

PUBLIC ART

HIGHWAY 246 AND JEFFERSON PARKWAY
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

2020 STREETS PROJECT, NORTHFIELD, MN

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



March 6, 2020

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1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Northfield seeks an artist or artist team to design and execute art installation/s, to be located in or near a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 246 and Jefferson Parkway. The artwork should include artistic elements and reflect the character of the City of Northfield.

As described below, the art is to be located in one or more of the underpasses that will be constructed at this intersection, with the option of also using the entrances of the underpasses for art.

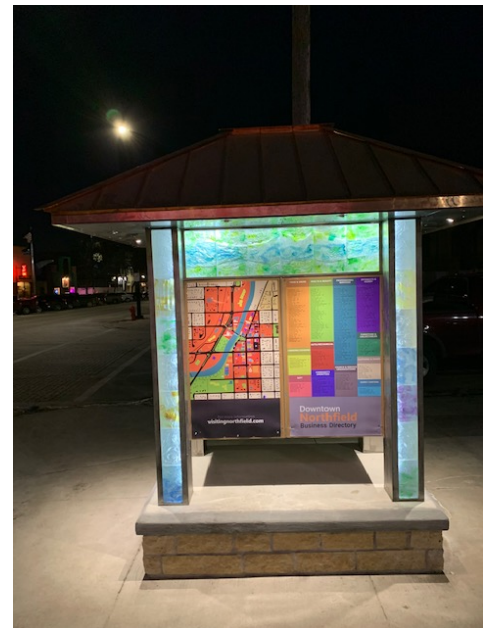
Northfield is a vibrant community that values and enjoys its history, arts and culture, and active recreational areas. Northfield residents are warm and welcoming, and love Northfield's history and features. Some of these include:

- Historic roots as a river milling town started by John North in 1856
- Active Arts and Culture
- Situated on the Cannon River
- Home to two excellent colleges—St. Olaf College and Carleton College
- Thirty-five city parks, as well as the Carleton Arboretum and the St. Olaf Natural Lands
- Known for its annual Defeat of Jesse James Days celebration
- High civic engagement among residents who make a meaningful contribution to the community
- Highly walkable and bikeable









2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The intersection of Highway 246 (Division Street) and Jefferson Parkway serves numerous community purposes:

- Students, teachers, and staff use it to reach **Northfield Middle School**, **Northfield High School**, and **Bridgewater Elementary School**, all of which are immediately adjacent;
- Within a short distance to the west is the **FiftyNorth** center for seniors, and the **Community Action Center**, that serves a wide variety of people of all ages, abilities, and cultures;

- Within a short distance to the east are **Spring Creek Park** and Northfield’s soccer playing fields;
- The intersection serves significant **residential development** to the south, north and east;
- A spur of the planned **Mill Towns Trail** will pass through this intersection;
- This intersection has been identified as a **gateway** in the City of Northfield Gateway Corridor Improvement Plan.

The City is replacing the existing 4-way stop intersection with a roundabout to improve safety and function for all users. The underpasses on all four legs of the intersection will provide safe access for people on foot, on bikes, and on scooters and wheelchairs.

For more information on the Highway 246 and Jefferson Parkway Intersection project, see <https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/1070/Highway-246-and-Jefferson-Parkway-Inters>. This page shows the project’s location in the community and the latest renderings.

Recognizing the importance of this area for numerous community purposes and goals, the City Arts and Culture Committee appointed a Public Art Review Committee (PARC) to develop select and recommend art as part of the project.

3 GOALS

Given the many purposes that this intersection serves, it is a challenge to summarize the goals of this project, other than to say: *the City seeks art that will respond to those many purposes.*

For some people, this intersection will be a place they use and see every day on their way to school—whether as a teacher or a student—or on their way to soccer, or to teach or learn language at the CAC. For others, it will be their first welcome to, and impression of, Northfield. The intersection and the land around it needs to work with and speak to all kinds of people, in a variety of situations.

Among these goals, the City seeks art that will:

1. *Express the character of Northfield*
2. *Capture interest, even after repeated trips*
3. *Draw people of all ages and abilities into using the underpasses*

The underpasses are being designed to be the most direct and attractive route through the intersection for people not driving. However, Northfielders have no experience with such underpasses, and so will benefit from additional reasons to visit the underpasses, rather than walk over the top and across the highway.

Teenagers, in particular, will be tempted to just ‘run over the top.’ Art, of course, cannot on its own reverse this temptation. Nonetheless, we share with prospective artists this aspect of the project.

To encourage people to use underpasses, they should be safe, well-lit, and welcoming. Art can provide an interesting and attractive ambiance, so that people of all kinds will look forward to using the underpasses as a fun experience, every day.

So:

- Northfield is particularly interested in art that will consistently draw people of all ages and abilities to use the underpasses.
- While we lift up the importance of the underpasses, we do not wish to suggest that they are the sole focus of the project. The underpasses are only part of the project. Ideally the art will enrich the whole project.

4 ARTWORK THEME: the history of the ecology and landscape of Northfield

The theme for this project is:

The history of the ecology and landscape of Northfield.

The 4 biomes present in and around Northfield have been identified by the PARC committee for possible inclusion: “River”, “Big Woods” “Oak Savannah”, and “Prairie”.

For information on these, see:

- <https://exit69history.wordpress.com/2013/05/09/2/> for information about Nerstrand-Big Woods State Park
- Oak savannahs: <https://oaksavannas.org/>
- Prairies: <https://www.nps.gov/miss/learn/nature/prairestabou.htm>
- Cannon River: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannon_River_\(Minnesota\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannon_River_(Minnesota))
- Minnesota Rivers: <http://www.shorelandmanagement.org/depth/rivers.pdf>

5 OPENNESS TO, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF, OTHER APPROACHES

The City and the PARC seek the best proposal for this area. The unique nature of, and multiple demands on, this area, may merit approaches to art for this area that we have not anticipated.

