Request for Proposals

The Allegany Arts Council is seeking artist proposals for the development of a Public Art Across Maryland grant application to be completed in March 2023.
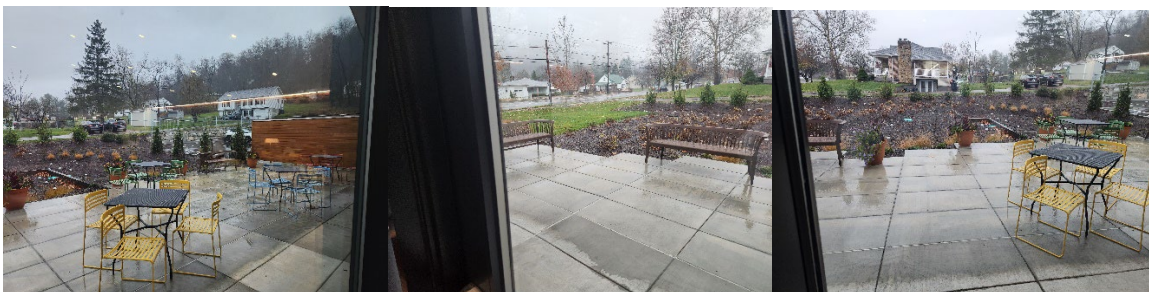
The deadline to submit proposals is December 30, 2022.
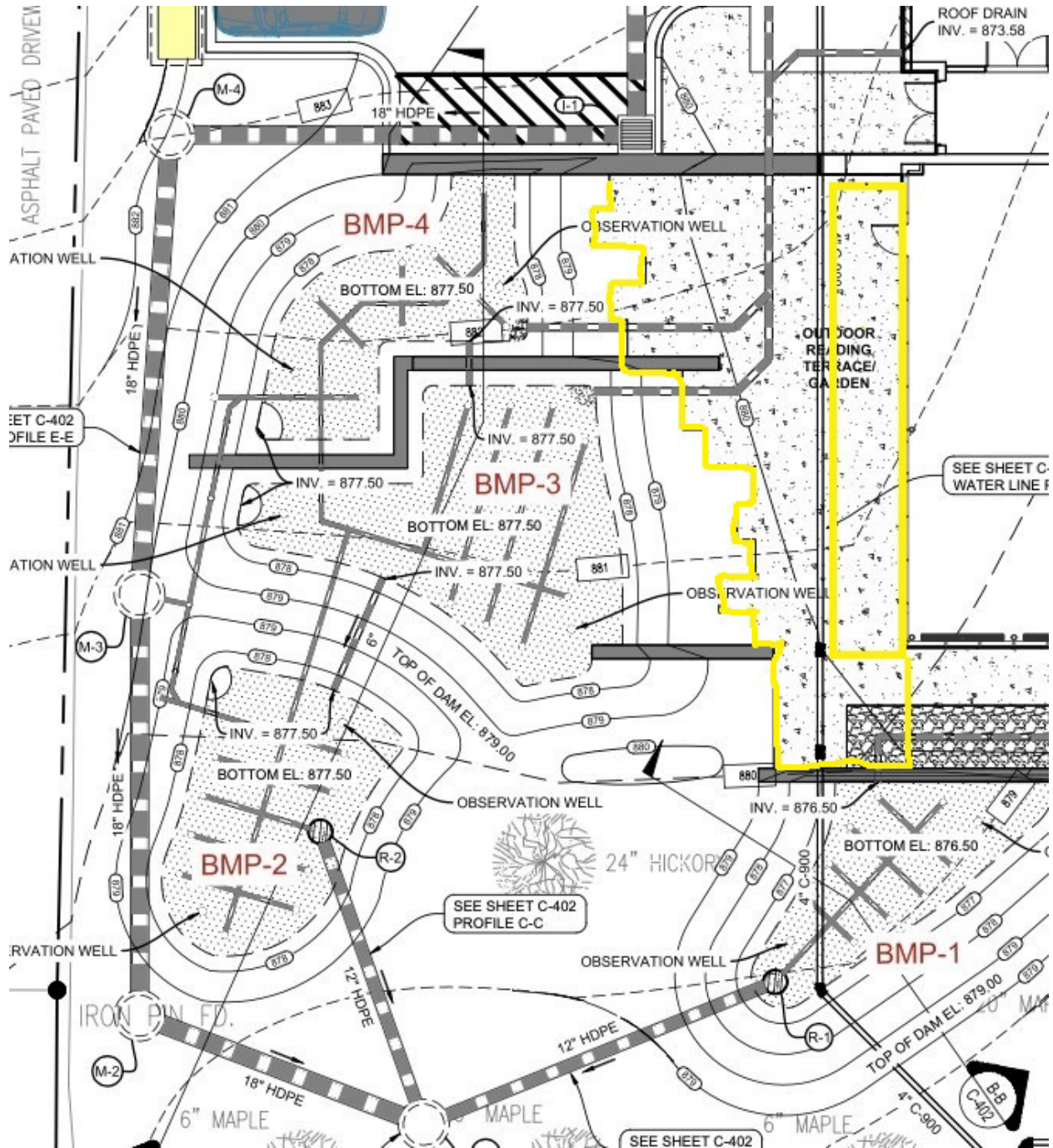
About the Project

In partnership with the Allegany County Library System, the Allegany Arts Council is developing a Public Art Across Maryland (PAAM) grant application for the newly-constructed LaVale Library located at 815 National Highway, LaVale, Maryland.

