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Bloomington

Indiana University

Request for Expressions of Interest

IU Libraries Lilly Library Reading Room

Bicentennial Murals

Released January 23, 2020

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A. Introduction

In conjunction with its Bicentennial, Indiana University has been awarded a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to commission and complete a large cycle of aesthetically significant and conceptually cogent murals in the Reading Room of the Lilly Library, located in Bloomington, Indiana. This cherished space will be completely renovated thanks to a previous gift from Lilly Endowment Inc., announced in 2019. A major and arresting cycle of murals that projects a sense of place where powerful ideas are conveyed through the study of original books and documents will proclaim the Reading Room the heart of the Lilly Library. Thousands of hours each year are spent in this Reading Room by scholars, students, and intellectually curious visitors exploring the millions of literary artifacts held in one of the world's great rare books libraries. Once complete, the murals will boldly declare the Lilly Library Reading Room as a treasured destination for all who study and work here. Indiana University seeks to commission a masterwork worthy of the Lilly Library's world-class collections, as well as to highlight the library's ongoing role in the exuberant and inclusive arts culture of the IU Bloomington campus.

Individuals and collectives who have previous experience or who can demonstrate the ability to plan and execute a similar large-scale public art project are invited to apply. International proposals are welcome. Proposed works must be wall mounted and fit into the allocated spaces.

A commission of \$400,000 will be awarded to the winner, whether it is an individual or a collective of artists. This funding will cover all aspects of artist production and installation: design and consultations, project materials, production, transportation and installation of the completed mural. The winner will recommend and advise on appropriate lighting for the murals. However, this lighting will be funded separately.

Vision

Art that asks us to consider our history opens dialogue, sparks new curiosities, and invites deeper consideration of the human experience. The cycle of murals in the Lilly Library Reading Room will invoke a sense of wonder as visitors encounter an inspiring depiction of the breadth and diversity of the Lilly Library's extensive collections, as well as an acknowledgment of the collectors whose passionate pursuits helped to form the connected libraries that scholars investigate today.



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Foremost among these collectors was J. K. Lilly, Jr., whose private collection of literary, historical, and scientific works form the nucleus around which the larger Lilly Library collections have been built. As they stand today, the holdings of the Lilly Library range in date from ca. 2000 B.C.E. to the present day, and their coverage is worldwide. The vision for the murals is a reflection of the Library's rich resources in world literature, history, the sciences, and the arts, and will showcase, in the words on the plaque in the Lilly Library recognizing the donation by J. K. Lilly, Jr. of his collection, "the best that has been thought and written through the ages."

Opportunity

Named "The Lilly Library" in honor of the Lilly family, Indiana University placed this iconic limestone library at the heart of its growing campus in Bloomington, Indiana in 1960. It anchors, along with the Fine Arts Building, the Eskenazi Museum of Art, and the Indiana University Auditorium, the University's Fine Arts Plaza. This visual center for the arts and humanities has always been accessible and open to all. The Lilly Library is a state, national, and international treasure, and a testament to the vision and generosity of its original collector, Josiah Kirby Lilly, Jr. It is universally acclaimed, both for its world-class and unique collections, and for the deep service ethic of its librarians. Its vibrant collections continue to astonish all those who use them. The library building is a 60-year old facility that will undergo major renovation through the spring of 2021. The revitalization will modernize the infrastructure as well as ensure that the building will be able to meet the continuously growing demands of scholars and students who travel from around the United States and the world, and from across the campus, to use its renowned and matchless collections.

The Bicentennial cycle of murals will long stand as testament to the artistic and intellectual traditions reflected in the Lilly Library and will be in the custody of a university committed to conservation and with a fierce regard for the educational impact art brings to learning. The murals in the Lilly Library will be situated in close proximity to the venerable Thomas Hart Benton murals located in three buildings near Indiana University's Fine Arts Plaza.

A juried submission process led by the Wilma E. Kelley Director of the IU Eskenazi Museum of Art, David Brenneman, will seek the most creative and inspirational concept for the mural cycle inspired by the magnificent collections and collectors of the Lilly Library.



B. Submission Process and Requirements

Eligibility

Individuals, non-profit organizations, collectives and practicing professional artists with experience in creating large-scale visual art are eligible to submit Expressions of Interest.

Phase One: Expressions of Interest

To be considered the following must be included in the application:

- Cover letter of no longer than two pages. Include general information on the artists' background, experience, and history. Appendices should include links to the artist's website and brief details of any comparable projects completed.
- A professional CV.

Submission Deadline

Expressions of interest received via email (*mural@indiana.edu*) by 11:59 pm on February 21, 2020 will receive full consideration.

Phase Two: Proposal

The Committee will select up to 5-6 finalists. Finalists will be required to provide one or more proposals for the murals involving sketches using technology or other media, detailed budget, a schedule for completion, and an artist statement.

Finalists will be expected to visit the site in Bloomington, Indiana, and will receive a \$5,000 honorarium to be used for materials for the proposal preparation, travel, and other related expenses.

