

Call for Design Concepts: Interior Sculptural Lighting for Druid Hill Park's Reptile House

Budget: \$50,000 (all inclusive)

Issued: January 31, 2019

Deadline to Apply: 11:59 pm, March 31, 2019

Apply Online: [via Submittable](#)



The [Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts](#) in partnership with Baltimore City Recreation & Parks offer artists and designers a unique opportunity to submit sculptural lighting design concepts to fit within the vaulted room of the renovated Reptile House in Druid Hill Park.

The Reptile House History & Renovation:

A visit to one of Druid Hill Park’s quietest corners reveals a Palladian-style Villa amongst mature Hickories and Oaks. What we now call the Reptile House was originally built to transfer drinking water from the holding body (where now sits a softball field) to Druid Park Lake. In an era when great pride was taken in engineering and public works buildings, “Reptile House” took a page from Claude Nicolas Ledoux’s visionary architecture.

This noble brick and terra-cotta structure has been largely vacant since 2004 when Zoo operations ceased within. There are many in Baltimore who still remember the experience of walking into this free “satellite” of the Zoo, to wonder at the local and exotic Reptilian friends.



The proposed renovation will serve as an office and meeting space for Youth and Adult Sports (YAAS) - a department of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks - as well as a utilitarian nexus (restrooms, field storage, etc.) for the popular athletic fields surrounding the building and sharing its name.

The goals of this project include:

- salvaging the existing barrel vaulted ceiling
- preserving the terrazzo floor, original double-hung windows, interior trim, and as many of the original exterior features as possible.
- bringing natural light into office and conference spaces
- providing ADA compliant routes into and throughout the building
- providing restrooms that can be accessed by staff and visitors to the adjacent athletic field
- and providing new building systems and equipment to meet current energy codes.

It should be noted that the majority of the interior elements noted herein originated during the Zoo’s renovations of the 1930’s, and therefore a sense of that history will be strong within. Once occupied, offices, meeting rooms, and main space will bustle with planning for sports opportunities for youth around the entire city, including school and league organizers, coaches, referees, and staff.

Call for Design Concepts:

The unique vaulted space at the heart of the Reptile house, while simple and beautiful, will require both lighting and acoustical treatment. Furthermore, while the designers wish to keep the historic simplicity of the vault, it offers a unique “blank canvas” for a great work of art or sculpture to accentuate the space. (see attachments for photos and elevations)

Three components: *light, acoustics, and the visual relationship to the curve of the vault* should guide design concepts for a contemporary art installation that accentuates this unique public office.

Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Artistic quality and vision of the proposed concept
- Appropriateness of scale, shape, theme, and movement for space
- Integration and quality of light
- Anticipated acoustic dampening effect
- Qualifications and artistic ability- as demonstrated by previous work samples

Applicants will have an opportunity to visit and view the Reptile House interior in-person on Friday, February 22, at 2:00pm.



To RSVP for the site visit please email rpatterson@promotionandarts.org with the subject line “REPTILE HOUSE RESERVATION” by 5:00 pm Tuesday, February 19.

Schedule:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1/31/19 | Call to Artists- Published |
| 2/22/19 | Site visit for applicants |
| 2/27/19 | Due Date for public questions |
| 3/1/19 | Questions answered and provided online |
| 3/31/19 | DEADLINE to apply |
| 4/18/19 | Review process complete- Selection announced |

Budget:

A total budget of \$50,000.00 has been set aside for this project. This budget is expected to cover all artist fee, any required technical design or engineering fees, materials fabrication and installation unless otherwise negotiated or described within the selected artist's contract.

Application Requirements:

All applications must include the following:

- Name(s) and contact information for the applicant.
- *Design Concept Proposal:* A single document including narrative and visualizations of your design concept. The narrative may address the applicants' design concept, approach to the project, materials, and fabrication technique, and describe any relevant aspects of day to day operation. Visualizations may be drawings, sketches, mock-ups, or other renderings. Design Concept Proposal should be saved as a single PDF document, (5 pages max.)page size 11"x17", horizontally formatted.
- **Samples of Previous work & description sheet (1page)** Please submit up to 5 examples of previous artwork that illustrate the artistic approach and ability to finish and install a project. Work samples may be photographs or video (JPG or MOV format accepted). A single sheet describing previous work samples is also required. This should include relevant information such as size, material, year, budget etc.. for each work sample provided (saved as a PDF).
- **Resume(s)-** Please upload a professional resume or CV (8.5"x 11", 3 pages max)
- **References-** Please list two references who can speak previous work and ability to complete a similar project.

