



NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Request for Proposal

NMU WellBeing Center Exterior Art Project

February 2024



NMU WellBeing

Introduction & Background

The Northern Michigan University WellBeing Center is accepting proposals in order to find a team of current or former students, or a mix of both, to design and produce a custom piece of artwork for the exterior of the newly dedicated WellBeing Center on campus at NMU.

The goal of the exterior art project is to:

- Celebrate the values of the Okanagan Charter in a meaningful and ongoing way
- Create opportunity for current and former students across all disciplines and experiences to come together with a common goal
- Engage with NMU community to foster conversations about wellbeing
- Create and install a work of art that is reflective or symbolic of wellbeing on NMU's campus
- Align the installation of the artwork with the University's 125th anniversary

The objective of this Request for Proposal is to:

1. Identify talent (individually, or collectively; current or former student; across any disciplines or areas of study) who will develop the idea and team for an exterior art project;
2. To determine a process for engagement of NMU communities during the process
3. To identify a faculty advisor for the project overall

The successful submission of this request will provide a proposal that clearly describes the concept behind the artwork and how the artwork will be created within the given timeframe, including recruiting someone to act as a faculty advisor (that person will receive a stipend per academic affairs.)

Background information

WellBeing is the attentive and intentional care of the whole person. It is the ability to tolerate life's ups and downs, sometimes solo and sometimes with help. It is the ability to ride the wave of what life brings forth. Steadiness in yourself, your worth, and your ability to persevere.

It is a holistic concept encompassing biological, psychological, social, ecological and spiritual dimensions of health. The wellbeing of every individual contributes to the wellbeing of our NMU community as a whole. Diversity, equity and inclusion ensure wellbeing for all.

[WellBeing at NMU Website](#)

[WellBeing at NMU Video](#)

[NMU WellBeing Wheel](#)

Okanagan Charter – Northern Michigan University is committed to embedding wellbeing into the culture at NMU, and to do that to the fullest extent, on April 26, 2023, President Brock Tessman signed the Okanagan Charter.

The Okanagan Charter is a landmark document that serves as a guide for educational institutions worldwide to prioritize and enhance the health and well-being of their students, faculty, staff, and communities. It was first developed and endorsed at the International Conference on Health Promoting Universities and Colleges in 2015, held in the Okanagan region of British Columbia, Canada.

The Okanagan Charter recognizes that the pursuit of health and well-being is not just the absence of illness but a holistic approach encompassing physical, mental, social, and spiritual dimensions. It emphasizes the vital connection between individual well-being and the health of the broader community and environment. The charter encourages a collaborative approach, engaging multiple stakeholders within and

beyond the academic community to create healthier and more sustainable environments.

Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges (2015).

[Okanagan Charter PDF](#)

Northern Michigan **prioritizes and represents** these values in the active lives of its campus community by...

The **WellBeing Center** at NMU represents a centralized location on campus to house the concepts of physical health and mental health under one roof as a tangible reminder of the services available for students. By providing these services in one campus location, NMU is able to increase the accessibility of wellbeing to all members of its community and demonstrate the dedication of integrated health and wellness into the culture at Northern.

Northern Michigan University extends these values throughout all aspects of student life and for all that interact with the university. At NMU, belonging is a core part of the experience, from an oncoming student's welcome package and orientation, to built-in mentoring, and beyond. Small class sizes, access to professors, dozens of student groups waiting to welcome new members, and the intimate feeling of a mid-sized campus and a small town all contribute to NMU feeling like home. This feeling of belonging for all in the community helps to make students, faculty and staff feel like they are a part of the NMU community and its unique offerings.

Collaboration-Based Proposal

The artwork will encompass and uniquely demonstrate the campus community of Northern Michigan University and its values of WellBeing and the Okanagan Charter.

From the bringing together of fine art practitioners of mixed mediums with mathematicians calculating spherical measurements, to poets crafting words to incorporate into a design, the possibilities for cross-disciplinary collaboration are endless.

Submission Guidelines & Requirements

The following submission guidelines & requirements apply to this Request for Proposal:

1. A concept for artwork that successfully demonstrates the values of WellBeing and of the Okanagan Charter.
2. A clear pathway to construct and physically assemble the artwork.
3. The recruitment of a faculty advisor to aid in the project's development.
4. Adherence to the goals listed in the introduction of this request for proposal.

The artwork must follow the following parameters:

1. Three-dimensional
2. No smaller than 12" x 12" and no larger than 24" x 24"
3. Weather-proof
4. Custom created
5. Little to no ongoing care or maintenance

The process of creating the piece is required to:

1. Engage fellow students and the campus community along your design process.
2. Recruit a faculty advisor to provide a faculty voice and additional assistance with the project.
3. Craft a practical and realistic narrative of how the project will be constructed within a timeline of June 1, 2024 - November 1, 2024.

Submission and Application:

To submit a proposal in response to this RFP, please share your intent to submit a proposal for this request with Chelsey Sundberg by April 26, 2024 by emailing csundber@nmu.edu.

Your completed proposal is due on or before May 15, 2024 and must be emailed to Chelsey Sundberg via csundber@nmu.edu. Your completed proposal should include the following:

1. Describe your process for engaging fellow students and the campus community along your design process, and results, either through written word, graphic design, or video format.
2. Provide the name, department, and contact information for the faculty advisor you have recruited, along with any relevant additional information.
3. Provide the names, year of graduation, and contact information for yourself and any partners on your project.
4. Provide a written narrative of your project construction plan including supplies, space, expected timeline, anticipated costs.
5. Provide a preliminary sketch of your art piece.

Project Scope

The scope of the project entails the introduction of the artwork's concept, what it represents, and carrying it through from conception of the idea to creation and implementation of the three-dimensional artwork onto NMU's campus. The proposal for artwork submitted should follow and promote the values of WellBeing and the signing of the Okanagan Charter and how they relate to the NMU campus and community.

The artwork should be able to be used in full and in perpetuity, with rights given to the artist(s) and on display with the piece.

The artwork itself is only one portion of the proposal. It is recognized that in order for the artwork to fully capture the values of NMU’s commitment to WellBeing, and to honor the work of the artist and the campus community, the artist’s creative journey towards creating the work and bringing it to campus will be considered within, and as part of the proposal. Alongside an explanation of the artwork’s thematic relevance, proposals should include a written description of how the artwork will be constructed, including all of the resources that will be required in association with the university.

Acceptance of the work is contingent on the following acceptance criteria:

1. Submission is done via a current Northern Michigan University student or students.
2. A faculty advisor has been selected to contribute towards the project’s completion.
3. A practical and realistic timeline for completion of the artwork from beginning to end, including how to incorporate the campus community.

RFP & Project Timelines

The Request for Proposal timeline is as follows:

Request for Proposal issuance	3/1/2024
Informational session (attendance is optional)	3/22/2024 11:00 AM ET
Notice of Intent declaration window closes	4/26/2024
Completed proposals due	5/15/2024
Selection of top submission / Notification to unsuccessful submissions	6/1/2024
Installation and Dedication	11/1/2024

Budget

As part of your proposal, please submit total anticipated costs. A generous donor has agreed to cover the cost of the project.

Evaluation Factors

Adherence of the submitted proposal to the goals, objectives, and requirements outlined in this request for proposal.