PERCENT FOR ART COMPETITION:

University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine

OVERVIEW

The Maine Arts Commission is making a call to all Maine artists to submit proposals to design, create and install 3-dimensional artwork in an outdoor green space across the street from the newly constructed Enrollment and Advancement Center at the University of Maine at Fort Kent. This call is open to all artists who work in New England, including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island; and artists from neighboring Quebec and New Brunswick, Canada. Artists with local ties to the Acadia of the Lands and Forests/L'Acadie des terres et forêts are especially encouraged to apply. The total project budget for artwork is $27,000.00 and the submission deadline is December 1, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST

The Percent for Art law in Maine reserves one percent of the construction funds for all state-funded building projects to provide artwork for the public areas of these buildings and /or their exterior renovations and additions.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1878, the University of Maine at Fort Kent is the northernmost campus of the public UMaine System, located in the St. John Valley on the border with New Brunswick, Canada. The College offers 14 major areas of study, and currently enrolls about 1200 students. The most popular field of study is nursing. Home to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, UMFK is an academic center for Acadian and Franco-American and French-Canadian culture and heritage, and French-speaking Mainers from throughout the state. Sixty-nine percent (69%) the student body identify as white, with the remaining 31% identifying as International, Black, Hispanic, or two or more races.

The artwork should reflect the UMFK community, regional heritages, and environmental assets, and acknowledge that the campus is in the Wabanaki homeland.

LOCATION

The site is a new one-acre flat, grassy area, measuring 200 ft x 210 ft, just under an acre, with a small 7-car parking lot in one corner and a diagonal pathway linking the sports complex with the rest of campus. It is on the corner of Aroostook Road and University Drive, across from the newly constructed Enrollment and Advancement Center. Two small dwellings were removed to create the grassy open space. (Images on p. 5-8)

TYPE OF WORK

The Selection Committee seeks one or more three-dimensional creative structure(s) or sculptural element(s) to be firmly and permanently situated on this lawn.

The work should:

Be conducive for gathering and conversation

Have presence in all seasons, including winter

Use natural or sustainably lasting materials for minimal maintenance

Take into consideration environment and weather

Reflect the UMFK community, regional heritages, and regional environmental assets

Acknowledge in some way that the campus is in the Wabanaki homeland

The work may:

Incorporate shaded or partially shaded elements

Incorporate seating elements

Use new technologies

Include landscape design (no plantings)

Be in Traditional, Contemporary, or original style

Incorporate unusual, unexpected mix of traditional and innovative

Incorporate earthwork

QUESTIONS

If you have questions about the site, please contact Andy Buck, Project Manager: andrew.buck@maine.edu All other questions should be directed to Martha Piscuskas, Program Director, Maine Arts Commission: martha.piscuskas@maine.gov

PROJECT BUDGET

$27,000 are available for artwork for this project. These funds will be used to commission work(s) from a single artist, more than one artist or an artist team. An artist budget proposal must cover all design, fabrication, transportation, documentation, and installation expenses.

SELECTION PROCESS

A Percent for Art selection committee of five members will jury submissions for the project.
The committee will review the materials to determine whom to invite for a second round of evaluation. Artists selected for the second round will receive a **$500** design fee for refining their proposals. Final proposals will include detailed models, drawings, renderings, samples of work and/or materials depending on the nature of the proposal. All finalists will present their final proposals to the committee in person. Please do not submit detailed models, drawings, samples, or final proposals for the first round of the selection process. All submitted materials will not be returned.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications are reviewed based on the following criteria:

• Artistic strength as shown through vision, originality, and understanding of craft (30 percent).

• Ability to translate artistic concepts into work that will activate or enhance the proposed space (25 percent).

• Application is comprehensive in information and ideas are well communicated (20 percent).

• Ability to design work that is sensitive to social, environmental, historical, and/or other relevant contexts (15 percent).

• Capacity to complete the proposal on time and within budget (10 percent).

