

Call to Artists/Artist Design Teams

Request for Qualifications

Minerva Statue Pedestal

Artist Stipend: \$3,000

Deadline to Submit Materials: 4:30 PM (EST) Friday, February 28, 2020



Minerva at Blasco Memorial Library, 2019

Project Description

The Erie County Public Library is accepting qualifications from an artist or team of artists having familiarity with Northwestern Pennsylvania for a public art opportunity to be located in a downtown Erie, PA location. The finished project will be a multi-media pedestal for the statue of Minerva. Funds were made available through the Friends of the Erie County Public Library.

We are searching for artists with strong portfolios in design, sculpture, or metal work that are flexible and available to collaborate with project stakeholders on design and able to present their artwork in a fabrication-ready digital format. An artist or team of artists will be selected that will create and submit a design proposal based on community and stakeholder input. The artist will be expected to lead the production of the artwork from concept to delivery. The artist (or team of artists) is expected to remain in communication with the fabrication team during production. Fabrication shall be completed by Gene Davis Steel & Supply of Erie, PA.

Statue History

The Minerva statue was originally donated to the library in 1899 and held a place of prominence in the Erie Public Library on Perry Square. The

statue went missing in the 1940s and was re-gifted to the library in 2019. The statue is made of plaster and stands 68.5” tall, 26” wide, and 16” deep. The statue is made in the classic Roman style. While it is currently missing pieces including the right arm, base snake, and spear, these pieces are being reproduced in a separate project to match the original. The *Friends of Erie County Public Library* have initiated fundraising efforts to finance the conservation of the statue and allow for the construction of a pedestal.

The statue’s subject, Roman goddess Minerva, is the representation of wisdom, medicine, commerce, handicrafts, poetry, the arts, and war as well. People would often call out to her when they felt talentless saying “Invita Minerva!” meaning “Minerva Unwilling”. She is very similar in ways to her counterpart in Greek mythology, Athena, and is believed to have been derived from the Etruscan goddess Menrva. From Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, she is considered the “goddess of a thousand works” referring to the many subjects which she presides over.



Statue pictured at original Erie Public Library in Perry Square, 1901

Project Budget

The selected artist or team of artists will be paid a \$3,000 design fee upon acceptance of the final design. Labor, fabrication, and material expense are jointly provided by Gene Davis Steel Supply and the Friends of the Erie County Public Library.

Project Goals and Scope

The goal of this project is to create an inspirational illuminated pedestal for the statue of Minerva. The pedestal should include elements such as those attached and should also be designed to honor donors' names on the pedestal. The finished pedestal should:

- Support a weight of 500 pounds or more
- Use light to extend the theme of Minerva and the pedestal
- Convey the theme of Wisdom
- Complements the style of the over 100-year old Minerva statue
- Capable of displaying donors' names (10-15 in total)

Community Engagement

The selected artist will be expected to employ feedback from two Community Engagement activities:

- Statue Placement: shall be determined by popular vote from a list of predefined indoor locations within downtown Erie
- "Wisdom": the community shall have the opportunity to convey their interpretation of wisdom; this feedback to be used as artistic inspiration in creation of the final pedestal design

Application Requirements

- Artist (or team) biography
- C.V. emphasizing relevant experience, whether in graphic design, public art, or working with public agencies or private clients. If applying as a team, please include resumes for all team members.
- Artist statement that emphasizes the nature of your work and your artistic process.
- Letter of Interest
- Examples of past work (up to 10 images)
- Work Sample Identification
- Link to Artist website and/or social media (if available)

[Letter of interest should address the following:](#)

1. Why are you interested in proposing artwork for this project?
2. What is your connection to Minerva, Erie County Public Library, and/or Northwestern Pennsylvania?
3. Why should the Erie County Public Library choose you for this project?
4. What are some previous projects that you completed that are relatable to this project in size, scope, and budget?
5. How would you work with the community to gather stakeholder input?

Work Sample Identification should address the following (for each item):

1. Budget
2. Date of work
3. Client/project
4. Additional explanatory text about specific artworks may be added, although this is not required.

Application Submission Instructions

All materials should be submitted by Friday, February 28, 2020 by 4:30 PM EST.

Materials can be emailed to the Erie County Public Library at ajohnson@eriecountypa.gov. If an applicant desires to send hard copies, they may mail submissions (postmarked by February 27th) to the following address:

Erie County Public Library
160 East Front Street
Erie, PA. 16507
Attn: Alyssa Johnson

Selection Process and Criteria

All entries and all subsequent submissions will be evaluated by a committee representing the following organizations:

Erie County Public Library, including the Advisory Board
Friends of the Erie County Public Library
Erie Regional Library Foundation
Erie Arts & Culture
Office of the County Executive, Erie County

Minerva Project Time Line

January 23, 2020:	Artist Listening Session at Blasco Library with Erie Arts & Culture
February 28, 2020:	Artist RFQ Submissions Due
March 1-19, 2020:	Voting for Placement of the Minerva Statue
March 12-19:	Artist Finalist Design Interviews
March 23, 2020:	Selection of Artist, Public Announcement of Placement/ "Wisdom" seeking
March 23-April 17, 2020:	Community Engagement on "Wisdom"
April 2020:	Stakeholder input and initial design concepts crafted
May 15, 2020:	Committee approves & accepts final design
May, June, July, 2020:	Fabrication Process
August 3, 2020:	Pedestal installation occurs
August 4, 2020:	Press Event unveiling the installed statue/pedestal