



Call to Artists

53 Commissions for Permanent Two & Three Dimensional Artworks!

→APPLY ONLINE AT: <https://dcdgs.call2artists.com>

Applications Due May 29, 2023

Opportunity

The Department of General Services (“Department” or “DGS”) is issuing this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to engage individual artists and artistic teams (Artist) to respond to this Call to Artists with professional qualifications in addition to a proposal of site-specific artistic capital improvements for the renovation and additions to the following properties in Washington, DC. The Artists shall develop a new original permanent work of art made specifically for each awarded commission.

1. Garfield Elementary School
2. Whitlock Elementary School
3. School Without Walls at Francis Stevens
4. Dorothy Height Elementary School
5. Stead Park Recreation Center
6. Joy Evans Therapeutic Recreation Center

Project Goals, Themes, & Budget

This Call for Artists seeks works of art for the following spaces throughout the listed properties below. Please be very specific (referring to School or Recreation Center and Location number) as which piece(s) of art you are responding to. There is one online application where you can just check off the commissions for which you are applying.

About DGS and the Percent for Art program

The Department of General Services (DGS) began its percent for art program in 2013 as a way to support our local creative economy and complement our award-winning architecture with diverse and inspiring permanent works of art. Since inception, DGS has commissioned nearly 400 works of art for nearly 20 properties – about 75 new works of art per year for the city. Our portfolio includes schools, shelters, parks and recreation and office buildings. Note: our sister agencies – the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities has a very robust public art program, as does DC Department of Public Works Mural Program, DC Libraries and DC Department of Transportation. In addition, in D.C., the GSA and Metro also have very robust public art programs. Thus, we are honored to do our part in a vibrant network of cultural resources in Washington, D.C. to support artists and elevate our built environment.

Our commissions range from large scale exterior sculptures, installations, suspended works of art, mixed media, paintings, illustrations, graphics, photography, furniture and even poetry. The program always reserves at least 50% of its commissions to DC artists or artists represented by DC galleries to ensure that our tax dollars are reinvested back into our local community. Even artists from outside of D.C. typically contribute to our local creative economy by working with local fabricators, printers, equipment rental outfits and installers – some of whom have even taken on emerging artists as assistants for installation and as mentees. All in all, we have a profound and deep gratitude for the artists, architects, construction teams and community who contribute to each commission.

The Department of General Services (DGS) has a mission to elevate the quality of life for the District with superior construction, first-rate maintenance and expert real estate management. By building and maintaining safe and green state-of-the-art facilities which foster economic growth and elevate educational environments, our trusted and skillful employees create modern and vibrant communities across all of the District of Columbia.

The Department of General Services (DGS), a relatively newly-established District agency, provides cost-effective, centralized facility management services. In October of 2011, the agency assumed the functions and responsibilities of the Department of Real Estate Services (DRES), Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM), Municipal Facilities: Non-Capital agency, and the capital construction and real property management functions of several other District agencies.

DGS improves the efficiencies of basic services, while removing redundancies, to provide the most cost-effective management and ensure the best value of the District's property acquisition, construction and maintenance resources.

Eligibility

The competition is open to professional artists with a minimum of five years of site-specific and/or public art experience. Some categories are restricted to artists from Washington, D.C. or artists who are represented by a D.C. gallery. Artists should have demonstrated experience working with community representatives, youth, businesses and government entities. In addition, the selected artist shall actively engage and collaborate with local residents.

Selection Criteria & Process

The selection panel, representing diverse interests and expertise, will review images submitted by artists and recommend (3) three to (5) five Finalists for each project for the first (1st) round. Each Finalist will be awarded a \$500 honorarium to create a site-specific design proposal that includes a rendering, an itemized budget, a project timeline, and a project narrative. For the second (2nd) round, the selection panel will review the design proposals, references will be checked and then (1) one finalist/team for the project will be recommended. Finalists will be notified by email. The artist's presentation of the site-specific proposal to the panel will be held virtually via "GoTo Meeting." Please note the Calendar and Timeline below.

