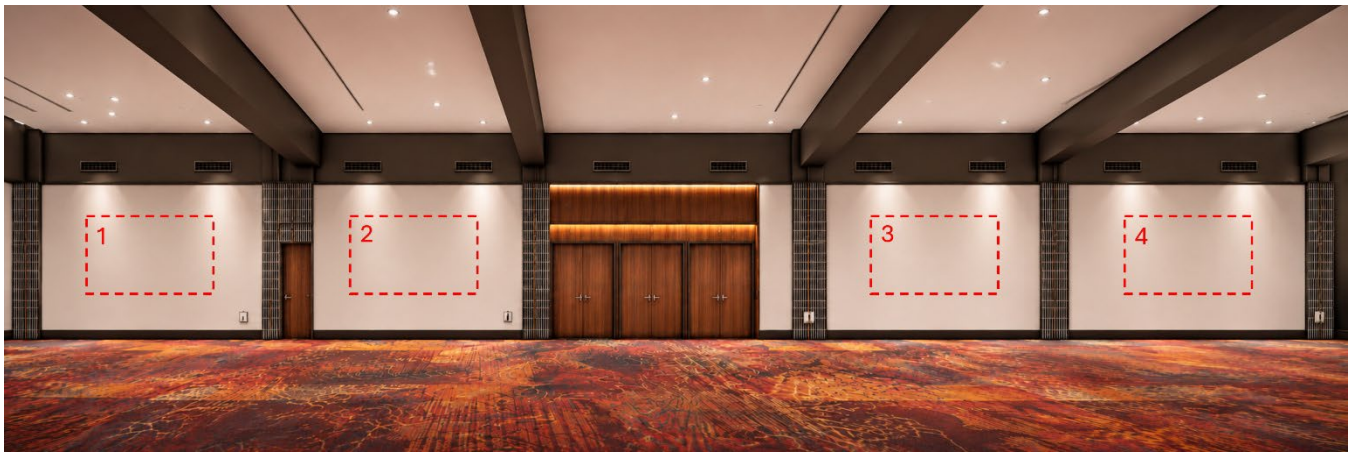
Proposal Compensation

Each shortlisted artist invited to develop a Phase 2 proposal for this location may receive a fixed stipend of $500 in compensation for their proposal development.

Technical Considerations

Artwork should consider durability, maintenance, and appropriate materials for a high-traffic public environment. The selected artist will coordinate with KBAA and the project team on fabrication, installation, and technical requirements.

LEVEL THREE MEETING ROOMS (FOUR LOCATIONS)



Opportunity Description

The Level Three Meeting Room corridor presents an opportunity for artwork at four designated locations along the primary circulation path.

Artists are encouraged to explore a variety of mediums, including dimensional installations and mixed-media applications. The four locations may feature individual artworks by separate artists or a coordinated series by a single artist. Visual symmetry is preferred between Walls 1 & 2 and Walls 3 & 4. Artists may propose a single artwork or multiple pieces within each location, provided the compositions meet the minimum artwork dimensions and maintain a balanced relationship between the paired walls.

Artwork Size

Wall 1: 25′ W x 14′-5″ H | Minimum Artwork Dimensions: 12′ W x 8′ H
Wall 2: 25′ W x 14′-5″ H | Minimum Artwork Dimensions: 12′ W x 8′ H

Wall 3: 26′ W x 14′-5″ H | Minimum Artwork Dimensions: 12′ W x 8′ H
Wall 4: 26′ W x 14′-5″ H | Minimum Artwork Dimensions: 12′ W x 8′ H

Construction plans and final dimensions will be provided to shortlisted artists for formal review.

