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Free Library Call for Entries to Philadelphia Artists

Made possible by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Library is seeking proposals for artistic designs to be installed at a variety of neighborhood libraries as part of new initiative

The mission of the Free Library of Philadelphia is to advance literacy, guide learning, and inspire curiosity. Its vision is to build an enlightened community devoted to lifelong learning. The Free Library is currently focused on renovations and programmatic changes at five of its neighborhood libraries. Through generous funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation is pleased to announce a **call for entries to artists** across the Philadelphia area to submit proposals to produce fully-developed artistic designs to be implemented in these libraries. Selected artists will work with James Moustafellos from The Center for Design+Innovation, James Keller, the renovation architect, and the library communities, to develop creative concepts for art in the new facilities. Each selected artist will receive an honorarium of \$7,500 in three installments for the design concept. Implementation of the design will be dependent upon additional funding to be raised by the Free Library Foundations.

The art designs developed through this project will potentially ask the target communities to address questions such as “Who are we?” “How do we define our community?” and “What is the role of the Library in our daily lives?” These questions will not only affect questions of use, need and programs, but will inspire the artists’ designs such that artists and their communities are empowered to create works of art which will engage and resonate with their neighborhoods.

Great works of art inspire and enliven communities, fostering a sense of pride and ownership. The Free Library expects that this project will foster a sense of pride and ownership in the creation of the designs, and in the neighborhood libraries themselves; that there will be an increase in community investment in and engagement with neighborhood libraries; and that the project will support a model for 21st Century Libraries that not only addresses the diverse and changing needs of Philadelphians, but that also offers a welcoming and beautiful environment for patrons and visitors.

Libraries include:

Lillian Marrero Library
601 West Lehigh Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19133-2228
(6th Street & Lehigh Avenue)

Logan Library

1333 Wagner Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19141-2916
(Wagner Avenue & Old York Road)

Lovett Library

6945 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119-2189
(Germantown Avenue & Sedgwick Street)

South Philadelphia Library (*interior only*)

1700 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19145-2392
(Broad & Morris Streets)

Tacony Library

6742 Torresdale Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19135-2416
(Torresdale Avenue & Knorr Street)

Eligibility Requirements for Applicants:

- Artist applicants must currently reside in the Philadelphia area.
- Artist applicants may **not** be enrolled full time in a undergraduate or graduate program during the span of the project
- Selected artists must attend a full day workshop on Friday, April 11, 2014, which will include library staff and community representatives from the five library locations. The workshop, led by James Moustafellos, will help define potential needs and programs through the dialogue generated about the arts.
- Selected artists must be available to spend time in the months subsequent to the workshop working with community members, Library staff, and others at neighborhood libraries to create and finalize their designs. During this time the Free Library Foundation will seek funding for implementation of the final designs.
- Selected artists must be available to present their final designs at community meetings at each of the neighborhood libraries in December 2014.