



Release Date: May 7, 2021

International Deadline, May 21, 2021 11:59pm central standard time (CST).

The Unexpected brings urban and contemporary art to Arkansas, culminating in a week-long event in downtown Fort Smith. Our award-winning program has been recognized by the Arkansas Governor’s Arts Awards and Trendsetter City, to name a few, and provides the opportunity for anyone, regardless of their age, race, gender or socio-economic status to have free access to the arts within our outdoor art gallery.

The Unexpected is soliciting proposals from artists for an activation that will serve as a centerpiece around Mental Health Awareness. The artwork will serve a specific purpose, tackling an issue that directly affects approximately 18% of Arkansans, a percentage that trends higher than the 2018 national average of 12%. Social movements such as *You Matter* are on the rise and The Unexpected is looking for an artwork that can augment awareness and activity around mental health and supporting movements. Additionally, the artwork should

1. Enhance the urban footprint of downtown Fort Smith through the creation of a public art project that meaningfully engages local community.
2. Provide excitement and interest for the community as a whole.
3. Be an original art piece appropriate for outdoor installation.

Submissions will be evaluated by a Selection Committee based upon the overall quality and uniqueness of the proposed artwork. Funding is provided in part by the Arkansas Department of Heritage. The project is contingent upon appropriate matching funds raised. The Unexpected is not obligated to the artist financially if monetary achievement is not reached.

ELIGIBILITY

The project is open to all artists, age 18 and over. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines.

PROPOSALS

The Unexpected is looking for the following:

- Proposals from creative individual or team artists including but not limited to Artists, Designers, Builders, Fabricators, Technologists and Engineers.
- Ideas that engage the public in positive discourse and community engagement.
- Proposals that communicate a clear vision and represent your expertise.
- And projects that could utilize a range of materials, processes and techniques.

BUDGET AND EXPECTATIONS - \$10,000

- The selected artist will be responsible for any design, fabrication, shipment, materials, and/or installation of the artwork. The available budget must also cover travel, hotel, transportation, per diem and any other associated costs.
- Artwork must be up for at least 2 years.
- Artists must be available and willing to deliver a keynote speech to an audience of approximate 50-100 people. Any in-person event will adhere to CDC distancing guidelines.
- Artist should understand the processes, techniques and materials involved in their proposal.

- Artist must be able to provide plans according to the project schedule.

SUBMISSION

Project Proposals must include:

- Title of your proposal, accompanied by a brief description of the project (3 sentences) that could be used in promotional material such as a press release.
- A description of how your project fits within the narrative of social and mental health and is supportive to mental health awareness.
- Artist information: name, date of birth, email, experience (resume, CV, Portfolio, etc.).
- Images of up to five (5) samples of large-scale outdoor artworks completed in the last five (5) years.

APPLY

Project proposals must be:

- Compiled into one document.
- Submitted in .pdf format.
- Submitted no later than 11:59PM CST on Friday, May 21, 2021.
- Submitted via email to info@unexpectedfs.com.

Incomplete proposal or proposals not compiled into one document will not be considered.

SCHEDULE

- Application closes May 21, 2021 12am CST.
- Notification of selected artist on or before May 28, 2021.
- Following artist selection and confirmation of funding, artist will be notified of artwork site.
- Artistic concept presented and approved.
- Once the concept is approved by all parties, planning will begin for autumn 2021 production.