

# Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

141 E. Jefferson Building Vinyl Art Design Project



## Overview

The City of Joliet is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) seeking qualified professional artists or design teams to create original artwork for vinyl applications to be installed on the windows of the 141 E. Jefferson building.

**Date of Issue:** September 25, 2026

**Due Date:** October 16, 2026 (Updated Due Date)

**Artist Design Fee:** \$5,000

The \$5,000 Artist Design Fee will compensate the selected artist or design team for the time and creative services associated with developing and finalizing the artwork, including concept development, design, reasonable revisions, and preparation and delivery of production-ready digital files suitable for vinyl fabrication.

The City of Joliet will use the approved artwork and independently identify and contract with a qualified company to produce, print, fabricate, and install the vinyl. The City will be responsible for all costs associated with the printing, fabrication, materials, and installation of the vinyl. These costs are separate from and are not included in the \$5,000 Artist Design Fee.

Contact Person: Luke Gundersen, Special Events Coordinator, [lgundersen@joliet.gov](mailto:lgundersen@joliet.gov)

Submission Method: Via email [artscommission@joliet.gov](mailto:artscommission@joliet.gov) or in-person submission at Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park.

## Background – Call to Artists

The building located at 141 East Jefferson Street is a historically significant three-story structure comprising approximately 18,000 square feet. Originally constructed in the 1920s, the building once housed a Cadillac dealership and remains one of downtown Joliet's legacy commercial buildings.

The City of Joliet acquired the property as part of the broader land assembly that enabled construction of the Slammers Stadium. Though the building has not been occupied since acquisition, its architectural character, prominent massing, and strategic location make it an important asset within the City Center Special Service Area (SSA) district.

Situated directly adjacent to the Slammers Stadium—home of the Joliet Slammers—the building features second- and third-floor windows with unobstructed views into the stadium bowl. The second floor also connects to the stadium's exterior walkway, creating rare opportunities for creative visual engagement with game-day activity and outdoor circulation routes.

The building is positioned within a rapidly evolving district shaped by recent public and private investments. It sits just steps from the \$40 million Joliet Gateway Transportation Center, which serves Metra and Amtrak rail lines, and lies within walking distance of major anchors including the new Will County Courthouse, Joliet Junior College City Center Campus, the Rialto Square Theatre, Harrah's Casino, the brand new Joliet City Square and the redeveloped Old Union Station. Over the last decade, this area has welcomed new restaurants, breweries, and small businesses, strengthening the vibrancy and pedestrian activity around the Stadium.

As outlined in the City's Statement of Interest to developers, the building is envisioned for a future mixed-use redevelopment that leverages its location, its stadium adjacency, and the momentum of downtown reinvestment. By commissioning artist-designed vinyl installations on the exterior windows, the City seeks to celebrate the building's role in Joliet's past while reinforcing its emerging identity as a site for creativity, community engagement, and placemaking. The artwork will serve as both an interim enhancement and a forward-looking expression of what this building can become.

## ***EXHIBIT A***

### ***141 East Jefferson – Building History***



## **Project Description**

The 141 E. Jefferson Building Vinyl Application Project aims to incorporate artist-created visual designs onto large vinyl panels installed on the windows of the building. Selected artists will develop a complete design concept compatible with vinyl printing and exterior installation requirements.

## Window Specifications:

### First Floor – 11 windows

- Qty (1) 292”X133” – 4- lite
- Qty (1) 83”X117” – 2-lite
- Qty (3) 44”X38”
- Qty (1) 24” X88”
- Qty (1) 40”X88”
- Qty (2) 48”X88”
- Qty (1) 40”X57”
- Qty (1) 62”X128”, midrail at 24”

### Second Floor -32 windows

- Qty (10) 44”X88”
- Qty (11) 45”X57”
- Qty (1) 36”X57”
- Qty (2) 32”X58”
- Qty (1) 44”X90”
- Qty (2) 45”X81”
- Qty (3) 85”X90” – 2-lite
- Qty (1) 78”X90” – 2-lite

### Third Floor – 16 windows

- Qty (8) 45”X114”
- Qty (2) 32”X58”
- Qty (1) 45”X81”
- Qty (3) 85”X90” – 2-lite
- Qty (2) 78”X90” – 2-lite

## Artistic Objectives

Artwork should be visually dynamic, welcoming, and reflective of the building's evolving role within downtown Joliet. Designs should spark curiosity, highlight creativity, and contribute to the building's aesthetic presence within the SSA district. Because the vinyl will be viewed both up close and from long distances—including from within the adjacent Slammers Stadium—artists are encouraged to create bold, legible imagery that maintains clarity across multiple sightlines.

