



Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse Torrington, Connecticut

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About the Art in Public Spaces Program:

Connecticut's Art in Public Spaces program was established in 1978 and requires 1% of the cost of construction or renovation of publicly accessible state buildings be allocated for the commission or purchase of artwork as part of the building's construction project. The [Connecticut Office of the Arts](#) and the Department of Administrative Services jointly administer the Art in Public Spaces Program. Visit the [Art in Public Spaces](#) program webpage for further information about the program and to view past installations throughout the state.

Project Summary:

The Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) and the Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse are currently seeking qualifications from artists for purchase and/or commission opportunities for the new courthouse in Torrington. The courthouse may consider a variety of new acquisitions (interior/exterior) including, but not limited to, paintings, sculptures, and site-specific installations.

Budget: approximately \$550,000

RFQ Deadline: July 15, 2016

Eligibility:

Artists MUST register a portfolio in **COA's [Art in Public Spaces Registry](#)** and/or **NEFA's [CreativeGround](#)** database by the deadline indicated above. Portfolios should provide a range of past work samples. The courthouse opportunity is open to both in-state and out-of-state artists with preference given to regional artists.

- **Art in Public Spaces Registry:** submit a new registration or update an existing profile. Artists should include a portfolio of images appropriate for large-scale public art commissions.
- **CreativeGround:** developed and managed by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) and available for artists who reside in any of the six (6) New England states.

About the Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse

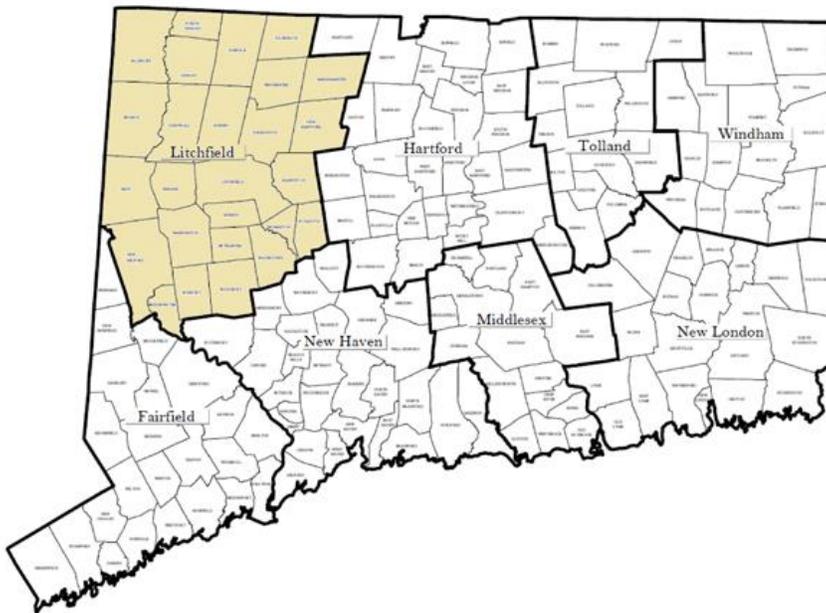
The new Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse complex is located in Torrington. The new courthouse will provide civil, criminal, family, and juvenile court functions and will include eight courtrooms, two hearing rooms, and associated support spaces. The site is located on 5.6 acres with an L-shaped building of 175,000 gross square feet. The south wing includes three stories and a basement and the north wing includes four stories and a basement. The lower profile of the south wing is in response to the nearby residential and low rise buildings with the design carefully considering the dominate scale of this new structure within the surrounding neighborhood.

The new building will reflect a traditional courthouse style with a mix of modern features. It will include a cast stone and brick exterior, a colonnade design feature, metal window lintels, and a stair tower. The courthouse will portray the image of a prominent government building while complementing the surrounding buildings on Field Street which are of an industrial style and are situated just outside of Torrington’s culturally vibrant downtown core.

The complex is consolidating four separate divisions of the court system under one roof in an effort to centralize all Litchfield County court functions into one state-of-the-art facility. As part of the consolidation three leased spaces will relocate; the Bantam Superior Court in Bantam (a borough of Litchfield), the Family Services Office in Litchfield, and the Juvenile Court in Torrington. Also as part of the consolidation is the state owned Judicial District Courthouse in Litchfield. The courthouse will serve residents of all 26 Litchfield County communities in a region filled with quintessential small-town New England historic character and beauty.

Litchfield County is located in the Northwest corner and serves the towns of:

- Barkhamsted
- Bethlehem
- Bridgewater
- Canaan
- Colebrook
- Cornwall
- Goshen
- Harwinton
- Kent
- Litchfield
- Morris
- New Hartford
- New Milford
- Norfolk
- North Canaan
- Plymouth
- Roxbury
- Salisbury
- Sharon
- Thomaston
- Torrington
- Warren
- Washington
- Watertown
- Winchester
- Woodbury



Construction is currently underway and is scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2016. Artists will design and install artwork for an occupied building; therefore, artists must consider the constraints of the physical space and be respectful of the courthouse operation schedule.

Project Description:

The committee for the courthouse project is interested in commissioning and/or purchasing the work of multiple artists as part of this opportunity with a focus on regional talent. The project is well suited for the placement of art within the interior of the building with some possible exterior locations. Therefore, the committee is focusing on large mural-based commissions (painted on panel/canvas and mounted on the wall) in addition to prints, photographs and other two-dimensional mediums. Interior wall reliefs and sculptural works may also be considered along with exterior site-specific installations.

Ultimately, the courthouse is seeking a variety of artworks that will achieve one or more of the qualities and characteristics noted below:

- Represents the history and beauty of the region, cultural history.
- Represent the people and places of each town within Litchfield County.
- Captures the identity of the region.
- Inspirational and able to evoke a sense of regional pride.
- Engages the public and creates a pleasing environment that encourages a positive and welcoming experience for visitors and staff.
- Speaks to the functions of the courthouse, educational, thought provoking.
- Complements the architecture of the courthouse and assists with wayfinding.
- Creates opportunities for meaningful distractions, helps visitors ease their minds from the potentially stressful reasons why they may be there.
- Identifies with the various court operations on each floor. For example, artwork placed within the juvenile court operations floor should reflect the needs of juveniles and their families.

The design team has thoughtfully created a building with an intuitive floor plan to support first-time visitors. The inclusion and careful placement of art will enhance the visitor experience and add to the simple and clean qualities of the new courthouse while instilling regional pride and thought provoking experiences.

Selection Process:

The Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse project is administered as a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Therefore, artists interested in this project must first register a portfolio in COA's [Art in Public Spaces Registry](#) or NEFA's [CreativeGround](#) database. There is no application process. The selection committee may review the portfolios of artists registered in the two databases and will shortlist a group of artists who will be invited to submit site-specific proposals for the project. The Art in Public Spaces registry is open to in-state and out-of-state artists interested in carrying out large-scale site-specific commissions through COA's Art in Public Spaces program. NEFA's Creative Ground is only open to New England artists and encompasses all artistic disciplines.

Portfolios of artists currently registered will automatically be reviewed. The registry is designed as a one-time registration process allowing artists to be considered for multiple projects; therefore, portfolios should include a range of work samples. COA recommends limiting updates to no more than once a year.

Project Timeline (all dates are subject to change):

RFQ Deadline:	July 15, 2016
Shortlisted artists selected by:	Fall 2016
Artist selected by:	Fall / Winter 2016

ALL questions related to the Art in Public Spaces program and the Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse opportunity, please contact: Tamara Dimitri, Art in Public Spaces Program Specialist, Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA), tamara.dimitri@ct.gov