An important goal for the new library was to develop multipurpose spaces which blend indoor and outdoor use. The final design included an exterior reading and events patio which will be used for story times, music events, outdoor reading, and as an additional space for public gatherings. The patio is located on the southwest corner of the building and is accessible from the large reading room. The patio is located next to a stormwater management area which redirects runoff from the nearby mountain.

Because of its southwestern exposure, the reading and events patio receives direct sunlight for most afternoons and early evenings, making the space less desirable for use by the public, staff, and for events. The goal of the project is to develop public artwork which is three-dimensional, durable, and which provides sustainable shade to the patio area, enabling it to be fully utilized. Proposals could include canopies or sun shades, free-standing or affixed.

The above images show views looking from the indoor living room to the reading and events patio.

The above image shows the reading and events patio in yellow highlighter. Areas marked with "BMP" represent stormwater management areas located just beyond the patio's perimeter. Drawing not to scale.

Proposal Eligibility and Requirements

Proposals may be submitted by individual artists or artist teams. Applying artists must be Maryland residents under the Public Art Across Maryland guidelines.

Artists should carefully review the eligibility and requirements before making project proposals. Applications which are incomplete, or do not follow directions, may be disqualified.

Proposals **must** include all of the following:

1. **Concept Narrative** – (no more than 1000 words)
   The concept narrative should explain the artist's vision for the project and how it will achieve the established project goals.

2. **Project Description and Image** – (no more than 1000 words)
   The project description should specifically outline project elements and provide a basic conceptual drawing or visual representation of the concept design.

3. **Artist Resume** – applying artists should provide a complete resume for all members of the project team.

4. **Work Samples** – applying artists should provide up to six (6) prior work samples.

All items must be combined into a single PDF document which is no more than 20 pages. Responses should be sent to Julie Westendorff, Executive Director, at jwestendorff@alleganyarts.org.

Artist Selection Process

Submitted proposals will be compiled and presented to a review panel that will include artists, arts administrators, library personnel and public users. Three artist/artist teams will be selected to present a comprehensive, final design concept. Each finalist will receive $1500 to assist in development of the concept and will be expected to present the final design plan in person before the review panel. Finalists should consider methods of fabrication, materials and installation when preparing their concept for presentation.

The winning artist/artist team will be responsible for development of a fully-outlined budget, materials list, narrative and completed application for the Public Art Across Maryland New Works Grant due March 24, 2023. If awarded, the selected artist/artist team will work under the supervision of the Allegany Arts Council and will enter into a contract for services. The Allegany Arts Council will act as the lead applicant on the Public Art Across Maryland New Works grant application with support of the selected artist or artist team.

Public Input

The goal of the Public Art Across Maryland program is to create public artworks which include community input, and all projects funded by the program require input to be incorporated in final design plans.

For this project, several methods for public input may be utilized:
- Display of final concept designs at the LaVale library;
- Posting of final design concepts on social media platforms and to stakeholders of the Allegany Arts Council and Allegany County Library System;
- A public meeting in which the selected artists will be required to answer questions or interact with stakeholders about the final concept designs.

Selected Artist/Team

At the conclusion of the review panel and public input processes, one artist or artist team will be selected to develop the Public Art Across Maryland New Works application. The selected finalist will receive $2500 for development of the grant application, half of which will be distributed upon announcement and the remainder which will be disbursed once a completed application has been received and submitted to the Allegany Arts Council. The Arts Council will write and submit the grant application with support from the artist team.

The New Works grant, if awarded, will be in the amount of $50,000, and should include all expenses including, but not limited to: artist compensation, professional services (i.e., engineering or structural), materials, labor and installation, insurance, transportation and/or storage, and a contingency. In general, the Public Art Across Maryland program provides eighteen (18) months to complete installation.

Proposal Timeline

December 30, 2022: Deadline for Submissions
January 13, 2023: Review Panel Meeting & Finalist Notifications
February 10, 2023: Deadline for Final Design Concepts
February 17, 2023: Notification of Selected Artist/Team
March 10, 2023: 1st Draft of New Works Application Due
March 24, 2023: Final New Works Application Submitted