ELIGIBILITY

Professional artists who work in New England, including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, as well as artists from neighboring Quebec and New Brunswick, Canada may apply for consideration to this project; those with local ties to the Acadia of the Lands and Forests/L'Acadie des terres et forêts are especially encouraged to apply. Artists who are full-time employees of the University of Maine System are ineligible for Percent for Art projects at the location where they are employed, as are members of the selection committee and their immediate families. Students at any level are ineligible. The project is open to all artists aged 18 and over, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical disabilities. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines.

DEADLINE

Friday, December 1, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST is the deadline for submission of materials. Materials received after this date may be excluded from consideration.

MATERIALS REQUIRED IN SUBMISSION

Materials must be submitted online through the Maine Arts Commission's Grant Management System (GMS). See "How to Submit Materials" below for details.

All documents must be in a PDF format. All images must be in a jpg or PDF format. Any submissions that do not follow the requirements may be considered ineligible. Make sure submissions are labeled correctly, that you identify the Percent for Art call you are applying to, and that your name, phone number, mailing address and email information is on every document.

Your proposal must include:

1. A current concise resume for participating artist(s) (2 pages maximum).

2. A brief one-page written proposal describing your past work and how you plan to address the potential art area. Discuss what your concept and approach will be in addressing the public art space of the site. If it is exterior, include a brief sentence on how the work will withstand the changing seasons including snow accumulation. Please do not submit detailed models, samples, or final proposals for this round of the selection process. A simple sketch may be included to clarify your idea if necessary.

3. An itemized estimated budget to give cost expectations (include design fees as well as anticipated fabrication, transportation, and installation costs). A more precise budget may be requested for those invited past the first round.

4. A brief anticipated maintenance plan required for the artwork. Please upload this as a separate document and do not include this in the narrative of your proposal.

5. Five (5) digital images of recent work. If an artist team or artist organization applies, they may only submit five images for all artists. The optional proposal sketch does not count as an image. (Please include any sketches with the narrative portion of the proposal.) Do not upload A/V files of any kind. Only jpg or PDF files are eligible for review.

HOW TO SUBMIT MATERIAL

*NOTE: Some Internet Explorer users have experienced problems during the application process. Because of this, **we recommend that you use the Firefox, Safari or Chrome web browser** to access the GMS and submit your application*.

STEP 1: Click **HERE** to sign into the Maine Arts Commission's Grant Management System (GMS).

- If you already have an account with the Maine Arts Commission, then type in your username and password and click the "Sign in" button.

  - If you DO NOT have an account with the MAC, click the "New User?" to create a new account. Fill out the fields as directed, then click "Register" at the bottom. Next you will see the "Registration Accepted" page that will prompt you to check your email. Follow the link in your email to go back to the GMS website and log in.

STEP 2: On the "Grants Management System" page under "Active Grants" scroll through to locate the Percent for Art project you are interested in (there is usually more than one page to scroll through). Click "read more" under the opportunity posting.

STEP 3: Read the "Reference Materials" information for full details on the project.

STEP 4: If you are ready to start your application submission, click "Apply Now" at the top or bottom of the "Reference Materials" page.

STEP 5: Fill out the GMS "Contact Information". When filling out the contact information, select the following:

- For Application Institution, select "Individual"
- For Application Statistic, select "Individual Artist" (regardless of number of artists participating in proposal) At the bottom of the page click "Save & Next".

STEP 6: For the “Support Material” section, please upload the required materials listed above. Do not upload A/V files. Follow the “Manage Images and Documents” instructions on this page for actual uploading. Files can only be uploaded one at a time. Please be sure to fill out the file description box for each.

