



## Vision and Rehabilitation Tower at UPMC Mercy Pittsburgh, PA

### Request for Qualifications – Pre-Qualified Artist Pool Commission and Purchase Opportunities

**Deadline: August 2, 2021**

If you need assistance with the Slideroom platform, please try one of the following:

1. Review the Accessibility Statement and instructions on Slideroom's website:  
<https://www.slideroom.com/accessibility-statement/>
2. Contact Renee Piechocki, VRT art consultant at [piechockirj@upmc.edu](mailto:piechockirj@upmc.edu) or 412-232-8202 to discuss alternative methods for submitting an application.
3. Listen to a recording of this document, click here:  
<https://vimeo.com/558344540/1da90fafc2>

This opportunity is open to professional visual artists based in the United States of America. Artists who have disabilities, including visual, cognitive, physical and mobility impairments, are encouraged to apply. Artists who have experience working with or creating art for settings serving people who have disabilities are encouraged to apply.

#### A. Overview

UPMC is building the UPMC Vision and Rehabilitation Tower at UPMC Mercy (VRT) in the Uptown neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Designed by the architecture firm HOK, the building will open to the public in 2023.

The VRT is a specialty outpatient facility conducting cutting-edge research and providing expert care for vision and physical rehabilitation patients. The ten-story building is designed for the many patients in the Pittsburgh region and beyond who need physical rehabilitation and those who have diseases of the eye or vision impairment. The space is carefully planned to welcome all patients and visitors with the thoughtful placement of physical cues that will help navigate from the point of entry throughout the entirety of the hospital.

Key project stakeholders, providers, and staff worked with a consultant to develop the VRT Art Plan. Commissioned works of art are one of the building features focused on enhancing the experience of patients and caregivers. We are seeking artists who will create works of art attuned to the needs of our diverse patients and caregivers, reinforce a welcoming atmosphere, and inspire curiosity and enrichment.

For more information about the VRT: <https://www.upmc.com/media/media-kit/hospital-building-projects/vision-rehabilitation-hospital>

## B. Art for a Specialized Environment

Art at the VRT will bring visibility to what is unique about the facility – where art meets science, where new technologies mean greater resiliency, where current treatments evolve. The content, materials, and ways in which art is encountered within the facility will be carefully aligned with user experience. The art commissions for the VRT are an opportunity for artists to create projects to connect with patients through multiple senses and experiences.

The Art at the VRT will help patients feel and be:

- In a facility designed to present a genuine positive and supportive outlook.  
Art will emphasize vitality and quality of life.
- Supported in a welcoming environment.  
The collection of art at the VRT will assist with wayfinding, create a welcoming facility, and meet patients wherever they are.
- Engaged as more than a patient.  
Art builds curiosity, provides opportunities for enrichment, and supports the dynamic lives of people who are being cared for at the VRT.
- Connected to the community.  
In addition to experiencing artwork by local, regional, and national artists selected specifically for this place, the projects at the VRT create opportunities for interaction, sparking conversations and connections between patients, caregivers, and staff.

The quality of art at the VRT and the ways in which the arts are presented will align with the outstanding facility design and the facility's position as a global center of excellence. The art program will push boundaries of a traditional hospital aesthetic and be relevant to the experiences of patients, families, providers, and staff.

## C. Locations, Opportunities, and Budgets

The VRT art opportunities are focused in locations where patients and their caregivers will be the primary audience for the artwork, followed by staff and providers.

These projects offer exciting opportunities to explore the relationship of art and science within the lens of the highly specialized care provided in this facility. Artists who are selected for commissions will be provided access to learn about the specialized needs of the people who use this facility as well as the science and care providers during their design development process.

Budgets include but are not limited to the costs of artist design fee, artist project management fee, artwork transportation, fabrication, installation, insurance, and any professional consultants for services including lighting, engineering, or conservation.

Artist travel and signage, if needed, will be paid separately by the client and will not be paid through the budget listed below.

Please note the opportunities and precise locations on each floor are subject to change without notice.

**1. Exterior Plaza**

Budget: \$215,000

The plaza is the place where the VRT integrates into the Uptown community. This space will be open to community members and visitors as well as people being cared for or working at the VRT. The plaza has hardscape and landscape features including native plants, trees, and seating areas.

Opportunities: One or more sculptures in multiple locations, images or text integrated into functional elements such as seating and planters. Artists will collaborate or coordinate with members of the HOK design team to integrate artistic elements into the design.

**2. West Lobby**

Budget: \$165,000

The West Lobby waiting area includes seating and a feature wall that is 24' x 15'.

Opportunities: Projection or screen-based digital artwork, interactive artwork, generative artwork, painting, mosaic, ceramic tile, and relief.

**3. East Atrium**

Budget: \$170,000

A four-story atrium is a main corridor for patients and caregivers heading to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. The atrium is visible from multiple locations in the building including the 4<sup>th</sup> floor vestibule.

