

**Request for Qualifications  
Iowa Art In-State Buildings Program**

**Sponsor:** University of Northern Iowa, Apartment Housing Phase I

**Application deadline:** August 20, 2010

**Budget:** A minimum of \$75,000 is anticipated to be available for this project. The actual budget will be provided to finalists prior to the development of their concepts.

**Eligibility:** Open to all professional public artists or artist teams, including those who are new to the field of public art, from throughout the United States. Artists from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply for this project.

**Project:** The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in Cedar Falls, Iowa has issued this RFQ to commission an artist or artist led team to produce a two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional interior or exterior artwork for permanent installation in a new residence hall complex to be constructed beginning summer 2010. This project will be funded through the State of Iowa, Art in State Buildings Program.

**Timeline:** (tentative)

Applications due: August 20, 2010

Selection of finalists: August 30, 2010

Finalist(s) site visit: Week of Sept 21

Conceptual designs due: October 29, 2010

Construction completion and installation of the art work: August 2012

**Context:** The University of Northern Iowa is a four year comprehensive university that prides itself on putting “Students First” and has a reputation for providing exceptional undergraduate education, as well as complementary programs at the master’s, specialist, and doctoral levels. Building on its historic excellence in teacher education, the university has developed outstanding programs in business, natural sciences, humanities and fine arts, and social and behavioral sciences.

One of three state universities, UNI enjoys national recognition for its high educational standards. U.S. News and World Report has ranked UNI second among Midwest public universities for 13 consecutive years.

The university’s size – just more than 13,000 students – allows it to offer faculty, facilities and academic choices of a large university, while retaining a friendly, small-college atmosphere on a compact, park-like campus.  
For more information, see [www.uni.edu](http://www.uni.edu).

**Building Description:** The University of Northern Iowa is constructing apartment housing designed to house juniors and seniors. With current dorm rooms averaging 50 years old, these new units will provide a more contemporary response to students requests for housing. The independent living offered by

apartments will serve upper-class students well while the preserving their desire to interact with the campus. The primary public spaces will be the main floor lounge and exterior plaza which will serve as a meeting and relaxation destinations for the residents.

**Locations for the Artwork:** Approximately 10' x 10' of floor space set aside for a three dimensional artwork within the main floor lounge. Other interior and/or exterior public spaces within the complex identified by the artist.

**Conceptual Considerations:** The UNI Art and Architecture committee's focus is building a collection of public art works that encourages a global perspective. This focus is not meant to exclude any aesthetic or conceptual direction determined by the artist but rather encourage the production of art work that contributes to an expanded worldview and challenges parochial/provincial thought among our students.

In addition, the selection committee is interested in artwork that:

- Might have kinetic elements or imply movement in some way.

- Functions as collection or a body of work—multiple images or objects located throughout the facility.

- Utilizes the seasonal or daily light changes in the environment, such as shadows or daily or seasonal sunlight changes.

- Changes and/or is revealed over time.

- Contains multiple layers of metaphoric meaning.

- Has a strong intellectual and poetic dimension.

- Is timeless and bears repeated viewing over time.

- Is complex enough to allow viewers to learn from it over time and provides a sense of discovery.

**Potential Materials:** The selection committee is interested in permanent durable materials that support the artist's vision. The campus is not interested in materials with inherent obsolescence, such as components utilizing video or other electronic media that will be challenging to maintain in the future due to rapidly evolving technology.

**Selection Criteria:** Artist selection will be based on:

- Quality of the idea as it relates to the purpose of the building

- Durability of the artwork relative to environment, theft and vandalism

- Quality of work samples

- Ability of the artist to meet deadlines

- Interest level of the artist, as expressed in the cover letter

- Experience and accomplishments

**Finalists:** Up to three artists (or teams of artists) will be selected to prepare conceptual designs for this project. These proposals will then be submitted to the UNI Art & Architecture Committee with the opportunity to interview the finalists in

person or by phone at that time. Once the proposals are reviewed, final selection will take place as quickly as possible and the selected artist will be notified.

**Application Checklist:** To be considered for the Residence Hall Art Project, please submit one copy each of the following items:

- Brief letter of interest: Not to exceed one page. Describe your interest in the project and general vision or plan for the artwork. Explain any relevant details to your involvement, such as your process, medium and method by which you create your work.
- A CD of recent artwork or projects: Include 10-15 images of relevant art projects and work. Please label the images (LastName\_Image Number).
- Annotated image list: Complete image descriptions that include the title, medium, size, and date that corresponds with the image number of the CD.
- Professional resume.
- Names and contact information for three professional references familiar with your experience and/or potential in the field of public art.
- Participation in Iowa Arts Council public registry

**Submittals:**

Artists included in the Iowa Arts Council's Public Art Artist's Registry <http://roster.iowaartscouncil.org/> may indicate in their letter of interest that they wish to have their online portfolio reviewed for this project and that additional visual materials are not required.

Please do not send application materials electronically, mail one copy of all application materials directly to:

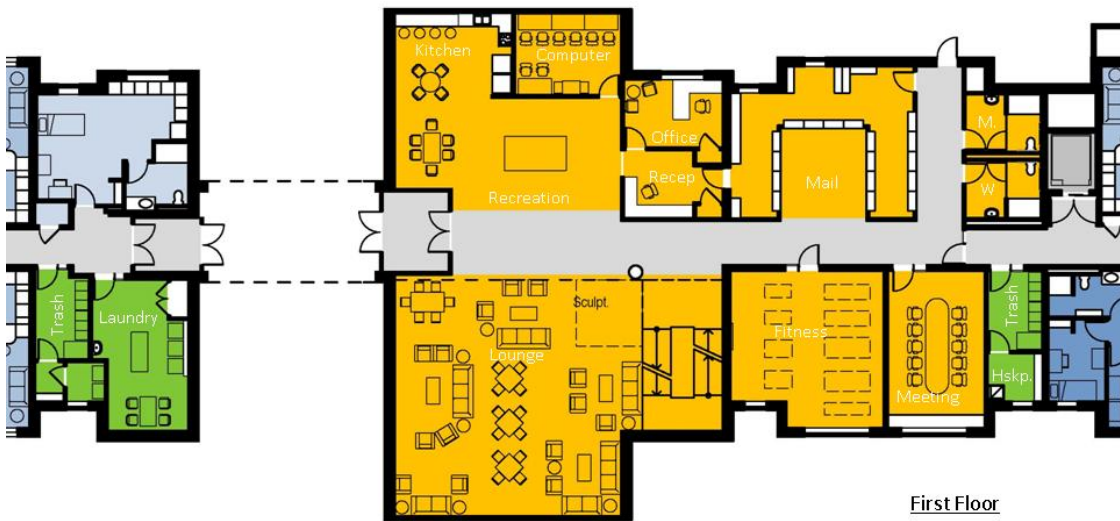
Steve Carignan, Chair,  
Art and Architecture Committee  
University of Northern Iowa  
Gallagher-Bluedorn PAC 13B  
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0801

**Site Images:**





Phase 1 – Enlarged Floor Plans



First Floor