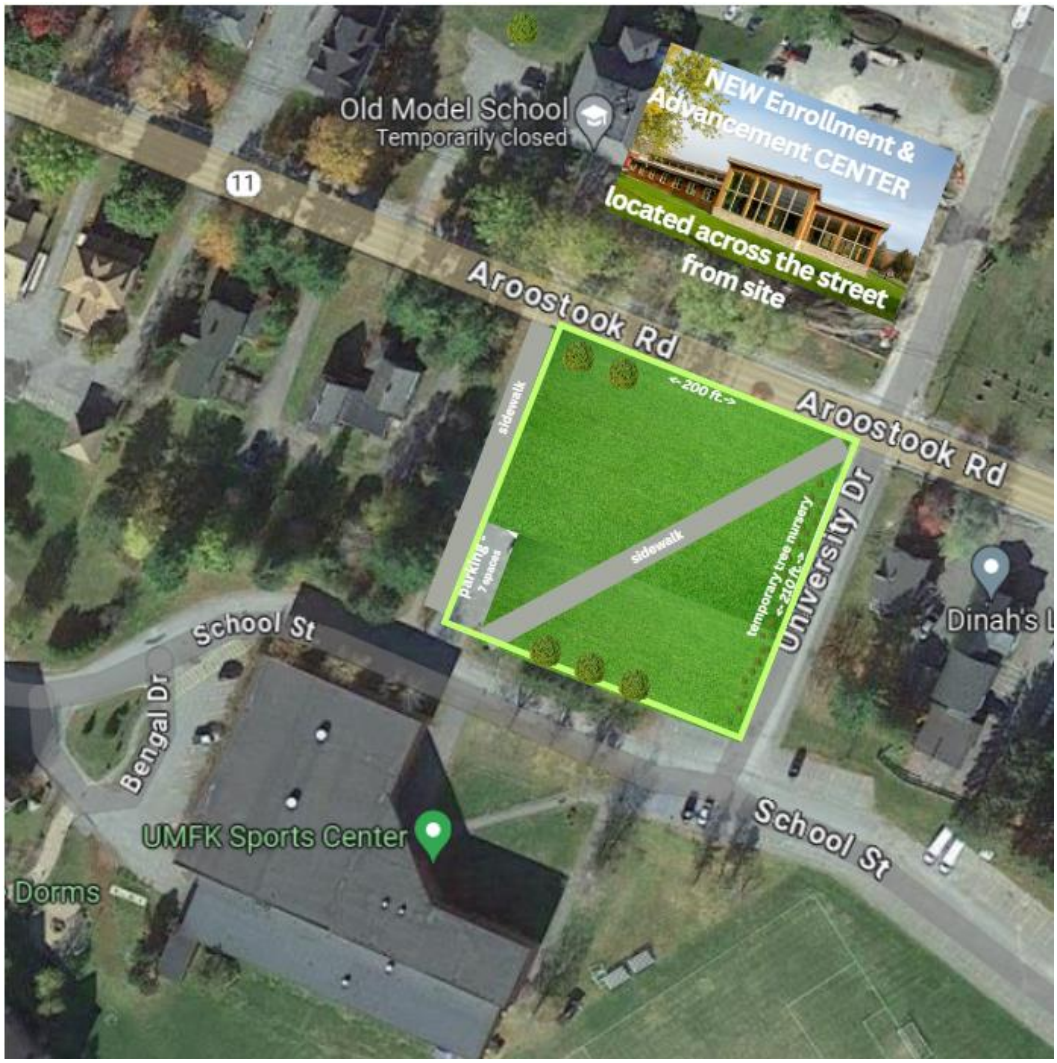
When you have uploaded your entire required materials click “Next Step”.

STEP 7: In the “Checklist & Status” page, you may click “Submit” if you want to come back and change any information before the deadline,

OR

If you are completely finished with your application, you may check the “I have completed all required steps for this application” box and then click **“Submit”.** At this point your submission is complete and you will not be able to make any changes to the application.