Local finalists are welcome to attend the site visit (but DGS will share pictures to everyone via email)

The Public Art Evaluation Criteria used for Round 2 finalists will consider the artistic content, community engagement & impact, and capacity & sustainability

Artistic Content

The applicant's work sample and support materials (brochures, articles, letters of support, etc.) demonstrate high standards of artistic excellence within the chosen discipline(s);
Artist(s) and/or applicant's written concept exhibits high quality, innovation and creativity
Applicant has experience with site specific public art projects and uses personnel with demonstrated arts expertise (such as arts administrator, professional artists) to plan and implement artistic content;
The described project, goals and schedule of planned activities are feasible;
The applicant demonstrates a commitment to hiring DC-based artists, where applicable, to deliver artistic content (such as arts administrators, professional artists); and
Artist(s) and/or applicant demonstrate the ability to translate artistic discipline to project participants.
The Artist's portfolio of work is feasible for this particular project.

Community Engagement and Impact

Project provides shared learning opportunities in the District that facilitate a greater participation in the arts, relative to the artistic discipline
Applicant demonstrates sensitivity to the cultural, ethnic and economic background of the participants and the residents of the District of Columbia
Project addresses significant diversity of expression; Project addresses needs of the community;
Project location(s) and presentation(s) are accessible to persons with disabilities; and
Applicant has substantive experience working with community representatives, landscape architects, business and government entities

Notes:

2D: Two-dimensional. 2D pieces, typically wall-mounted, can be either bas relief, mixed media, painting, or printed. 2D pieces shall not protrude more than 4" from the wall surface and shall be kid-safe.

3D: Three-dimensional. Typically for exterior or interior-suspended. Works shall be child-friendly, meaning touchable (if in reach as opposed to suspended works for example), kid-safe and durable.

There are two (2) selection processes:

Request for Qualifications (RFQ), whereby an Artist and/or Team submits images of prior work demonstrating a minimum of five years of site-specific public art experience.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 29, 2023

SEMI-FINALISTS ANNOUNCED: June 20, 2023

The finalist for each location will be determined through an Art Selection Committee selection process. Due to the quantity of artwork being commissioned, the Selection Committee reserves the right to direct commission and/or select artists who applied for one commission location for any other location. This will be a commission for a new original permanent work of art made specifically for the site. A site visit will be conducted in concert with the architect and general contractor prior to the submittal of a site-specific design proposal and photos will be shared with out-of-town finalists, or finalists who are otherwise unable to attend the site visit.

SITE SPECIFIC DESIGN PROPOSAL DEADLINE: August 23, 2023

Site Specific Design Proposals shall include or consider the following:

- Fabricated from durable, low-maintenance material that can withstand the elements and requires minimal maintenance. This work will be permanently installed in a school or recreation center and must be able to withstand in an environment of very rigorous usage
- The work commissioned is for permanent installation and therefore should last for at least 50 years.
- Incorporate context of the local community, with sensitivity to the history, traditions and iconography that uplift the pride of the community.
- Adhere to requisite ADA and safety regulations.
- Engaging and enjoyable to individuals of all ages and backgrounds.
- DGS will prepare the site for installation, which may include blocking walls for reinforcement, concrete pads for exterior works and lighting. HOWEVER, the artist shall provide all installation, including fabrication, delivery, lifts, cabling, bolting, and other similar items. The artist shall work with DGS to confirm installation arrangements.
- We do have a list of local museum installers, rental companies and printers that can be of assistance if needed.
- Since the permanent installations will be located in very active environments (schools, shelters, recreation centers, etc.), it is crucial that your proposal consists of materials and/or coatings that are durable. For instance, for paintings and other flat surfaces, we require two (2) coats of UV/graffiti protection. For paintings, we typically have them pasted onto the surface with a simple wood frame built around it – so that if the work needs to be removed in the future, it can be saved and carefully removed from the original location. If the artwork is installed at human height level, your work should be able to withstand touching and be extremely durable and easily cleaned. These details can be fleshed out in final design but should be accounted for in your budget.
- **Three (3) References from recent projects**

Capacity and Sustainability

The applicant is sufficiently stable, in terms of arts expertise, organizational capacity, and financial status to implement the proposed project;
 The applicant demonstrates the internal capacity to administer the project and has appropriate financial monitoring systems in place to track expenditures
 The applicant’s budget information is detailed, accurate, feasible, and directly related to the project. All items are eligible expenses;
 The applicant has experience in producing similar public art projects; The work of art is designed to last for at least 50 years; and
 The design proposal and the selection committee’s recommendations will be forwarded to the DGS for review and final approval. The artist whose design is approved will then enter into an agreement with DGS for final design, fabrication and installation of the artwork.

