

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

# The Windows Project



## Introduction

The School of Information Studies (iSchool), in partnership with the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA), seeks to commission up to six new site-specific art works for installation in the newly renovated Hinds Hall.

Proposals for artwork to be permanently installed in the ground floor of Hinds Hall are now being accepted from members of the Syracuse University community, including students, faculty, and staff. Based on submitted proposals, a short list of artists will be asked to present their work to a jury composed of iSchool Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy as well as selected representatives of the iSchool, VPA, and the Syracuse arts community. The commission will be awarded during the first week in May and installation will occur during the summer months.

Hinds Hall, the new home of the iSchool, has received a 2008 American Institute of Architects Central New York Chapter Citation Award for the redesign and renovations conducted by Ashley McGraw Architects of Syracuse. These improvements have provided us with a state-of-the-art facility for research and education.

Following this example of exceptional design work done to date, Dean Liddy would like to invite the University community to make proposals for an as-yet unfinished portion of the building. The classrooms and computer labs on the ground floor receive natural light through several banks of windows that run along the south and west sides of the building. However, because these rooms are below ground level, the windows look directly out onto raw concrete window wells. The focus of the commissioned artwork is to integrate these unfinished but highly visible spaces with the rest of the building.

Former Dean Raymond F. von Dran, during his meticulous planning of the Hinds Hall renovations, had envisioned that these spaces would be used to display unique works of art designed specifically for the iSchool. Dean Liddy would like to make this vision a reality. The Windows Project will result in the selection of up to six commissioned site-specific art pieces to be permanently installed in the Hinds Hall window wells.



School of Information Studies  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

## IMPORTANT DATES

*Information session*  
5 p.m. Thursday, April 2  
Hinds Hall 011

*Deadline to submit a proposal*  
5 p.m. Thursday, April 23

*Semi-finalist announced*  
6 p.m. Friday, April 24

*Semi-finalists presentations*  
6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 30

*Finalists announced*  
5 p.m. Tuesday, May 5

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- Install professional, high-quality commissioned artwork in Hinds Hall as a capstone to recent award-winning renovations
- Raise awareness of the accomplishments, culture, and scholarship of the iSchool
- Explore connections between information, technology, art, and design
- Provide a substantial commission opportunity for Syracuse University artist
- Build on the rapidly growing partnership between the iSchool and VPA

## PROJECT COORDINATORS

Jaime Snyder, [jasnyd01@syr.edu](mailto:jasnyd01@syr.edu)

Anne Cofer, [acofer@syr.edu](mailto:acofer@syr.edu)

## PROJECT DETAILS

[ischool.syr.edu/windowsproject](http://ischool.syr.edu/windowsproject)

*Including photographs and schematics*

## Commission Format

The format of the work submitted should carefully consider the information listed below:

- The unique nature of the location designated for permanent artworks should be carefully considered. The spaces are positioned below ground and lit from above. The spaces are surrounded by concrete walls on three sides and banks of windows on the fourth side through which the artwork will be viewed.
- Proposals can focus on a single window well, or include plans for anywhere up to six of the spaces. The six available window wells are located in **Hinds 010, 018, 020, and 027** on the ground floor. Should it be necessary, due to the scope of the accepted proposal(s), the selection committee may ask that a concept be modified in order to accommodate the suite of selected works.
- An innovative approach to materials, concepts and techniques is encouraged, including the use of electronics; however the artwork should be durable for permanent installation in an outdoor setting. Similarly the structure of the artwork should require limited maintenance.
- The chosen artist/s will be encouraged to visit the site during concept development, as intimate consideration of the space is essential to the success of the project. Because classes meet regularly in the rooms where the window wells are located, please contact Jaime Snyder, [jasnyd01@syr.edu](mailto:jasnyd01@syr.edu) for a schedule of open times to view the spaces.
- The artwork will be viewed primarily by the faculty and students who use the classrooms located on the ground floor. Installations that address the specific work environment, the mission of the iSchool or provide some reflection of its history are possible themes, but diverse interpretations of the project are highly encouraged.

## Budget

Approximately \$2,500 per window will be available to cover the costs of materials and fabrication. Estimated budget should include cost of labor and materials.

Supplemental funding may be available for artwork requiring additional funding (i.e., those requiring third-party fabrication, alterations to the physical structure of the well, or special expertise related to installation). Justification for anticipated additional expenses must accompany the initial proposal.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Every effort will be made to comply with the original intentions of the artist and specific requirements of the selected artwork, however:

- The sites are somewhat sheltered but work must be durable for year round outdoor exposure.
- Entry to each site is limited. For installation and maintenance, access will be through overhead metal grills.
- Use of the metal grills as part of the installation cannot interfere with access to the site for building maintenance.
- Proposals should not significantly impede the natural light available through these windows as this is the only source of sunlight in the ground floor classrooms.
- Each site contains floor drainage which cannot be inhibited or interfered with by the installed work.
- Installation of artwork will be performed in accordance with Syracuse University regulations. Selected artists may be asked to work with University services providers for fabrication and/or installation.
- The iSchool will provide support throughout the installation process, including facilitating communication with relevant University offices.
- Site dimensions will be posted at: [ischool.syr.edu/windowsproject](http://ischool.syr.edu/windowsproject).