Thus, while we have done our best to describe the community’s goals, we encourage artists not to be limited by our descriptions, and to think broadly about how art here can

- Communicate with people using this area for any purpose
- Advance Northfield’s goals as a community.

Flexibility can include

- forms of art
- sources of materials, labor, and funding.

While the PARC has a budget of 1% of the total project cost (= roughly \$43,000), proposals should feel free to propose other approaches to funding or procuring the described project.

“Best value” guidelines will give the PARC leeway in recommending, and the City flexibility in choosing, the artist and artwork.

6 ARTWORK MATERIALS AND REQUIREMENTS

The material, design and palette must stand up to local weather and be amenable to ongoing maintenance. Artists should consider but are not limited to a painted mural, a relief sculpture or mosaic. Artist will be responsible for applying an anti-graffiti coating. A statement of recommended maintenance for a 24-month period is required for all submissions.

7 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The Public Art Review Committee will review qualifications of applicant artists and make recommendations to the Northfield Arts and Culture Commission. The selection panel includes members of the Arts and Culture Commission, representation from the Northfield School District, representation from the city Public Works department, arts advocates and community members. Their selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence as demonstrated in 10 digital images of the artist’s previous work
- Experience working on large-scale projects
- Willingness to meet all contractual guidelines
- The use of content appropriate for all audiences

When proposals identify a particular medium, we will evaluate the submission with an eye to previous experience in that medium. So, for example, if you propose to paint one or more murals in the underpasses, we would benefit from seeing evidence of working in the mural field on large masonry surfaces.

In addition, materials and design must be weather-resistant. We encourage you to consider underpass dampness and mold, and address any safety or accessibility concerns.

Please refer to the Northfield Arts and Culture Commission “Art in Public Places” for additional review criteria, linked in this document.

8 APPROVALS

Final selection of the winning artist will be made by the Public Art Review Committee for the project, and forwarded with their recommendation to the City Arts and Culture Commission.

The selected artist will work with City staff to refine the proposal and develop scale drawings and material choices appropriate for the site. Final design documents should include to scale drawings, with materials used and a proposed artist time schedule. Design Documents will be approved by City staff.

9 ARTWORK PROJECT LOCATION

The site selected for this project is located at the intersection of two roads, Highway 246 and Jefferson Parkway. The tunnels measure 10 feet tall x 16 feet wide by x 90 feet in length. See accompanying illustrations.

10 ARTWORK PURCHASE BUDGET

Up to three finalists will be selected by the Public Art Review Committee to create a concept proposal and will receive \$400 as a concept stipend. The final selected artist will be paid a final stipend of \$43,000. The price will include all taxes, insurance and all other fees. The artist is required to install the artwork in a professional manner and is responsible for any installation fees. The artist is responsible for all the materials related to the execution of the project.

11 PERMITS

It shall be the artist's/architect's responsibility, where applicable, to obtain all necessary permits prior to fabrication and installation. The artist will ensure that the design will be code compliant.

12 ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must be professional artists, as stated in your resume, residing in Minnesota, and eligible to work in the United States. Candidates are eligible regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identification, military status, sexual orientation, marital status or physical ability. Artists are NOT eligible if they are immediate family or business partners of the Public Art Review Committee or program staff.

13 SUBMISSION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

Please send in the following information:

1. The names and contact information of all project personnel involved in the design and execution of the Roundabout art, including email and telephone.
2. Work Samples: Visual representations of past projects that demonstrate qualifications for this project for all project personnel involved in the design and execution for the artwork. In order to be considered for this project, candidates must upload 10 images as examples. Images must be formatted as jpeg files of a size of 7 inches on the longest side, and 300 dpi. Other formats are not accepted. Slides, prints or and physical submissions of artwork will not be accepted.
3. A high-level concept design sketch and/or written description for the Roundabout art project.
4. A résumé that includes relevant work experiences to above mentioned project.

Submissions may be emailed to

City of Northfield Arts and Culture Commission, c/o Teresa Jensen, City Arts Liaison,
Teresa.Jensen@ci.northfield.mn.us

It is highly recommended that artists interested in submitting a proposal for the Roundabout Art contact City Arts Liaison Teresa Jensen to indicate interest, in order that any questions asked can be shared to all applicants through email. Deadline for questions is one week before submittals are due; this would mean questions are due by March 27, 2020

QUESTIONS Email questions to City Arts Liaison Teresa Jensen, Teresa.Jensen@ci.northfield.mn.us or call 507-645-1801

14 ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

Call for Submissions open	March 6
Deadline for Submissions:	April 3
Finalists' selection for concept proposal	April 10
Concept proposals due, final presentations	May 15
PARC final selection	May 15
Recommendation to the ACC (special meeting)	May 18
Community Engagement	May 19 -26
Installation of art	May-October 2020
Installation complete, dedication event	October 2020

15 Additional Resources

City of Northfield, Art in Public Places

<https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/7032/Public-Art-Policy-to-Co-Res-2017-073>

For more information visit the City of Northfield's Arts and Culture Commission website at

<https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/99/Arts-and-Culture-Commission>

Information about the Public Art program and past projects can be found at

<http://guides.mynpl.org/publicart>

For information about the City of Northfield's Gateway Corridor recommendations visit

<https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/611/Draft-Gateway-Corridor-Improvement-Plan-592012?bidId=>