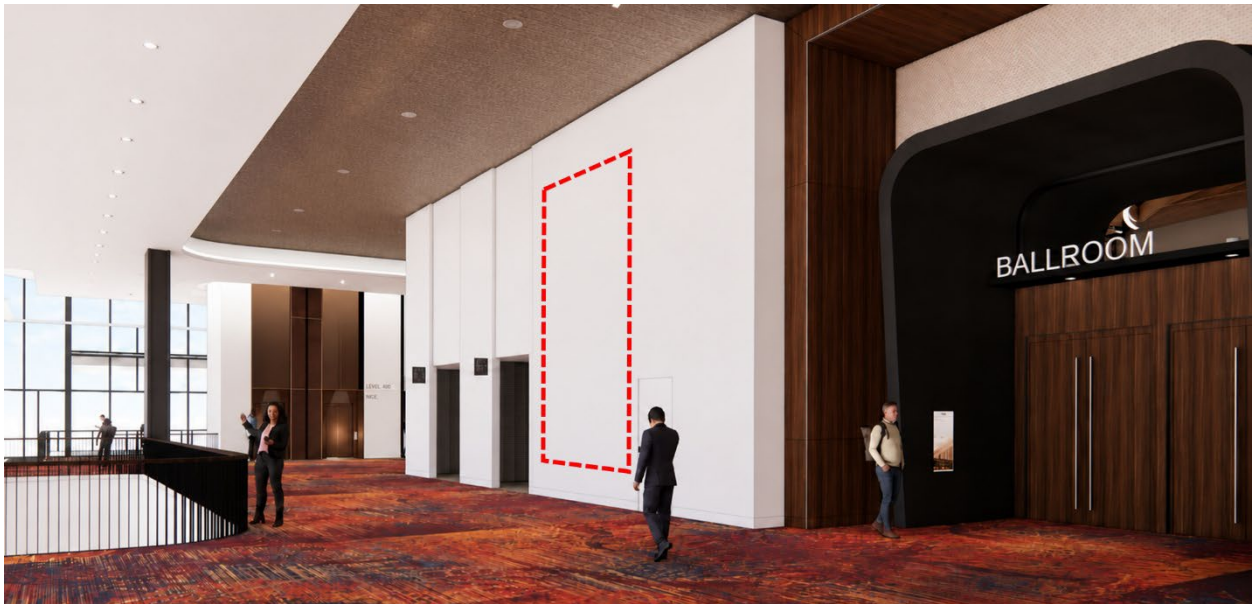
Proposal Compensation

Each shortlisted artist invited to develop a Phase 2 proposal may receive a fixed stipend of $500. This stipend covers the development of a proposal for one pair of walls (Walls 1 & 2 or Walls 3 & 4), rather than each individual wall.

Technical Considerations

Artwork should consider durability, maintenance, and appropriate materials for a high-traffic public corridor. The selected artist will coordinate with KBAA and the project team on fabrication, installation, and technical requirements.

LEVEL FOUR (TWO LOCATIONS)



Opportunity Description

The Level Four Ballroom Concourse presents an opportunity for artwork at two designated locations along the primary circulation path.

Artists are encouraged to explore a variety of mediums, dimensional installations, and mixed-media applications.

Artwork Size

Wall 1: 12′ W x 24′ H | Minimum Artwork Dimensions: 8′ W x 12′ H
Wall 2: 32′ W x 24′ H | Minimum Artwork Dimensions: 20′ W x 12′ H

Construction plans and final dimensions will be provided to shortlisted artists for formal review.

Proposal Compensation

Each shortlisted artist invited to develop a Phase 2 proposal for this location may receive a fixed stipend of $500 in compensation for their proposal development.

Technical Considerations

Artwork should consider durability, maintenance, and appropriate materials for a high-traffic public corridor. The selected artist will coordinate with KBAA and the project team on fabrication, installation, and technical requirements.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is open to artists and artist teams who meet the following terms:

- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
- Applicants must be legally authorized to work in the United States.
- Applicants must have demonstrated professional public art experience creating large-scale, site-specific work appropriate to the scale of this project.

Regional requirement: Regional artists who live or work in the State of Texas will be prioritized. National and international artists are also encouraged to apply and will be considered based on demonstrated experience with projects of similar scale, scope, and complexity.

Artists from a wide range of backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences are encouraged to apply. We welcome submissions from artists who have historically been underrepresented in public art opportunities.

V. HOW TO APPLY

Artists interested in being considered for this opportunity should submit a complete application by **January 29, 2027**. The initial application is intended to provide the selection committee with an understanding of each artist's experience, qualifications, and previous work. Site-specific concepts are not required during this phase.

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO: ARTSUBMISSIONFWCC@KEVINBARRY.COM
DIRECT QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS BRIEF TO: ARTSUBMISSIONFWCC@KEVINBARRY.COM
APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 29, 2027

A complete submission must include all materials outlined below. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

VI. SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

PHASE 1: PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION

Artists interested in being considered for this opportunity should submit the following:

- **Personal + Professional Information:** Artist or team name, location, primary point of contact, and a brief bio or CV.
- **Relevant Previous Work:** Images and descriptions of completed public art or comparable projects. Include the title, year, medium, dimensions, location, and commissioning organization for each project.
- **Preferred Art Location(s):** Identify the artwork location(s) you are most interested in being considered for. Artists may indicate multiple locations based on their experience and artistic practice.

- **Professional References:** Contact information for three references who can speak to your experience completing work of a similar scope. Include name, title or affiliation, phone number, and email address

PHASE 2: SHORTLISTED ARTIST PROPOSAL

Following the initial portfolio review, selected artists will be invited to develop a site-specific proposal for an identified art location. **Shortlisted artists will be compensated for their proposal**, with the proposal fee established separately for each location (see section III. for compensation information).

Each proposal should include:

- **Concept Statement:** A 300—500 word description of the proposed artwork, including the artist's interpretation of the project vision and how the concept responds to the specific location.
- **Concept Visuals:** Sketches, renderings, drawings, or other visual materials that clearly communicate the proposed design and its relationship to the site.
- **Proposed Dimensions + Scale:** Approximate dimensions and an indication of how the artwork will be scaled and positioned within the designated location.
- **Materials + Fabrication:** Proposed materials, fabrication methods, finishes, and relevant durability or maintenance considerations.
- **Preliminary Cost Breakdown:** An estimated budget addressing design, materials, fabrication, transportation, installation, and other anticipated project costs.
- **Installation + Coordination:** Indicate whether installation will be performed by the artist, a hired installation team, or coordinated by others. Clarify whether installation costs, including artist travel and onsite supervision, are included in the preliminary budget or anticipated as additional expenses.
- **Project Lead Time:** An estimated schedule from contract execution through fabrication, delivery, and installation.

