



APPLY BY: OCT 27, 2025

# CALL FOR ARTISTS

**Request for  
Qualifications (RFQ):**  
Public Art for the new  
Hamline Midway Library  
Building in Saint Paul

The Hamline Midway Library, which has long served as a gathering place for families, students, seniors, and neighbors across generations, is currently undergoing a full transformation—co-designed with community members—to meet the needs of community members today and tomorrow.

Public art is a key part of this transformation, helping to honor the library's legacy while looking forward. Selected artists will have a unique opportunity to contribute to a space that reflects the cultures of the neighborhood and central to the library's and city's vision for libraries where everyone belongs.

# RFQ OVERVIEW | DETAILS

Saint Paul Public Library (SPPL) seeks artists and/or artist teams to create original, community-centered artworks to be installed permanently in the new Hamline Midway Library building (currently being constructed at 1558 W Minnehaha Ave in Saint Paul).

The construction of this building is part of the library's Transforming Libraries initiative, which aims to reimagine library spaces with and for community.

Selected artists will collaborate with SPPL to present designs and create permanent artwork that reflects the diversity, culture, and values of Saint Paul residents—especially those historically excluded from public libraries and similar civic/public spaces.

We are seeking artists to:

- Create visual, sculptural, or multimedia artwork for interior or exterior placement at Hamline Midway Library.
- Collaborate with SPPL staff and design professionals to ensure site compatibility, safety, and durability.
- Complement the interior finishes of the space, and utilize the values, personality, brand colors, and guidelines in order to guide art decision.
- Deliver artwork that reflects equity, accessibility, cultural identity, and belonging. Consider the incorporation of elements around design thematic of native plants and pollinators.

This is a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), **not a call for design proposals**. Artists should not submit concept drawings or detailed project ideas at this stage.

## **Key Milestones / Timeline**

RFQ Submission Deadline	October 27, 2026
Artist Interviews	November 17 - 26, 2025
Artist Selection & Confirmation	By December 5, 2025
Design Concept Development	Dec - February 2026
Final Design Approval	March 2026
Fabrication & Installation	March - June 2026
Installation Complete	By June 26, 2026



# PROJECTS

**Note:** Artists/artist teams may apply for multiple projects; however, each artist or team will only be awarded one commission to ensure opportunities are distributed broadly. Artists should not submit concept drawings, budget breakdowns or detailed project ideas at this stage.

## **Project 1:** 3D installation - Children's Area

Budget: \$50,000



**Ideal for:** *public artists with fabrication experience*

A 3D focal point in the Children's Area, includes a corner wall surface as part of the installation design, with potential to extend elements into adjacent areas of the library for greater visual impact.

- Propose creative concepts around nature themes designed to the space, including scale, form, and materials.
- Select durable, safe, and maintainable materials that meet public-use requirements.
- Consider 3D elements and wall graphic or wall painted elements.
- Fully design, fabricate, and install the work, in coordination with the library's team.

## **Project 2:** Exterior Wall Mural

Budget: \$25,000



**Ideal for:** *muralists with exterior wall experience*

A visible exterior wall welcomes the public and marks the library as a landmark. The mural will be on panels attached to the brick façade. The panels will be ready for the artist to begin work, ensuring smooth application and long-term durability.

- Approx. 16' wide × 10' tall surface for a custom mural.
- Polytab mural application would be ideal, but opportunity is not limited to artists with polytab experience.
- All exterior paint mediums and mural styles are welcome.

# PROJECTS

## **Project 3:** Custom Wall Artwork Budget: \$7500

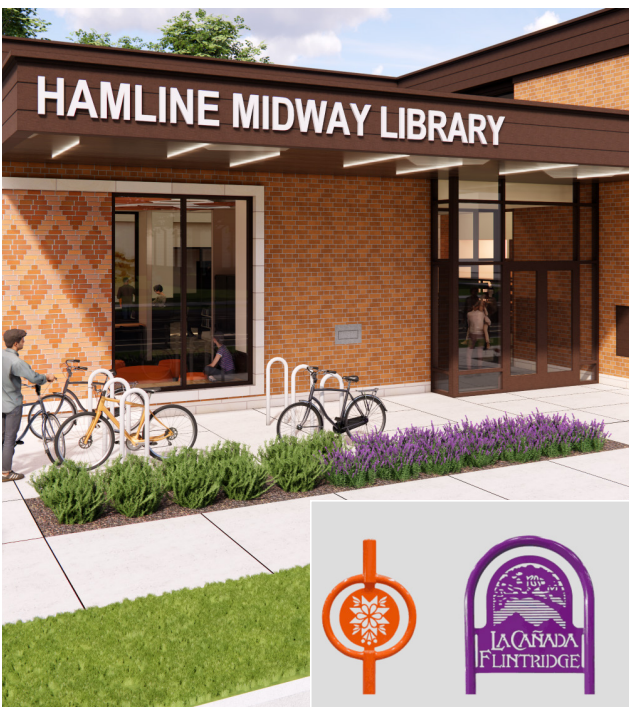


**Ideal for:** *artists working across diverse media for wall-based installation.*

A horizontal expanse above the shelves in the library offers a prominent location for a custom artwork.