Review Process

All applications will be received by BOPA and BCRP staff. Once the application closes (March 31, 2019) all complete applications will be shared with an Artist Selection Panel composed of project staff, local stakeholders, art professionals, and representatives of the Public Art Commission. The Artist Selection Panel will review all applications received and select 3-7 finalists to recommend to the full Public Art Commission. Finalist applications will be reviewed by the Commission, and the final selection is expected to occur at the April 2019 Commission meeting. All applicants will be notified of the decision on or before April 18, 2019, barring any alterations to the schedule listed above.

*BOPA and BCRP reserve the right to adjust the schedule of this application, or the artist selection process at their sole discretion. BOPA and BCRP reserve the right to not select an applicant or award a commission for this project.

Eligibility:

This project is open to any artist or artist team, over the age of 18, legally living or working within the United States.

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts encourages diversity in the City's public art collection. Artists whose work is represented within the City's public art collection are not excluded, however, the artist selection panel will consider artistic diversity as a factor in the selection process.

Artists currently commissioned to create public artwork for the City of Baltimore, Public Art Commission members, and employees of the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts and Baltimore City may not apply.
City of Baltimore Public Art Program

The Percent for Public Art Program and the Public Art Commission are managed by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts on behalf of the City of Baltimore.

A full description of the legal regulations of the City's Percent for Public Art requirements can be found in Article V. Subsection 21 of the Baltimore City Code. An overview of the operations of the Percent for Art Program can be found in the [Baltimore City Public Art Guidelines](#) (2013).

We're here to help!

We are happy to help to answer any questions about the application process. For any inquiries related to the call or artist selection process please contact:

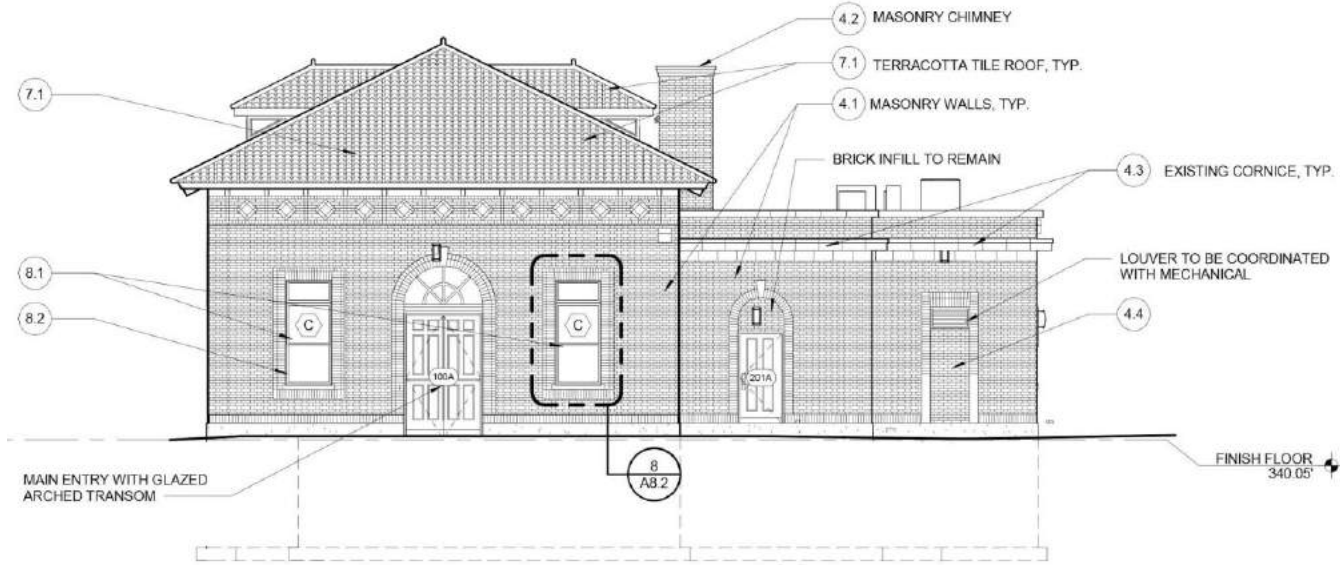
Ryan Patterson,
Public Art Administrator, Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts
rpatterson@promotionandarts.org, 443-263-4338

