

CALL FOR ARTISTS: ART & ABILITY OUTDOORS

SUMMARY

Krasl Art Center (KAC) seeks artist proposals for an interactive, accessible, and multi-year outdoor installation in the East Garden of the museum's campus to be installed May 2025. The selected artist will conceptualize, design, and fabricate a site-specific installation that must be structurally sound and creatively interactive with a specific lens of accessible, universally designed art that engages all ages and abilities. The artwork will be accessed by the general public at all times of day.

This project is open to artists and designers regardless of whether they have achieved a project of this scope previously. Creativity, vision, competence and drive are key characteristics required for its fulfillment. The goal is to have an artist-envisioned, visually unique and engaging artwork. There is not a mandated theme or use of materials.

Artist Responsibilities:

- Vision
- Design
- Fabrication
- Installation (limited assistance available)

Project Budget: \$10,000 all inclusive

Timeline:

CFA Posted	October 11, 2024
Letters of Interest Due	November 15, 2024
Artist Selected	December 20, 2024
Project Install	May 12 - 23, 2025

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Location: East Garden @ Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd, St. Joseph, MI 49085

Critical Elements:

- The artwork must be accessible and inviting to all ages and abilities, following the principles of universal design.
- The installation must include an interactive component that is also accessible to all ages and abilities (may be sound-based, motion-based, etc., but if so must also engage visitors with impairments that prevent them from interacting with that aspect of the artwork).
- The artwork must withstand outdoor elements for at least two years.

Additional spatial considerations:

- Krasl Art Center is located across the street from a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. Strong winds are present year-round.
- The East Garden is a grass-covered space and, as such, is not currently wheelchair friendly. It is bordered on two sides by wheelchair accessible sidewalks. The installation should address this concern.
- Electric and water access are available on-site.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please submit the following to curatorial@krasl.org by November 15, 2024.

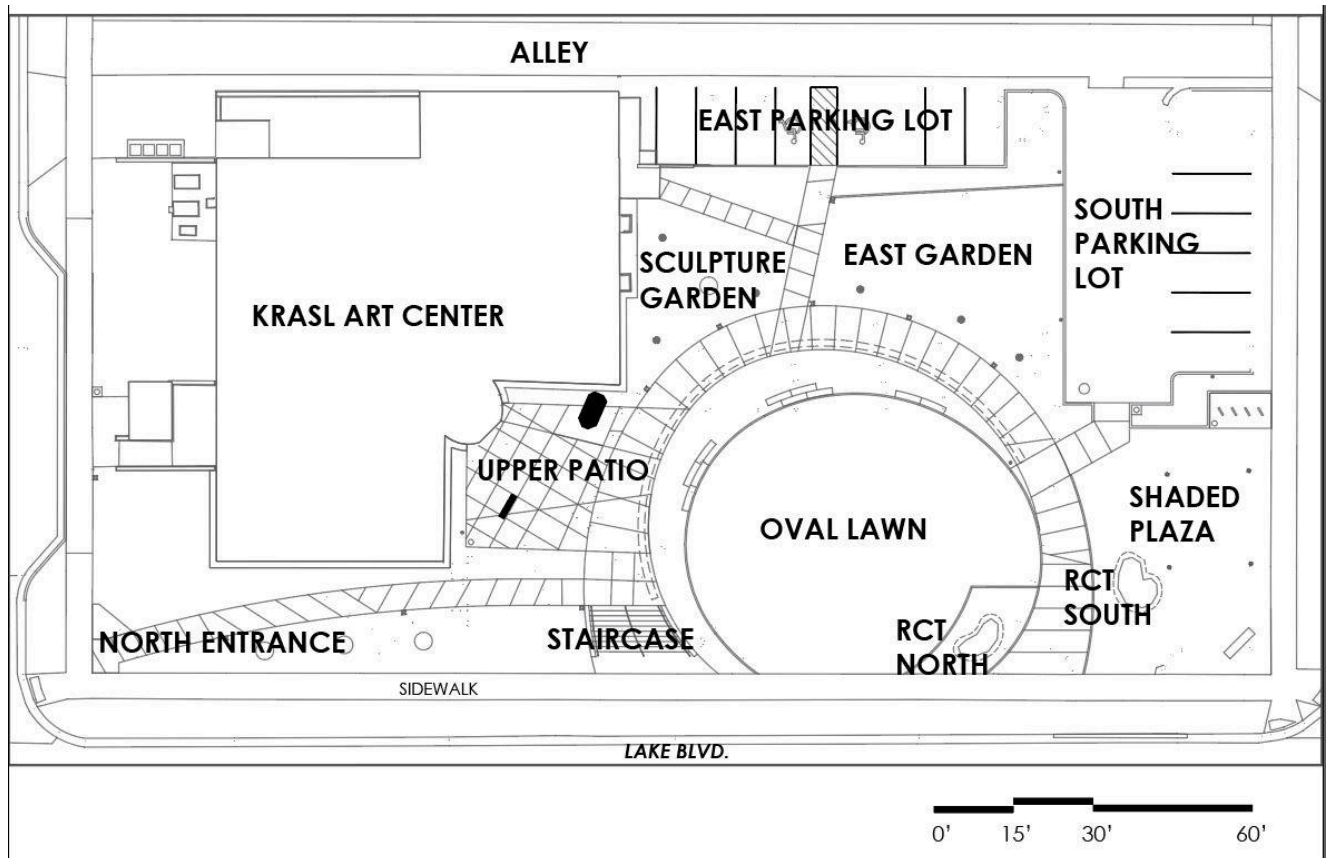
- **Letter of interest** addressing your approach to this project, as well as initial creative concepts (a fully realized design is not expected).
- **Qualifications.** While there are no specified prerequisites for this project, we ask for examples of skill sets relevant to its undertaking (This may or may not include educational background, past projects, photos, links to websites, social media, etc.)
- **Images:** 5-7 images of previous projects or artwork (including detail images) with detailed descriptions.

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PLAN & SITE IMAGES:



The outdoor installation is located in the **East Garden**, approximately 1,000 square feet of usable space.

Krasl Art Center's East Garden was dedicated in 2018 as an intimate outdoor space that inspires a sense of play, wonder, and reflection through interactive contemporary art installations. New projects have been installed annually, transforming and invigorating the space anew with fresh artistic vision. The 2025 project seeks to create a space that is truly interactive and engaging for all, and will remain on view for multiple years.

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Krasl Art Center Campus (2019): Example of Peter Krsko's wood-lathe sculpture *Ground Wave* on view in the East Garden. Tubes in the sculpture worked as musical instruments for visitors to play like drums. In the forefront is Richard Hunt's permanent welded-steel sculpture *Rising Crossing Tides*.

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PROMPTS:

- *How do we make the playfulness and creativity of artist-designed spaces engaging and accessible to all?*
- *What if KAC's East Garden had tactile pathways and wheelchair accessible teeter-totters? What if these elements were part of the artist's original design rather than equipment added as an afterthought?*
- *How can the East Garden create simultaneous experiences of joy* in which no visitor has to wait for a translation or rely on a helper to engage with the art?*

**This concept of simultaneous joy was inspired by the American Printing House for the Blind's Dot Experience.*