- Open to 2D or 3D treatments, including painting, digital prints, screenprints, photography, textiles, mixed media, relief panels, or lightweight sculptural forms.
- The work may be one continuous composition across the full span of the  $18' \times 4'$  area, or a series of smaller works that create a narrative or visual rhythm.

## **Project 4:** Custom Designed Bike Racks Artist Award: \$3000\*\*



**Ideal for:** *graphic designers and illustrators*

Bike rack graphics will reflect the library identity and the surrounding neighborhood character.

- Designs prepared by artist will be cut into steel panels within circular or arch-style frame and powder-coated in bright, durable colors; artist can suggest color palettes that align with the library's visual identity.
- The designer may create at least 2–3 design variations that could be applied across multiple racks.
- Fabrication experience is not necessary as the bike rack designs will be custom ordered.

*\*\*bike rack fabrication/installation not included in artist budget, which is designated to design only\*\**

# HOW TO APPLY

The selected artist(s) for each project will be supported through a design process, working collaboratively with the project team to develop concepts, receive feedback, and finalize an approved design for fabrication and installation.

Interested artists should submit:

- Contact info (email and phone) and name of artists and/or artist teams. **Specify which project the artist is applying for.**
- A statement of interest (1-2 pages) outlining their approach to art, how their experience aligns with the project scope, and why they are interested in this opportunity. Describe any connection to Saint Paul neighborhoods, communities, or SPPL. We're interested in your connection to the projects and your unique perspective, not polished writing.
- Up to 6 relevant work samples that demonstrate artistic quality and experience with site-specific or community-engaged projects. Include a list of artwork details.

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Please combine all materials into a single PDF or shared folder

Submissions should be sent to:  
[claire.huber@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:claire.huber@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

**Submissions are due by Monday, October 27 at 5pm.**

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## **Eligibility**

- Individual artists or artist teams, creative firms are also invited to apply.
- Artists based in or with a demonstrated connection to Saint Paul or the Twin Cities metro area
- Artists of all disciplines and backgrounds are encouraged to apply, including those who identify as Hamline Midway residents, BIPOC, immigrant, disabled, LGBTQIA+, youth artists, or artists with a history of community engagement in their practice.

## **Selection Criteria**

*Artist qualifications will be evaluated based on:*

**Alignment with SPPL's values:** Demonstrates an understanding of and commitment to SPPL's core values—Connection, Innovation, Resilience, and the Power of Belonging—and reflects these values in past work.

**Equity-centered approach:** Brings an equity mindset to their creative process, including a demonstrated ability to create inclusive, accessible work that reflects and affirms diverse cultural identities, lived experiences, and abilities.

**Community connection:** Reflects a strong connection to Saint Paul or the broader Twin Cities community. Artists are encouraged to demonstrate how their cultural background, lived experience, or artistic practice connects with or is responsive to the Hamline Midway neighborhood, surrounding neighborhoods, or the City of Saint Paul.

**Artistic vision and approach:** Presents a thoughtful approach to creating public art that is engaging, imaginative, and responsive to both the community and the library's architectural and design goals.

**Collaboration and communication:** Shows a collaborative spirit and openness to working with community members, library staff, and design teams throughout the development and installation process.

## **QUESTIONS?**

We welcome questions from all interested applicants.

**Please contact:**

Claire Huber (she/her),  
Marketing and Communications Specialist  
[claire.huber@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:claire.huber@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



# SPPL'S TRANSFORMING LIBRARIES: BACKGROUND

The construction of a new Hamline Midway Library building is part of SPPL's Transforming Libraries initiative, a multi-year effort to reimagine library spaces with and for community.

## **Our goals are to:**

- Invest in library spaces that are safe, welcoming, and affirming of all cultures, abilities, and communities.
- Create technology-rich and play and learn spaces that support families and individuals to connect and grow with each other.
- Reflect the unique identities and stories of Saint Paul communities through design, programming, and public art.

Equity-focused community engagement has been a cornerstone of Transforming Libraries. In efforts to center historically excluded voices and perspectives, SPPL engaged more than 3,000 additional people through a series of virtual and in-person open houses, pop-up events, community meetings, and surveys. We asked community members to identify what they want from Hamline's transformation.

We heard overwhelming support for libraries that maximize accessibility for all community members, are environmentally responsible, reflect the cultures of the community, and provide new spaces for families and teens to play and learn and for community members to gather, meet, and work or study independently.

Community input, along with technical guidance from design partner, LSE Architects, and additional industry experts have informed our final design for Hamline Midway, Riverview, and Hayden Heights libraries.

**MORE DETAILS:** [sppl.org/transforming-libraries/hamline-midway/](https://sppl.org/transforming-libraries/hamline-midway/)