



Announcement Details

In recognizing that the land on which the University of Wisconsin–Madison now sits is ancestral Ho-Chunk land and in collaboration with alumni of Ho-Chunk descent, the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA) seeks artists — especially those with a deep connection to and understanding of the Ho-Chunk people and culture — who are interested in creating a permanent outdoor art installation for Alumni Park in Madison, Wisconsin.

Through this installation, the Wisconsin Alumni Association®, a division of WFAA and the caretaker of Alumni Park, can continue its mission by building affinity with alumni and friends and fostering an open-minded, welcoming, and inclusive community. As an engaging outdoor space that tells the story of the university, Alumni Park can reflect a more complete history with this installation, which will incorporate elements surrounding the recent discoveries of historically significant Ho-Chunk dugout canoes in Lake Mendota. It will be a lasting reminder that this is sacred land the Ho-Chunk call *Teejop* (Four Lakes). It will also be an opportunity to honor the Ho-Chunk people and acknowledge their sacrifice.

Open To: All artists, especially those with a deep connection to and understanding of the Ho-Chunk people and culture.

Commission Amount:

\$250 will be paid to selected semifinalist(s) for their design work.

\$7,500 will be paid to the selected artist upon completion of the approved design, and another \$7,500 will be paid once the artwork is completed and installed.

\$150,000–\$200,000 will be provided for art fabrication and installation.

Entry Open Date:

Entry Deadline: Friday, August 23, 2024

WFAA exists to promote the welfare of and advance the objectives of the University of Wisconsin–Madison by encouraging the interest, engagement, and financial support of alumni, donors, and friends in the life of the university and with each other. Just as the university community benefits from differing viewpoints, perspectives, and experiences, inclusion and diversity are imperative for the success of our mission. WFAA values people and the differences they bring to the organization and strives to create an environment in which all staff members and constituents feel respected and have opportunities to thrive.

WFAA is committed to the University of Wisconsin’s “Our Shared Future” initiative, which represents UW–Madison’s commitment to respect the inherent sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation and the other First Nations of Wisconsin. This calls us to deeply consider our shared past and present with Indigenous peoples in this place, Teejop, and to make our own personal and institutional commitments to achieve a shared future with them.

Our guiding statement for this project is to collaborate and develop an installation/visual representation in Alumni Park to honor the Ho-Chunk community that will speak to the Ho-Chunk’s historical connection to the land and their continued presence.

Project Intent/Artistic Goals

The intent of this project is to represent the Ho-Chunk people's place as the original stewards of Teejop. Through a physical representation of cultural memory, the project seeks to reassert the historical, contemporary, and future presence of Ho-Chunk people, in addition to their culture and language. The project will use the material culture of a dugout canoe as a base with which to artistically explore ideas about Ho-Chunk culture and history, through the lens of Ho-Chunk people. *Wąksigomjira* (Lake Mendota) and its cultural significance will be a central aspect of this project, which intends to speak to the full history of Teejop. Engagement and learning are desired features of this installation.

Project Scope/Specs

This commissioned sculpture will be outside in Alumni Park, Madison, WI. The artwork will be installed in a green space behind the Red Gym, facing the water (images below). Artwork considered for installation must be durable to extreme cold, high winds, and significant engagement with the public. The sculpture should be accessible and act to both educate and engage with the thousands of visitors of all ages who come through the space. Because it will be outdoors, local weather conditions, the potential for damage, and attention to public safety must influence the selection of materials, structure, placement, and method of installation.

The artist needs to take into consideration the size of the Red Gym behind the artwork and other elements within the space. Along with achieving proper scale, the sculpture should seamlessly fit within the surrounding natural landscape and the aesthetic of Alumni Park, offering a sense of cohesion by using materials that complement established Alumni Park exhibits and installations.

The art piece proposal should include a plan for how the sculpture will be supported, to be coordinated with Facilities Planning & Management.

How to Apply

There will be two stages for selecting the artist:

1. **Application:** You will be asked to submit information about your qualifications and your art.
2. **Proposals:** Semifinalists will develop an artwork proposal for Alumni Park and be paid \$250 for their design.

All artists, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, gender, age, ability, religious beliefs, political preference, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship, national origin, veteran status, or other personal characteristics, are encouraged to apply.

Application Stage

Interested artists should email the following to info@alumnipark.com to apply:

- **Artist Information:** To help us better understand your qualifications and your art, please complete the following (in a one-page statement):
 - Describe your connection to and understanding of the Ho-Chunk people and culture and your connection to the University of Wisconsin–Madison.
 - Describe your interest in this project.
 - Describe your qualifications, including similar projects you've completed, art media you prefer working with, and any other information that would be helpful.
 - Provide any additional information you believe would be relevant to this project.
- **Current Résumé or CV**
- **Work Samples:** Please provide at least three but no more than five images of your previous work, along with descriptions. Follow these guidelines:

- Each image should be a high-resolution JPG or PDF
- Name each image using the following format: First Name_Last Name_AP_#. For example:
Bucky_Badger_AP_3

The selection committee will review the submitted materials and develop a list of semifinalists.

Proposal Stage

Semifinalists will be invited to meet with the committee and propose their artwork. The semifinalists will craft a detailed proposal for an artwork, including a to-scale mock-up of the sculpture. For this, each semifinalist will be paid an honorarium of \$250.

Site Images and Specifications

On the north side of the Red Gym, this grassy area encompasses approximately 315 square feet, bordered on the north side by a red brick pathway and by mulched landscaping on east and west sides. The south side of the space (backed by the Red Gym) has six evergreen trees bordering the grassy area; there is no usable space between the grass and the evergreens. A 3' x 6' rectangle serves as an entrance to the space. Because of its proximity to the Red Gym, this space is often in full shade; during the colder months of the year it is in full shade all day.





