

# TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER

## Spring/Summer 2018 - Common Space Art REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Application Deadline: March 1, 2018**

\$25 application fee. \$10 for artists with a current lease or sublease at the Torpedo Factory.

Request for Proposals (RFP): The Torpedo Factory Art Center (TFAC), presently managed by the City of Alexandria Office of the Arts, invites artists and artist teams (Artists) residing in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, to submit their qualifications and proposals for the Torpedo Factory Art Center's common areas.

### Project Overview

Up to three (3) Artists will be selected to install works of art in three (3) designated public locations inside the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Artists will submit sketches, photos, or renderings of proposed work to be installed and examples of past works. The artwork proposed for installation should be new art never exhibited in the Virginia, Maryland, or District of Columbia. Artists are responsible for the installation of the artwork under the direction of TFAC staff. The Juror, Lauren Ross, has curated exhibits at the Institute for Contemporary Art in Richmond, VA; Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, OK; the High Line, New York, NY; Brooklyn Museum, NY; and White Columns, New York, NY.

### Background

2018 marks 100 years since the day construction began on the Torpedo Factory building in 1918. The Torpedo Factory Art Center has a rich history as a naval munitions plant, federal government storage facility and art center. Continuing with the great tradition of the art center, established in 1974, the Torpedo Factory strives for high-quality cutting-edge art experiences and engaging programs.

The Torpedo Factory believes that art selected for exhibition in its public areas should reflect the organization's mission to ignite the creative spirit. (The full mission and values may be found via [torpedofactory.org/about-us/mission](http://torpedofactory.org/about-us/mission)). Selected art should be of high quality. Value will be based on artistic merit and/or visitor engagement.

The purpose of this Request for Proposal is to ensure new, quality art is purposely exhibited in the Art Center. We encourage all artists considering applying, to visit the Torpedo Factory and explore the space. The Torpedo Factory is easily accessible by DC metro via the Blue/Yellow to King Street station, and free King Street Trolley bus located at the station.

### Eligibility

Artists must be 18 years or older and reside in Virginia, Maryland, or the District of Columbia. Artists who have not made public art are encouraged to apply if they have at least five years of experience as a professional working artist as evidenced by their exhibition record, critical reviews, honors, and awards.

### Timeline

- March 1, 2018: Entries due
- March 13, 2018: Results announced
- April 20, 2018: Last day for artwork to be installed
- September 14, 2018: Locations de-installed (unless otherwise arranged with written agreement)

### Honorarium

Chosen Artists will be paid \$500 - \$1,000 to create and install the artwork. See "Site Locations" for details.

### Artist Selection Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate the following qualifications:

1. Artistic merit of body of work
2. Strong conceptual skill with innovative and effective approaches demonstrated in other creative projects
3. Ability to design engaging artwork with/for the community that is appropriate for the location
4. Ability and willingness to collaborate with TFAC staff and stakeholders
5. Probability of successful execution and completion of project
6. Effective communication and organizational skills

7. Completeness of application
8. Artist Statement: In general terms, Artists must clearly describe their approach to their artwork.
9. Letter of Interest: Artists must clearly describe their interest in and approach to this project.
10. Resume / CV

### **Additional Information**

The Artist will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the TFAC. Artwork selected for public exhibit will not be insured by the TFAC or City of Alexandria.

### **How to Apply**

- Visit [torpedofactory.org/artopps](http://torpedofactory.org/artopps) to access the online application. (Application is only online).
- Applications will include:
  - 10-15 images of related past work
  - 3-6 sketches, drawings of proposed work or photographs of actual work (video is welcome)
  - Artist Statement
  - Letter of Interest describing the approach to this project and proposal
  - Resume / CV

### **Submit questions**

Brett John Johnson, Director, Torpedo Factory Art Center (City of Alexandria), [brett.johnson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:brett.johnson@alexandriava.gov)

### **About the Juror**

Lauren Ross is a curator and writer based in Richmond, Virginia, where she recently founded the RVA Critical Art Writing Program. Lauren has served as a curator at such institutions as the Institute for Contemporary Art in Richmond, VA; Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, OK; the High Line, New York, NY; Brooklyn Museum, NY; and White Columns, New York, NY. As a writer, she has contributed to exhibition catalogs published by The Dallas Museum of Art, The Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, as well as to periodicals such as The Art Newspaper, Art in America, and Burnaway. Lauren has taught at Virginia Commonwealth University, the School of Visual Arts, the Rhode Island School of Design, and the Whitney Museum.

### **Site Locations**

Artwork will be required to hold up to potential handling of visitors, follow standard safety and emergency codes, and potentially be moved (and returned) by Office of the Arts staff.