Opportunities: A multi-story art installation with components that can include wall-based sculpture, low relief, suspended sculpture, 2D artworks, interactive sculpture, or kinetic sculpture.

**4. Level 2 Reception Feature Wall**

Budget: \$65,000

The reception area and waiting areas on the second floor are primarily used by patients being treated in ophthalmology clinics. Patients are often accompanied by caregivers.

The feature wall in the reception area is 13' x 8.5'.

Opportunities: Tactile artwork including low relief, sculptural artwork, or mosaic; photography; and painting.

**5. Level 3 Reception Feature Wall**

Budget: \$65,000

The reception area and waiting areas on the third floor are primarily used by patients who are undergoing surgery. As a dedicated surgical floor, caregivers who accompany patients on the third floor can experience wait times because of the nature of the procedures. The feature wall in the reception area is 22' x 8.5'.

Opportunities: Projection or digital artwork, kinetic artwork, low relief or sculptural artwork, mosaic, photography, or painting.

**6. Level 4 Reception Feature Wall**

Budget: \$100,000

This reception area is the main waiting and meeting place for rehab patients and their caregivers, with some seating areas for low and no vision patients and their caregivers. There are views into the 4<sup>th</sup> floor terrace garden. While there are spaces for privacy, this space can be more social and patient interaction is encouraged. The feature wall in the reception area is 19' x 10'.

Opportunities: Interactive or generative artwork, projection or digital artwork, kinetic artwork, low relief or sculptural artwork, mosaic, photography, or painting.

**7. Purchases or Commissions for Treatment Areas, Clinical Areas, Corridors, and Sub-waiting Areas**

Budget for Individual Artworks: \$500.00 - \$10,000

In addition to the locations above, UPMC may purchase or commission smaller scale works of art for a variety of locations in the VRT including clinical areas, exam rooms, waiting rooms, sub-waiting rooms, offices, and corridors.

**8. Entry Pavement**

Budget: \$10,000

The exterior pedestrian crossing on the first floor is a frequently used space by everyone visiting and working in the facility.

Opportunity: Design a pattern for the pedestrian area that will be fabricated and installed by the general contractor. This is not a painted mural opportunity.

**D. Insurance Requirements**

UPMC's template contract for commissioned artists includes the following language regarding insurance requirements. Depending on the scope of work for each artist's contract, the insurance requirements may be adjusted.



### Template Contract Insurance Language:

*During the term of this Agreement, any renewal term(s) or extension(s) thereof, Supplier agrees to purchase and maintain at its own expense, from a company or companies licensed to do business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or Self-Insured Trust and / or Captives, such insurance as will protect Supplier, UPMC, its Subsidiaries and Affiliates, including its and their respective directors, officers, employees and agents and any other legal entity associated with UPMC, collectively herein referred to as ('UPMC'), from and against any and all damages, liabilities, losses, costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, judgments, expenses, claims and causes of action of any kind which may arise or result from Supplier's obligations pursuant to the terms of their Agreement. The Insurance required shall be written for not less than the following minimum limits, or greater if required by law:*

Coverage	Limits
<i>Workers Compensation</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
<i>Employers Liability</i>	<i>\$100,000 each Accident \$500,000 disease policy limit \$100,000 disease each employee</i>
<i>Comprehensive General Liability Including but not limited to Contractual, Products Liability, Premises Liability, Medical Payments with \$5,000 Limit</i>	<i>\$1,000,000 Combined Single Limits for Bodily Injury and Property Damage per Occurrence and \$2,000,000 Annual Aggregate</i>
<i>Property Insurance</i>	<i>100% replacement value of any and all personal property, including Works of Art.</i>

*Supplier shall name UPMC as an additional insured with respect to the insurance policies identified above, with the exception of Workers' Compensation. Certificates of insurance evidencing coverage required above shall be filed with UPMC's Corporate & Captive Insurance Department, 59<sup>th</sup> Floor U.S. Steel Building, 600 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, upon execution of this Agreement. Such certificates shall provide that the insurer will give UPMC not less than thirty (30) days advance notice of any material changes in or cancellation of coverage.*

### E. Commissioned Artist's Role

The artist or artist team commissioned for each site is expected to:

- Work with UPMC staff to develop an understanding about the specialized needs of patients and caregivers at this facility, as well as science and specializations of providers and staff.
- Conduct their own independent research relevant to the development of a design proposal.

- Create a conceptual and final design proposal of a work of art for their location. The design proposal will include a visualization of the concept, written description, budget, workplan, and timeline.
- Participate in design proposal reviews and respond to feedback.
- Implement the approved design proposal. This may include but is not limited to managing the fabrication, transportation, installation, and documentation of the work of art.
- Create a maintenance manual for the work of art.
- Provide content for interpretive signage about the work of art.
- Participate in all activities necessary to successfully complete the commission.