For technical assistance with logging into or navigating Submittable.com please see: <https://submittable.help/>

ATTACHMENTS

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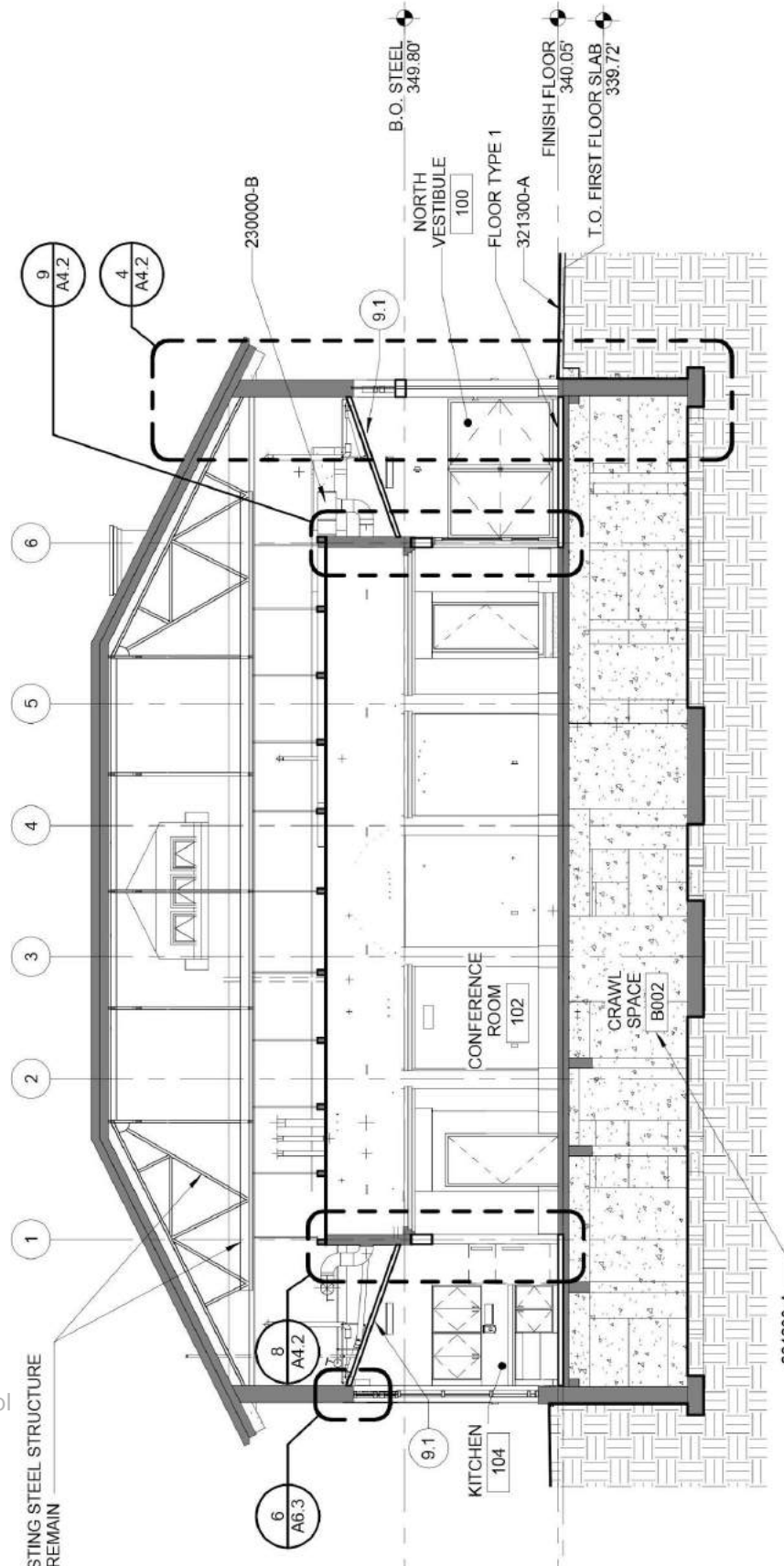
- 1) Exterior Elevation,
- 2) Interior Elevation
- 3) Four photos of current interior condition



1 NORTH ELEVATION
 A3.1 1/8" = 1'-0"



3 EAST ELEVATION
 A3.1 1/8" = 1'-0"



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