#### **A. Grand Hall South End**

- a. Honorarium: \$1,000
- b. Space considerations & requirements:
  - i. This space consists of the first and second floor “catwalk” or space on the outside of the railing.
  - ii. The whole space does not need to be utilized.
  - iii. Event rentals take place in this space, therefore all artwork must either hang at least 8 feet above the ground or, for work on the ground, be movable (by TFAC staff) and able to pass through a standard doorway.
  - iv. Artwork may not block walking access for visitors or visual or physical access to studios/galleries in that location.

#### **B. Grand Hall Central I Beam**

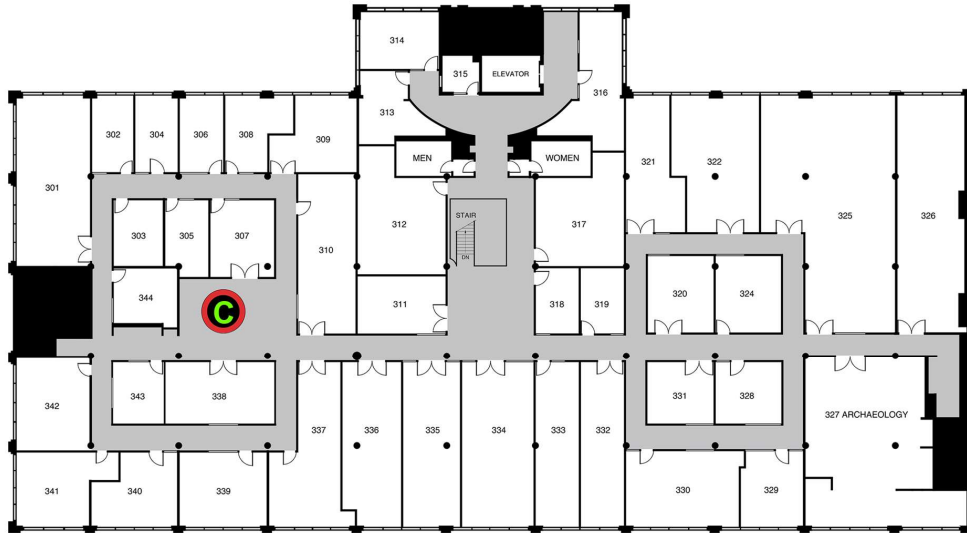
- a. Honorarium: \$500
- b. Space considerations & requirements:
  - i. Artwork must hang from the central I Beam only, and be at least 8 feet off the ground.
  - ii. This artwork will not be required to be moved.
  - iii. Artwork will be visible from second and first floor, and will be lit from above.
  - iv. Artwork should weigh less than 200lb.

#### **C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Smoke Stack**

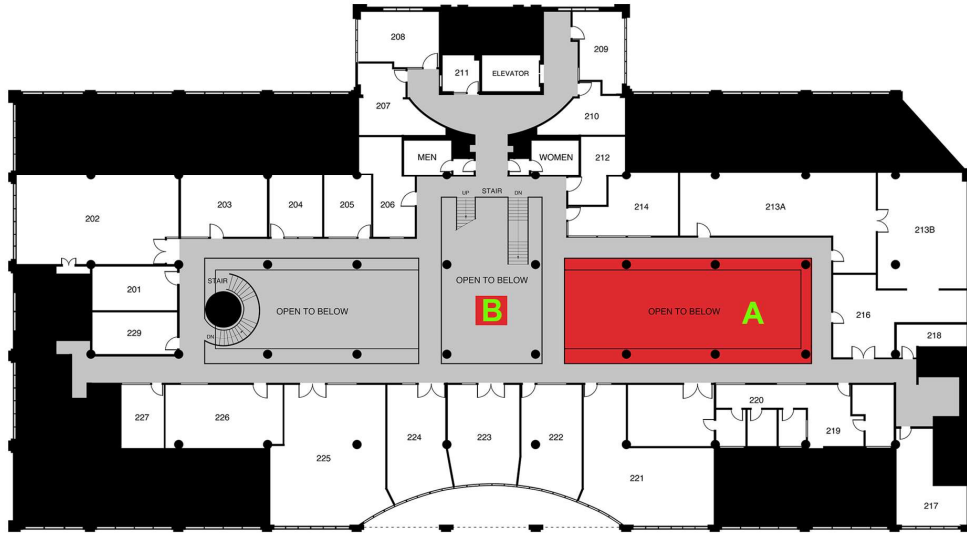
- a. Honorarium: \$500
- b. Space considerations & requirements:
  - i. The smoke stack is a large interior round wall. It has a 14” lip around it on the floor. Artwork may be placed on the lip or extend out 14” off the smoke stack.
  - ii. Nothing may be drilled into the smoke stack and adhesive may not be used. It may, however, be wrapped with material or have material lean on it.

# Torpedo Factory Art Center - Site Locations

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