Applications are evaluated by KBAA and the Fort Worth Convention Center Stakeholder Committee, and reviewed against the following:

- Artistic merit and quality of past work.
- Appropriateness of concept and experience for this project and its sites.
- Project management experience and demonstrated ability to deliver large-scale work on time and on budget.
- Approach to the artist engagement expectations described below.

VII. PROJECT SCHEDULE

The anticipated project schedule below outlines key milestones from the initial application period through artist selection, concept development, final approvals, fabrication, and installation. Dates are subject to change as the project progresses.

Application Schedule (Subject to change)

Milestone	Date
Call for Artists opens	November 9, 2026
Application deadline	January 29, 2027
Finalists notified	March 5, 2027
Finalist concept proposals due	April 2, 2027
Selected artists announced	May 28, 2027

Artwork Schedule (Subject to change)

Milestone	Date
Design development with KBAA	Q2 2027 – Q1 2028
Final design & engineering approval	Q1 – Q2 2028
Fabrication	Q2 2028 – Q1 2029
Delivery & installation	Q2 – Q4 2029
Public unveiling / dedication	2030

VIII. ARTIST PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION REQUIREMENTS

Selected artists will become part of the broader story of the project, contributing not only to the artwork itself but also to the collaborative process behind its development. Artists should plan to participate in the following as part of their commitment to the project:

- **Project Orientation:** Participate in an initial orientation and site walkthrough with KBAA and the project team to review the site, design intent, technical considerations, and expectations for the selected art location. (Travel costs should be included in proposal).
- **Project Collaboration + Coordination:** Collaborate with KBAA throughout design development, fabrication, and installation. Artists should be available for periodic meetings, design reviews, and presentations to the FWCC Selection Committee. Depending on the art location and proposed concept, coordination may also be required with the project's architects, lighting designers,

engineers, fabricators, installers, and other consultants to ensure the artwork can be successfully integrated into the space.

- **Progress Documentation:** Provide process photographs, sketches, or written updates at key stages of development and fabrication. These materials may be used to document the project and share the development of the artwork through project communications, newsletters, social media, or other outreach.
- **Public Engagement:** Participate in at least one public-facing event associated with the completed artwork. This may include a dedication or opening event, artist talk, panel discussion, public presentation, or similar engagement opportunity. (Travel costs should be included in proposal).
- **Press + Publicity:** Be available for reasonable press and promotional opportunities related to the project. This may include media interviews, photography, or providing a brief written statement about the artwork, its inspiration, and the creative process for use in press releases, project materials, or digital communications.

Specific engagement activities and coordination requirements will vary by art location and will be communicated to each selected artist as the project develops.

IX. OWNERSHIP, RIGHTS + MAINTENANCE

The following outlines the general expectations regarding ownership, intellectual property, and long-term care of the commissioned artwork. Final terms and conditions will be established in the agreement executed with the selected artist.

- **Ownership:** Upon final acceptance of the completed artwork and payment in accordance with the artist agreement, ownership of the physical artwork will transfer to the commissioning organization.
- **Copyright + Reproduction Rights:** The artist will retain copyright to the artwork while granting the commissioning organization appropriate rights to photograph, publish, and otherwise use images of the artwork for promotional, educational, archival, and project-related purposes. Specific usage rights will be defined in the final artist agreement.
- **Artist Agreement:** Selected artists will be required to enter into an agreement with KBAA outlining the final scope of work, compensation, schedule, deliverables, responsibilities, intellectual property rights, and other applicable project terms.
- **Originality:** The artist must warrant that the artwork is original and that its creation and use do not infringe upon the copyright, intellectual property, or other rights of any third party.
- **Maintenance + Care:** The artist will provide written recommendations for the ongoing care and maintenance of the artwork upon completion. Following final acceptance and installation, responsibility for ongoing maintenance will transfer to the commissioning organization, subject to the terms of the final artist agreement.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

Kevin Barry Art Advisory reserves the right to reject any or all submissions, modify the selection process or project timeline, request additional information from applicants, or cancel this Call to Artists at any time at its sole discretion.

Submission of an application, participation in the shortlist process, or development of a compensated proposal does not guarantee selection or award of a commission.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Kevin Barry Art Advisory is committed to an equitable and inclusive selection process. Applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other status protected by applicable law.

Artists from a wide range of backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences are encouraged to apply.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DISCLAIMER

All artwork concepts, proposals, and creative materials submitted by an artist remain the intellectual property of the submitting artist. Submitted materials may be shared with KBAA, the FWCC Selection Committee, and applicable project stakeholders solely for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating the artist's submission.

Concepts or materials submitted by artists who are not selected will not be used, reproduced, published, or distributed for promotional or other purposes without the artist's prior written consent.