SITE LOCATION IMAGES



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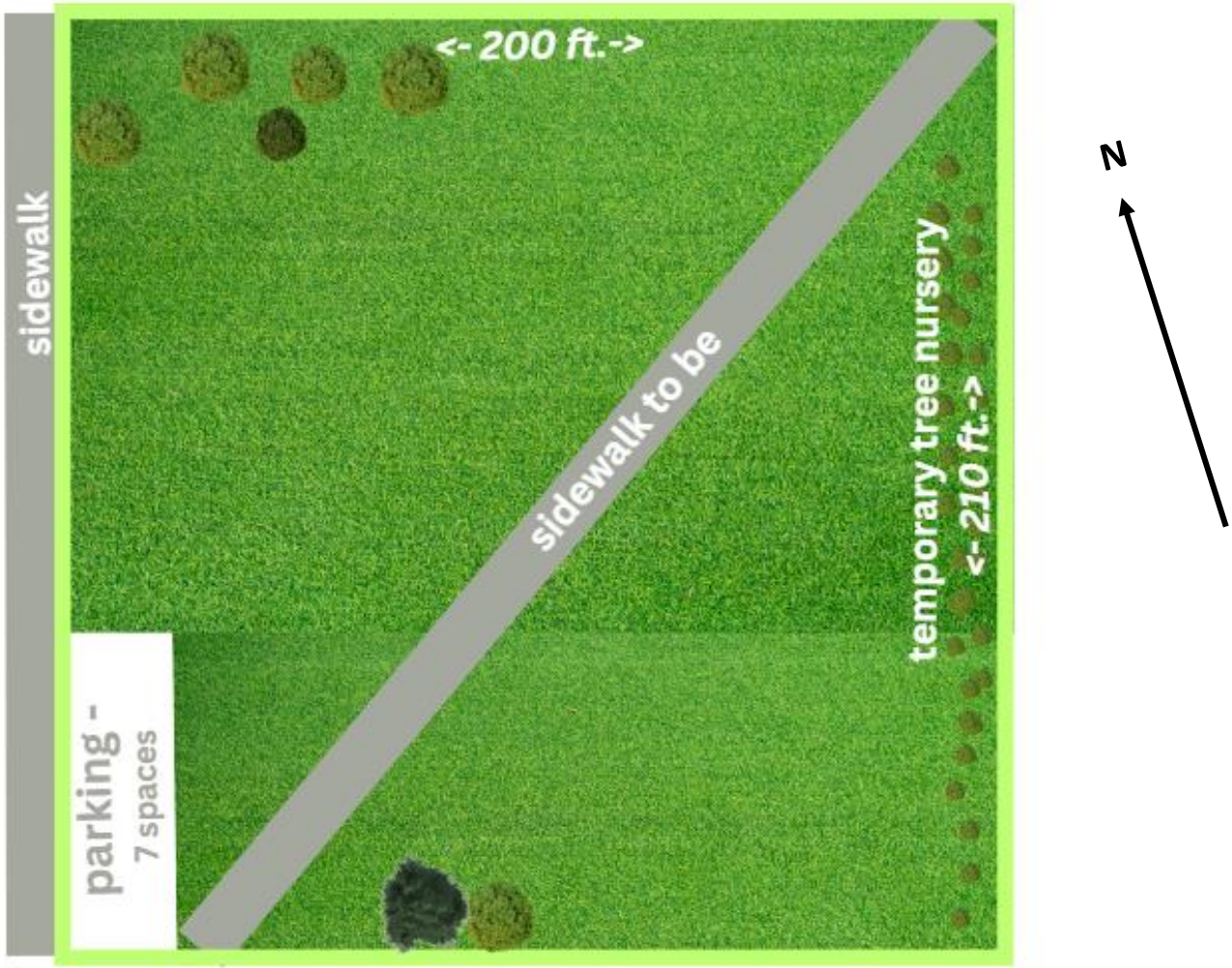
Taken from Aroostook Rd, in front of new Enrollment and Advancement Center, facing southwest.
Sign frame on left of photo will be removed.

Taken from corner of Aroostook Rd and University Dr, facing southwest.



SPORTS CENTER on southwest side of site

Taken from Aroostook Rd, in front of new Enrollment and Advancement Center, facing southwest.

Sign frame on left of photo will be removed.