Submissions should thoughtfully consider the building's historic character, its stadium adjacency, and its future potential as a redeveloped mixed-use anchor. Concepts may respond to themes of motion, community, local history, or transformation, but should remain broadly accessible to a diverse public audience. All artwork must demonstrate feasibility for vinyl fabrication and installation, including appropriate scale, color contrast, and durability considerations.

## Artist Design Fee

Compensation for the artist's time and creative services associated with developing and finalizing the artwork, including concept development, design, reasonable revisions, and preparation and delivery of production-ready digital files suitable for vinyl fabrication.

The City of Joliet will use the approved artwork and independently identify and contract with a qualified company to produce, print, fabricate, and install the vinyl. The City will be responsible for the costs associated with the printing, fabrication, materials, and installation of the vinyl. These costs are separate from the artist's contracted compensation.

Any expenses incurred by the artist that exceed the artist's contracted amount will be the artist's responsibility unless otherwise approved in writing by the City of Joliet.

## Eligibility

This call is open to local and regional artists, designers, muralists, illustrators, or visual art professionals capable of producing print-ready artwork and collaborating with City staff.

## Scope of Work

- Develop an original vinyl-ready art design.
- Provide preliminary concept sketches and final production files.
- Coordinate with City staff and the project subcommittee.
- Ensure artwork meets technical requirements for printing and outdoor durability.

## Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit a complete proposal package containing the following materials:

- **Contact Information-** Include your name, email address, and phone number so the City may reach you regarding your submission.
- **Professional Resume-** Provide a current resume outlining artistic experience, exhibitions, commissions, or relevant creative work.
- **Examples of Past Work-** Submit up to five examples demonstrating the quality, style, and feasibility of your previous projects. Images should clearly represent your artistic approach and, when possible, highlight experience with large-scale or public-facing installations.
- **Proposed Concept or Design Direction-** Provide a brief written description of your artistic vision for this project. This may include thematic considerations, visual approach, or how your work responds to the building's context. Detailed final artwork is not required at this stage.
- **One Professional Reference-** Include the name and contact information of one individual familiar with your artistic practice or past commissioned work.
- **Completed Conflict of Interest Form-** A Conflict of Interest form will be provided by the City of Joliet and must be fully completed and submitted with your proposal package.

## Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed by the RFQ subcommittee created by the Joliet Arts Commission and Joliet City staff. Selection will be based on artistic quality, feasibility, relevance to the site, and completeness of the proposal.

## Timeline

|                     |                                                    |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| RFQ issuance        | September 25, 2026                                 |
| Submission deadline | October 16 <sup>th</sup> 2026                      |
| Selection date      | October 21, 2026                                   |
| Review period       | October 16 <sup>th</sup> -October 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Installation        | TBD                                                |

## Agreement

Selected artists will enter into a formal two-party Agreement with the City of Joliet outlining all project requirements, responsibilities, and conditions for the commissioned work. This Agreement will include provisions for the transfer of ownership of the completed artwork and will require the artist to provide General Liability insurance and any additional coverage specified by the City.

Issuance of this Call to Artists does not constitute a contract. The City of Joliet reserves the right to modify project details, reject any or all submissions, or request additional information as needed during the selection process. The Agreement must be fully executed before any project work begins.

## Questions

All questions regarding this RFQ should be directed to [lgundersen@joliet.gov](mailto:lgundersen@joliet.gov). All questions must be received before October 14<sup>th</sup>. Responses may be compiled and shared with all prospective proposers to ensure transparency and equal access to information.