The final selection is conditioned upon a positive reference check.

Project Timeline

Public Art Timeline		
Activity	Start Date	End Date
Call-2-Artists/ RFQ Advertised on DGS's Website		Friday, May 5, 2023
RFQ Application Deadline for Artists		Monday, May 29, 2023
Semifinalists Notified and Announced	Tuesday, June 13, 2023	to Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Site Review & Share Photos With Out-of-Town Artists	Wednesday, June 21, 2023	to Wednesday, July 12, 2023
Site Specific Proposal Deadline		Wednesday, August 23, 2023
Consensus Meeting w' Panel to Confirm Winning Artists	Friday, September 29, 2023	to Friday, October 13, 2023
Announcement and Winning Artists Notified	Friday, October 13, 2023	to Friday, October 20, 2023
Artist's Jobsite Review, or Photos Shared, Survey	Monday, October 23, 2023	to Monday, November 6, 2023
Final Design Mtg, Contracts Issued, Process 1st Payment	Tuesday, November 7, 2023	to Tuesday, November 28, 2023
Fabrication, Delivery and Installation	Wednesday, November 29, 2023	to Friday, June 28, 2024
Installation Deadline		Friday, June 28, 2024

RFQ SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Round One – Complete the On-line Form Located at:

<https://dgs.dc.gov/page/dgs-solicitations> - then choose which commission(s) for which you wish to apply. There is one on-line application this year, on which you can apply to all properties at the same time. However, you will need to download each Call to Artists to access the pdf that has art package with the floor plans and elevations for each project.

2. Round Two – Submit the Design Proposal(s)

TO SUBMIT PRESENTATION(S) FOR ROUND 2:

-PRIOR TO THE VIRTUAL SITE-SPECIFIC PROPOSAL PRESENTATION, ARTISTS SHALL SUBMIT THE DESIGN PROPOSAL(S) AND ANY DIGITAL MODEL THAT THE ARTIST MAY HAVE. DGS WILL UPLOAD THE PRESENTATION AND WILL FACILITATE THE PRESENTATION OF YOUR PROPOSAL WHEN IT IS YOUR TURN TO REVIEW BASED ON A TIME SLOT THAT DGS PROVIDES. THE PRESENTATION SCHEDULE WILL TYPICALLY ALLOW EACH ARTIST TEN (10) MINUTES EACH FOR PROPOSAL PRESENTATION (5 MINUTES FOR DESIGN AND 5 MINUTES FOR Q & A).

-THE PRESENTATION WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY VIA GOTO MEETING, INCLUDING ANY DIGITAL MODEL THAT THE ARTIST MAY HAVE.

1. QUESTIONS – E-mail to sandy.bellamy@dc.gov. Do NOT leave questions on voice mail. Questions and answers will be shared with all participants.

An architectural rendering of the Joy Evans Therapeutic Recreation Center. The scene shows a modern building with a curved, light-colored facade and a series of vertical wooden slats. In the foreground, a paved courtyard is surrounded by lush landscaping, including tall grasses, purple flowers, and a large rock formation. Several people are depicted in the courtyard: a man in a wheelchair, a woman standing, a child, and a person walking. The background features large, leafy trees under a bright sky. The text 'JOY EVANS THERAPEUTIC RECREATION CENTER' is overlaid in large, bold, black letters, with 'PUBLIC ART PACKAGE' in smaller letters below it.

