



## Capitol Region Watershed District

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# Request for Qualifications

**Date:** September 9, 2024  
**To:** Call for Artists  
**From:** Jessica Bromelkamp, Division Manager  
**Subject:** Request for Qualifications for CRWD's Watershed Artist in Residence  
**Enclosures:** Exhibit A – Field Guide for Working with Artists  
Exhibit B – The Watershed Language of Art Plan  
Exhibit C – Example Consultant Services Agreement

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### **Call for Artists**

Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) is seeking a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) from Twin Cities based artists for its Watershed Artist in Residence (AiR) program. This two-year position with an option to renew includes opportunities to help shape CRWD's past, present, and future projects and programs by providing artistic/creative perspectives as part of an interdisciplinary team and facilitating Art + Water community workshops at CRWD's Watershed Learning Center in collaboration with other local artists.

### **About Capitol Region Watershed District**

CRWD is a special purpose local unit of government that manages water resources within portions of Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, Maplewood, Roseville, and Saint Paul. Staff carry out a range of programs, projects, and capital improvements designed to protect, manage, and improve the resources within its jurisdiction, including creeks, wetlands, lakes, natural areas, and the Mississippi River. CRWD's work includes monitoring and research, overseeing stormwater management on construction projects, providing technical and financial assistance for clean water projects, ongoing communications and community engagement, watershed management planning, and building large scale projects with partners to leverage resources and encourage stewardship of our water resources.

### **About the Watershed Artist in Residence Program**

In 2010, CRWD launched our first Watershed AiR Program in partnership with Public Art Saint Paul and Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District with the goals of opening a dialogue between water resource managers about how artists might make the invisible visible to achieve water quality improvements and developing a Watershed Art Plan to identify opportunities for integrating art into CRWD's existing and upcoming work.

The first CRWD capital project to incorporate art occurred along the Central Corridor, now known as the Green Line. In 2012, CRWD constructed boulevard stormwater planters and rain gardens at nine locations adjacent to University Avenue in Saint Paul. Working with CRWD staff, Barr Engineering, and artist Lisa Elias, the stormwater planters incorporated decorative railings evoking water, Kasota

stone benches, and interpretative signage designed by Jim Roe. This was an early shift to transform an infrastructure feature into an aesthetic and informational community space.

CRWD's work with artists has grown exponentially over the past decade. We have collaborated with photographers, videographers, illustrators, painters, and social practice artists to connect the communities we serve to our natural and water resources and teach them more about the nearly 2,500 clean water projects we've completed throughout the District. CRWD has supported performative artists such as dancers, poets, and theatrical productions to increase clean water knowledge and actions through our Partner Grants program. Lastly, we worked with an artist specializing in data visualization to help bring water quality data from our Trout Brook Storm Sewer Inceptor to life for building visitors.

CRWD's journey of integrating art and artists into our work has been one of continued growth both in terms of developing new partnerships and relationships in our communities as well as expanding how we define art and create engagement opportunities throughout the watershed. Partnering with artists has offered new ways of envisioning, connecting, and valuing our precious water resources, while recognizing different perspectives and ways of knowing. We have witnessed firsthand how the arts can powerfully convey stories which serve to inspire residents to learn about our water, natural resources, and clean water projects above and below ground in new and innovative ways.

CRWD developed a Field Guide for Working with Artists in 2022. The Field Guide outlines recommendations and existing models of working with artists to facilitate integrating art and artists into the work of CRWD. The Field Guide also provides a roadmap for CRWD staff and Board members, acknowledging that these approaches may change over time. The guide covers a board range of art approaches including a residency model, short term engagement, internships, commissions, and inclusion of artists on project teams.

### **Looking Ahead**

CRWD's next AiR will engage with our staff and partners in two phases. First "upstream," the AiR will be integrated into the humming ecosystem of CRWD's projects and programs to provide a creative perspective in the development and execution of District initiatives of all scales. This will include monthly (in-person) office hours to collaborate with CRWD staff in addition to project meetings. Project examples may include co-creating a permanent exhibit, developing plans to showcase the work of local artists, reimagining CRWD's permanent and temporary project signage, co-creating curriculum for K-12 audiences, and connecting our communities to large scale capital improvement projects that have been completed or are underway such as a project planned at McMurray Fields. Early engagement creates more opportunities not only for the art to be more fully integrated, but for the creative process to have more of an impact in the way the project or program is conceived. Second, "downstream," the AiR will plant new seeds by curating, coordinating, and facilitating Art + Water community workshops at CRWD's Watershed Learning Center in partnership with staff and other artists.

The AiR is a two-year position with an option to renew at the end of 2026. The anticipated level of funding for the AiR annually is approximately \$20,000 with additional funds set aside for workshops, a

permanent exhibit, and other artistic initiatives. The anticipated start date is January 1, 2025. Visit the [AiR RFQ page](#) of CRWD's website for more information.

### **Statement of Qualifications Requirements**

The SOQ shall include a statement of interest and a detailed description of how your expertise will enhance the work of the District. Additionally, please provide the following:

- An artistic resume with your contact information including address, phone, and email.
- Recent experience curating, coordinating, and facilitating community workshops with an emphasis on topics relevant to the work of the District.
- A portfolio including descriptions, images, and budgets of projects in which you were the lead artist or designer.
- Recent experience collaborating with the public sector, community organizations, and other artists on projects.
- Strong project management, facilitation, organization, and communication skills.
- Other commitments over the next two years and your availability.

The SOQ may not exceed five pages in length excluding your resume and portfolio. The deadline for submittals is **October 18**. Please submit an electronic PDF to Jessica Bromelkamp, Communications & Engagement Division Manager, at [jbromelkamp@capitolregionwd.org](mailto:jbromelkamp@capitolregionwd.org) with the subject Watershed Artist-in Residence.

### **Optional Watershed Artist-in-Residence Open House**

An Open House will be held at CRWD on **September 26 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** The Open House will include a brief presentation and tour of CRWD's Watershed Learning Center. Staff will introduce the organization, Watershed AiR Program, and Request for Qualifications. [RSVP for the Open House](#). Join us to ask questions or submit them via email to Jessica Bromelkamp by **October 4**. All questions and answers will be shared on the [AiR RFQ page](#) of CRWD's website by **October 11**.

### **Selection Process & Criteria**

A committee comprised of CRWD staff, Board of Managers, and an external partner will review the SOQs. The committee will select 1-2 artists to interview for the position prior to making a recommendation to the Board. Once Board approval is complete, CRWD staff will work with the artist to develop a detailed annual work plan, budget, and schedule.

The committee's review will be based on the following criteria: recent experience curating, coordinating, and facilitating community workshops; a portfolio with project images, descriptions and budgets that includes public, private and community partners; strong management, facilitation, organization, and communication skills; and the artist's availability over the next two years. Examples with a strong connection to CRWD's mission and the communities we serve will be given priority.

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Applicants are invited to review the Example Consultant Services Agreement (Exhibit C) for details regarding insurance requirements and other conditions associated with the AiR position.

Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Jessica Bromelkamp

Communications & Engagement Division Manager

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