## Submission Instructions

Please submit proposals in digital format, preferably as one or more JPEG or PDF files. Your proposal should include:

- A description of the proposed artwork, including a detailed description with dimensions, materials, etc.
- Visual representation of the proposed artwork in context of the location if possible, using drawings, computer generated images, photographs, etc (optional).
- Technical specifications for the work, including necessary equipment, software programming, construction and installation process for the artwork.
- A detailed estimated budget showing a breakdown of costs for both the materials and fabrication of the work.
- Details of any required ongoing maintenance for the artwork (if applicable).
- A current CV.
- Examples of previous work, preferably accessible via a website (please include a URL). There is no limit to the number of images you may submit via a website. If samples are not available online, please supply images or video on CD or DVD. No more than 2 CDs or DVDs should be submitted.

All materials must reach the School of Information Studies offices by 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2009.

Submit your proposal by email to: [windows@syr.edu](mailto:windows@syr.edu).

In the event that it is not possible to submit electronic files, a hard copy of your proposal can be delivered to:

Windows Project  
School of Information Studies  
114 Hinds Hall  
Syracuse, NY 13244

Please ensure that all submitted materials (digital or hard-copy) are clearly marked with the artist's name and contact details. For hard copies of proposal materials, a stamped addressed envelope should be included to guarantee safe return of support materials.

The School of Information Studies reserves the right not to commission work the proposals received are deemed to be unsuitable. In this case, the iSchool will reserve the right to pursue a different procurement process.

## **A VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION SESSION WILL BE HELD AT 5 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 2, HINDS HALL 011.**

If you cannot attend this meeting but wish to submit a proposal you must contact Jaime Snyder at [jasnyd01@syr.edu](mailto:jasnyd01@syr.edu) as soon as possible.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

All Syracuse University Faculty, Staff and students are eligible to apply. Submissions from experienced installation artists are strongly encouraged, however proposals from individuals without the technical expertise to fabricate artwork will also be considered and appropriate support provided, if such a proposal is chosen for permanent installation. We are particularly interested in proposals submitted by collaborative teams that include faculty and students and/or members from more than one school or college.

## Overview of the iSchool at Syracuse University

With its roots in librarianship, the School of Information Studies (iSchool) evolved into the country's first information school in 1974, when it broadened its focus and its name from library science to the more comprehensive information studies. The Syracuse iSchool brought library science schools into the 21st century and has a long tradition of leading innovation and change. Our ideals and values— inquiry, individuality, diversity, adaptability, unity, and continuity— are the foundation for our success. Our vision is to expand human capabilities through information.

At the School of Information Studies, we view information as a resource that can and should be managed. We seek ways to use existing and emerging technologies to facilitate the efficient transfer of information from repositories, libraries, or computer storage devices to the people and organizations needing it. As a professional school, the School of Information Studies prepares graduates for careers as managers and information professionals who will oversee the development and use of information resources of all types. Information studies must also consider the rapid changes in computer and telecommunications technologies that have profoundly affected the way information is stored, processed, and transmitted. And, because we believe that information is to be used, information studies also includes aspects of the social sciences in order to integrate technical knowledge with a thorough understanding of how people and organizations seek and use information.

Our approach stands out from other institutions that offer computer science, management, information science, and related programs in that our focus is on users and user information needs as a starting point for integrating information and information technology into organizations. The faculty combines expertise in information systems, linguistics, computer science, library science, business management, management information systems, telecommunications and communication. Our faculty members are very active in research topics that reflect their diverse intellectual backgrounds and interests.

We are a leading center for innovative programs in information policy, information behavior, information management, information systems, information technology, and information services. A nationally ranked school (*U.S. News and World Report*), the iSchool has professional degree programs at the undergraduate and master's levels and research and professional degrees at the doctoral level. The iSchool offers our master's programs in campus and distance learning formats.

## SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the information session on Thursday April 2nd 2009. If you cannot attend this meeting, please contact project manager Jaime Snyder, [jasnyd01@syr.edu](mailto:jasnyd01@syr.edu).

- Applications must be submitted by the published deadline of April 23th 2009
- Semi finalists will be notified on April 24th 2009
- Each semi finalist is required to present their proposal to a selection committee on April 30th 2009
- The selected artist/s will be notified at the beginning of May
- Installation of selected artwork must take place between May and August 2009

This is a two-stage open competition selected by a specialist panel. The likely composition of the selection panel will be Dean Liddy, Dean Clarke, Deb Ryan (Senior curator, Everson Museum) and one or more iSchool faculty members.

The permanent site specific installation/s will be selected taking account of the following criteria:

- Quality of the idea presented including originality, impact, scale and connections made to its context
- Suitability of the proposal to the proposed site
- Feasibility of the proposal to the proposed site
- Durability and implications for maintenance