JOY EVANS THERAPEUTIC RECREATION CENTER

PUBLIC ART PACKAGE

THE DESIGN

FACILITY DESIGN:

The new Joy Evans Therapeutic Recreation Center replaces an aging facility and will provide unique indoor and outdoor programming opportunities to serve both its immediate neighborhood as well as the greater Washington, DC region. The DESIGN for the Joy Evans Therapeutic Recreation Center seeks to provide a model, state-of-the-art therapeutic recreational facility while balancing issues related to the site and the project budget. Some considerations addressed in the design include:

- Alignment with a holistic, sensory-based nature-outside, nature-inside concept: The design seeks to facilitate a deep alignment between nature, exploratory activities, and space design to form a coherent whole.
- Thoughtful interpretation of diversity and equity: The design seeks to provide an optimal and inclusive recreational, therapeutic, social, and learning experience for all clients, their families and caregivers, and staff.

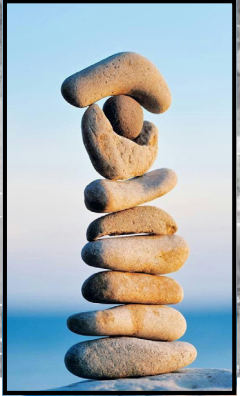
- Sustainability: The design of both the building and the site should reflect the District's strong commitment to sustainability, visually as well as operationally. The project is currently targeting LEED Silver Certification.
- A beacon of inclusion: As the Joy Evans Therapeutic Recreation Center is intended to service those of all ages and along the full spectrum of physical and cognitive abilities, the design must accommodate the needs of individuals of varied cultures, racial and gender identities, and abilities.

PUBLIC ART VISION:

An extensive and growing body of research shows that interaction with nature improves physical and mental health and wellbeing, including reduced stress, enhanced learning, increased social interaction, and user comfort. As a conduit between health and nature, we envision the public art for the JETRC to meet the needs of those of all ages and along the full spectrum of physical and cognitive abilities, varied cultures, racial and gender identities. Therefore, public art located throughout the interior and the landscape on the JETRC campus is integral to the inclusionary focus of the project.

The art elements will strengthen the connections between the building and the landscape by providing terminus to specific views as well as enhance the site's overall therapeutic goals. With the Center's focus on therapy and wellness and the site's access to incredible natural elements and views, integrating the therapeutic qualities of nature into the public art is an important part of delivering on the promise of the project. Through a celebration of nature through public art, generations attain health and wellness.