## F. Project Schedule

This schedule is subject to change without notice.

Artist Selection:	Ongoing through 2021
Design Development:	September 2021 – February 2022
Artwork Implementation:	March 2022 – January 2023
Installation of Artwork Completed:	April 2023

## G. Selection Process

The artist selection process for the VRT commission opportunities includes two phases.

- Phase 1: a prequalified pool of artists will be developed through this RFQ.
- Phase 2: will include the consideration of artists in the prequalified artist pool for specific opportunities.

Artists who are selected as finalists for opportunities will be asked to interview with selection panels.

The selection process for purchased artworks will begin after spring 2022.

This process is subject to change without notice.

## H. Eligibility and Qualifications

- This opportunity is open to professional visual artists based in the United States of America.
- Artists who have disabilities, including visual, cognitive, physical and mobility impairments, are encouraged to apply.
- Artists who have experience working with or creating art for settings serving people who have disabilities, including visual, cognitive, physical and mobility impairments, are encouraged to apply.



- Artists who have completed at least one permanent or temporary work of public art are encouraged to apply
- Artist teams are welcome to apply. Teams must have at least one visual artist to qualify.
- Artists will be asked to disclose relationships to UPMC staff, board members, and VRT consultants.

## I. How to Apply

Submit an application through Slideroom using this link:

<https://publicart.slideroom.com>

The deadline is **August 2, 2021**.

**If you need assistance with the Slideroom platform and would like to submit an application, please try one of the following:**

- Review the Accessibility Statement and instructions on Slideroom's website:  
<https://www.slideroom.com/accessibility-statement/>
- Contact Renee Piechocki, VRT art consultant at [piechockirj@upmc.edu](mailto:piechockirj@upmc.edu) or 412-232-8202 to discuss alternative methods for submitting an application.
- Listen to a recording of this document here: <https://vimeo.com/558344540/1da90fafc2>

Artists must supply the following materials to complete an application.

1. **Work Samples.** Up to fifteen images or video work samples depicting works of art relevant to the opportunities outlined in this RFQ.

On Slideroom, follow the upload instructions. For video work samples, please include the URL in addition to the video file, or you can choose to upload a still image from the video and a URL link if you do not wish to upload the entire video. If your video is password-protected, include the password. If you want to begin the play of your video at a specific time, provide the timecode.

For all work samples, include the name of the work sample with each upload.

2. **Work Sample Descriptions.** You may upload a document describing the submitted work samples or complete the fields in the work sample uploads. For each work sample, provide information from the list below that is relevant to your work sample.

- Title
- Date Completed
- Materials
- Name of Collaborators / Team Members
- Location of Artwork
- Description of Artwork
- Website to Learn More about the Artwork

3. **Resume.** The resume should not exceed three pages.



4. **Letter of Interest.** In the letter, describe why these opportunities are appealing to you and relevant to your work. Include your experience with public art, your experience working with or creating art in healthcare environments, and / or your experience designing for or with people who have disabilities, including visual, cognitive, physical and mobility impairments. Letter should not exceed two pages.
5. **Application Questions.** In Slideroom, artists will be asked to reply to the following questions.
  - Which opportunities are you interested in? Check all that apply. (All opportunities listed above will be posted.)
  - Do you have experience creating artwork for healthcare environments? (y/n)
  - Do you have experience working with or creating art for or with people with disabilities? If so, please describe.
  - Do you have experience working with or creating art for or with people with visual disabilities or visual impairments? If so, please describe.

Artist teams may submit up to fifteen work samples total for the team, resumes for each member, and a joint letter that details the information requested in (4) above. The letter must also state previous experience of members of the artist teams collaborating with each other.

**Do not submit a proposal for a concept with your application. Artists who submit proposals will be disqualified and their submission will not be reviewed. Proposals are defined as a physical description of an artwork for the site and / or a visual illustration of an artwork for the site.**

#### J. Information Session

UPMC will host an information session for artists on **July 8, 2021 at 5:30pm EST**. The information session will be held via Zoom video conference. During the information session, we will review the information presented in this RFQ and respond to questions. Artists do not need to attend the information session in order to apply to the opportunity. To register for the information session, go to the Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/info-session-vision-and-rehabilitation-tower-at-upmc-mercy-artist-call-tickets-157896156655>

#### K. Questions

Please direct questions about the opportunity via email to Renee Piechocki, VRT art consultant at [piechockirj@upmc.edu](mailto:piechockirj@upmc.edu) or by calling 412-232-8202.

If you experience any technical difficulties with the application process, please contact Slideroom via the chat screen in the application or by calling 617-729-2758. You may also review the instructions on their Accessibility Statement here:  
<https://www.slideroom.com/accessibility-statement/>