Final Proposal Submission Timeline

Finalists will be contacted the week of February 24, 2020. Proposals received via email (*mural@indiana.edu*) by 11:59 pm on April 15, 2020 will receive full consideration. A winning artist will be announced in late May 2020.

Questions

Questions should be sent to *mural@indiana.edu*. All questions will be added to the FAQ on the project web site www.libraries.iub.edu/murals.

Timeline



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The art creation and installation will coincide with a major renovation of the Lilly Library building. The following timeline should be considered by all who submit Expressions of Interest.

February 21, 2020	Expressions of Interest are due to mural@indiana.edu .
March 2, 2020	Committee will review all Expressions of Interest and select and notify finalists.
April 15, 2020	Deadline for selected finalists to submit proposals to mural@indiana.edu . The Committee will seek further information from the artists as needed.
May 15, 2020	The Committee will make their recommendation to Indiana University President Michael A. McRobbie. An announcement of the selected artist or collective will be made soon after.
June 2020 to April 2021	Finalist will plan, design, and create.
May 2021	Installation at the Lilly Library
June 1, 2021	Deadline for Mural Completion



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C. About the Lilly Library and Renovation

Background

Between 1954 and 1957, Josiah Kirby Lilly, Jr. donated his collection of rare books and manuscripts— widely considered to be one of the finest private libraries in the world— to Indiana University. As president (1948–1953) and then chairman (1953–1966) of Eli Lilly and Company, J.K. Lilly, Jr. is perhaps best known for his role in founding Lilly Endowment Inc. But he was also a prolific book collector and as a member of the exclusive Grolier Club, he acquired an astonishing 94 of the Grolier "One Hundred Books Famous in English Literature" and donated all of them to IU.

As he had envisioned, the donated 20,000 printed books and 17,000 manuscripts that comprised his magnificent collection had a transformative effect on the intellectual life of the University, and in turn, the state of Indiana. President Herman B Wells immediately recognized the collection's profound significance and determined a freestanding library was required to not only care for the materials, but also to establish and proclaim IU's preeminent position as caretakers and curators of the state's most valuable literary legacy.

In October 1960, J.K. Lilly, Jr. and Herman B Wells together opened the doors to the Lilly Library's collection— a total of some 100,000 printed books and nearly 1,000,000 manuscripts— representing decades of Indiana University effort toward establishing itself as one of America's vanguard research institutions. Over the last six decades, the collection has grown to more than 450,000 rare books and 8.5 million manuscripts.

Known around the world, the Lilly Library is home to collections of cultural and literary artifacts, in many cases unique items, documenting humanity's highest achievements. A few of the Lilly Library's most famous items include the first printed edition of *The Canterbury Tales*; many beautifully illuminated medieval books of hours; the Boxer Codex, a unique 16th-century manuscript depiction of the people of the Philippines and Far East; Thomas Jefferson's personal copy of the first printing of the Bill of Rights; and the personal and fascinating archives of cultural luminaries such as Orson Welles, Sylvia Plath, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. Today, 60 years later, the Lilly Library continues as steward both of J.K. Lilly, Jr.'s literary treasures and of Indiana University's vision to share them with the world.



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Renovation

The Lilly Library building, located at 1200 E. Seventh Street in Bloomington, Indiana, is now closed. On June 14, 2019, IU's Board of Trustees approved a \$12.4 million project to renovate the iconic Lilly Library in the same year it celebrates its 60th anniversary. Indiana University President Michael A. McRobbie announced on April 1, 2019, that Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded the Indiana University Foundation a \$10.9 million grant to support renovation of the university's internationally renowned IU Lilly Library.

- Read the official university news release.

The Lilly Library has been challenged, in many ways, by its own success. Growth in collection size and student enrollment, along with continuously increasing demands of scholars and students who travel from around the U.S. and the world to use the library's matchless collections, have resulted in a level of activity that the building, which has not had any significant interior renovation since its completion nearly 60 years ago, can no longer sustain.

The Lilly Endowment grant will support major upgrades to the 52,516-square-foot facility's mechanical systems and lighting, technological equipment, fire protection and security systems, ADA access and building navigation upgrades, and space configuration. These improvements will enable maximum preservation, and an enhanced, modern presentation of the library's literary and cultural treasures, which require special handling and can only be accessed in secure on-site areas. Students, scholars, researchers, educators, and other visitors will more effectively access and experience the library's one-of-a-kind materials, which are frequently and increasingly incorporated by IU faculty into their teaching, research, and creative activities.



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Appendix: A Destination for Discovery

The beloved Lilly Library Reading Room is continually in use. This is a space where scholars, learners, and intrinsically motivated enthusiasts connect with literary artifacts and unique primary sources.

High, coffered ceilings and oversized windows work in tandem to infuse the room with gracious natural light. Project funds have been designated to also include lighting design for the murals. The Reading Room creates a frame of appreciation and respect for the treasures within. This unique setting for artwork creates a legacy opportunity for an artist. The selected muralist will design a visual centerpiece to inspire imaginations for generations to come, with both art and artist becoming a treasured addition to the storied heritage Indiana University.

East Wall of the Lilly Library Reading Room





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North Wall of the Lilly Library Reading Room



South Wall of the Lilly Library Reading Room