EXTERIOR



EXTERIOR

2. ART COLUMN:

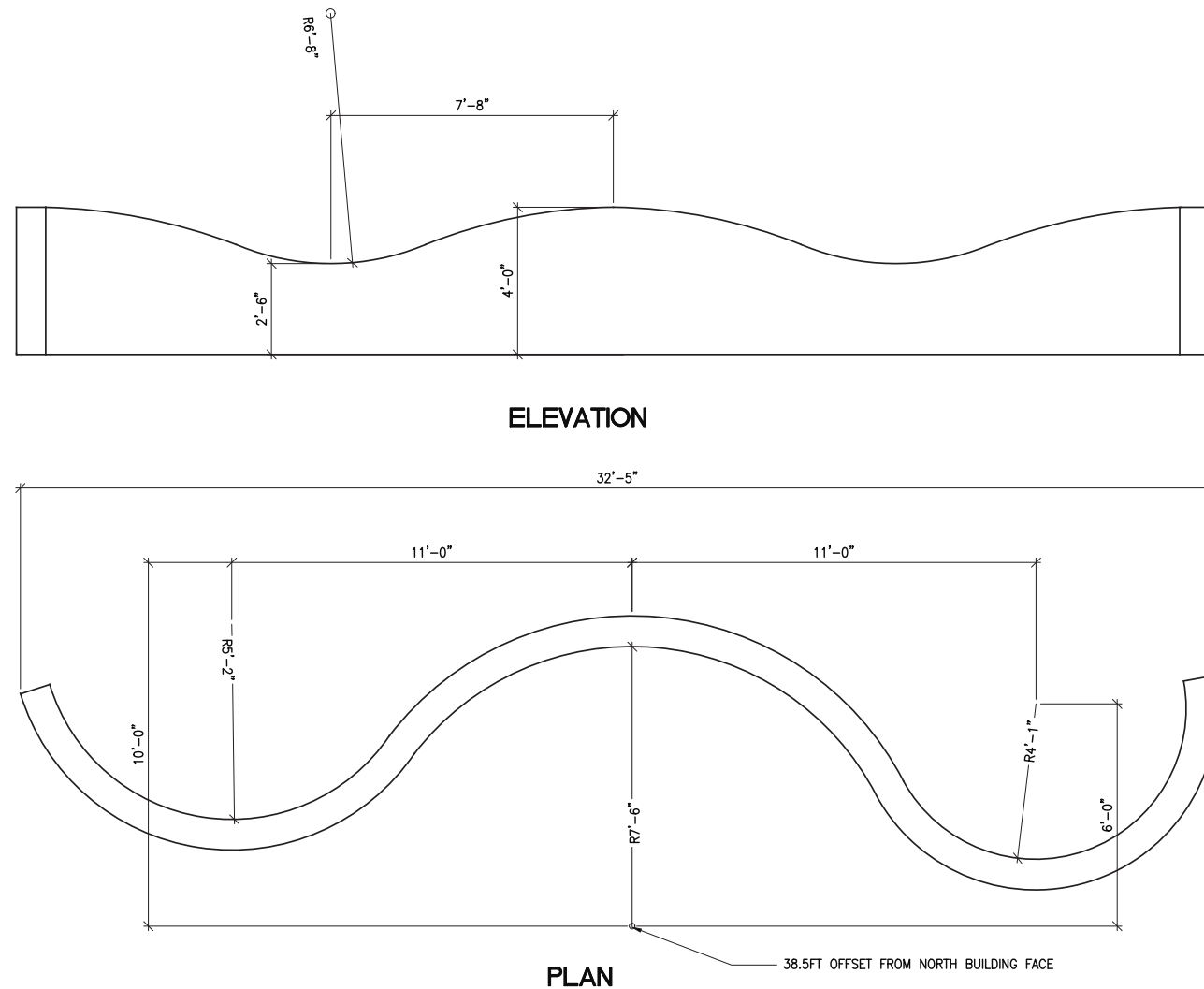
Located in the sensory garden, the art column is intended to be a focal point that provides visual interest and sparks interest and curiosity.

- Minimum 6 feet tall. Maximum 8 feet tall.
- Static element with artistic veneer (paint, mosaic, etching, sculpture, natural finishes)
- Possible Materials: Galvanized steel, stainless steel, weathered steel, industrial-strength aluminum, PIP concrete, stone, or brick
- Avoid surfaces that will enable or encourage climbing
- Must be resistant to the elements
- Footer: Concrete to be flush with the finish grade. Minimum dimensions 24" square and 48" deep. Actual footer sizes and connection of art piece to footer to be determined by artist in conjunction with a structural engineer.

3. SENSORY WALL:

A nature themed interactive tactile wall is intended to provide multi-sensory enrichment and therapeutic benefits for all users whether seated or ambulatory.

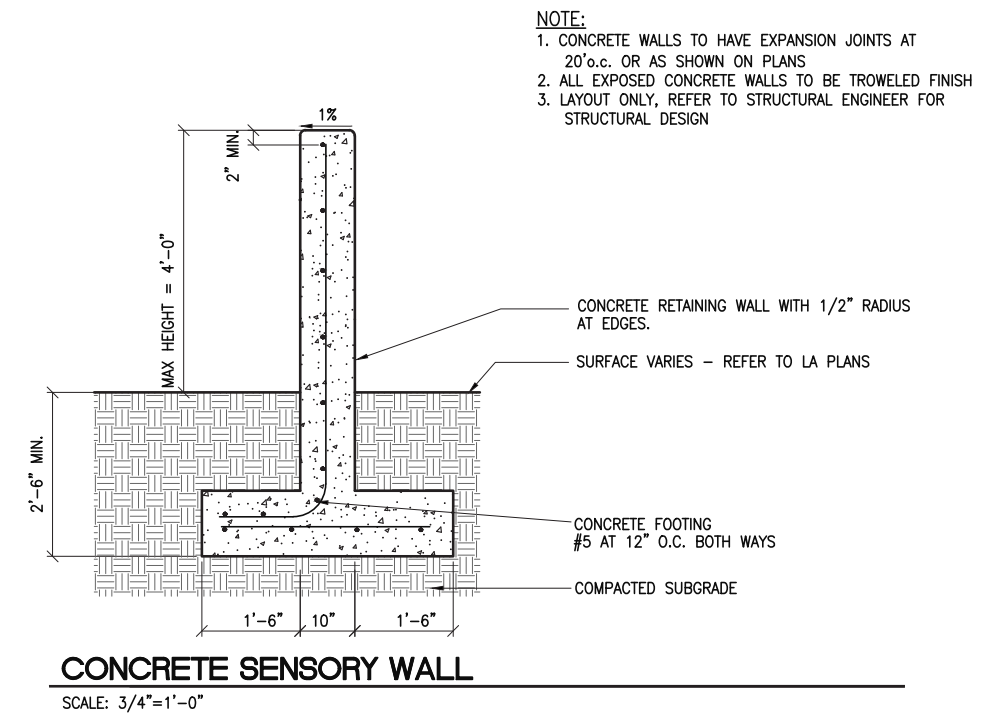
- Concrete wall to be provided as part of base bid (see following images for dimensions)
- Artistic veneer includes texture elements such as mosaic, natural finishes, etchings, etc.
- Must be resistant to the elements
- No sharp edges or corners



SENSORY WALL LAYOUT

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

(Wall2G)



NOTE:

1. CONCRETE WALLS TO HAVE EXPANSION JOINTS AT 20' o.c. OR AS SHOWN ON PLANS
2. ALL EXPOSED CONCRETE WALLS TO BE TROWELED FINISH
3. LAYOUT ONLY, REFER TO STRUCTURAL ENGINEER FOR STRUCTURAL DESIGN

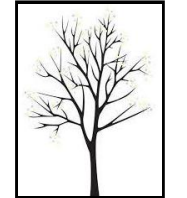
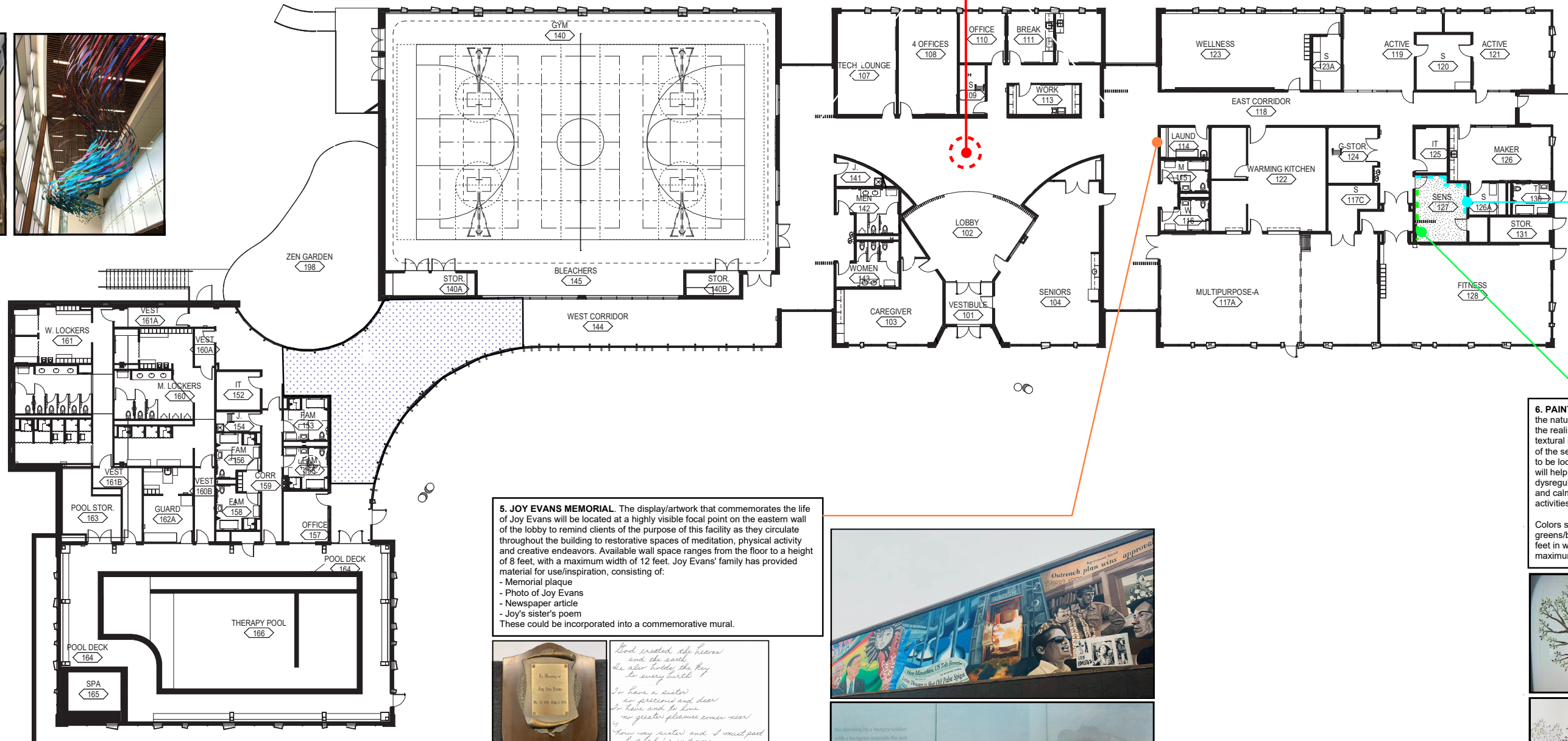
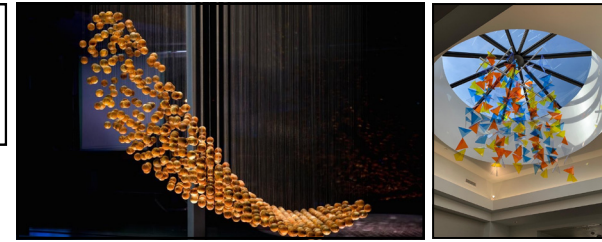
CONCRETE SENSORY WALL

SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

INTERIOR



9. SUSPENDED SCULPTURE. Attachment shall be concealed above the ceiling to structural steel roof beams. The pieces shall occupy a space no greater than 8 feet by 10 feet in plan, with a height of 11 feet, and be above a height of 12 feet. The point of attachment to the structure would be between 31 and 32 feet above the floor, and the maximum estimated weight of each sculpture is 500 pounds.

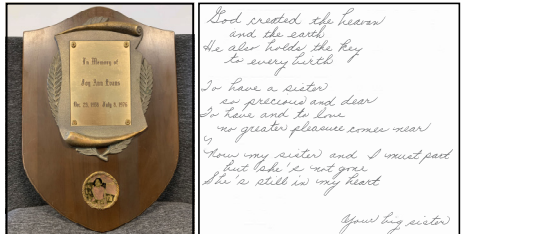


7. SILHOUETTE OF TREES. Material should be sanded and finished wood to avoid splinters. Must be safe for user group. Tactile. Durable. No sharp edges. Maximum protrusion 1/2". Floor to ceiling in height. Extent is 23 feet in length on bending wall surfaces, 12 feet maximum height.

5. JOY EVANS MEMORIAL. The display/artwork that commemorates the life of Joy Evans will be located at a highly visible focal point on the eastern wall of the lobby to remind clients of the purpose of this facility as they circulate throughout the building to restorative spaces of meditation, physical activity and creative endeavors. Available wall space ranges from the floor to a height of 8 feet, with a maximum width of 12 feet. Joy Evans' family has provided material for use/inspiration, consisting of:

- Memorial plaque
- Photo of Joy Evans
- Newspaper article
- Joy's sister's poem

These could be incorporated into a commemorative mural.



6. PAINTED MURAL - Located in the nature themed sensory room, the realistic looking trees with textural interest are an integral part of the sensory experience. Designed to be looked at and touched, they will help children who are dysregulated to become restored and calm and ready to participate in activities in the Center.

Colors should be pale greens/blues/browns. Extent is 7 feet in width and a height of 12 feet maximum.

