



Bethel College Social Work Call for Artwork

Call Type:	Public Artwork/Sculpture for Bethel College campus
Eligibility:	Open
Budget:	\$40,000
Work Sample Requirements:	Images (min 6-max 8); Video (min 0-max 2); Total Samples (min 6-max 8)

For submission details, please contact our Program Manager, Elissa Harris (bcsw@bethelks.edu)

Conceptual Overview

The Bethel College Social Work Department (North Newton, Kansas) is celebrating 50 years of social work in October, 2024. The anniversary committee, backed by generous benefactors would like to commission a sculpture or similar piece of visual art to be placed outdoors on the campus and represent the values and themes of social work.

Social work has a long history of working for social justice and advocating for people who experience oppression and marginalization through poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and disabilities. Due to the influences of capitalism, patriarchy, and colonization, there are times in history where social workers have *not* been effective in providing effective services that challenge these influences. Instead, they have sided with patriarchal or colonizing efforts as a way to promote “order” or even in some instances to abuse power within the context of a helping relationship. Two examples of this are the role that social workers have played in removing indigenous children from homes to “acculturate” them to white culture and the social or institutional enforcement of policies and rules that cause harm to people with mental or physical disabilities.

In response to this conflictual history, The Bethel College Social Work Department would like to see a piece of artwork that represents a future of dignity, hope, and/or justice. We are committed to the concept of restoration and repair, as we learn about past harm and simultaneously commit to dignity for all people. The committee would love to see submissions that represent the prioritization of under-represented groups, through image or artist representation. The committee prefers something that is abstract with a modern design.

Additional Information:

This sculpture should be an original work, will be installed outdoors and be constructed of durable materials in order to sustain weather changes. Consideration should be given to maintenance and sustainability costs. The sculpture will be on permanent display and should be expected to last for decades. It should not be kinetic or interactive. Sculpture must fit within an 8’ by 8’ footprint and should be no more than 17’ in height. Sculpture should weigh no more than 3,000 pounds. Sculpture must be installed in a manner with sufficient anchoring to prevent the sculpture from being removed, tipped, broken or overturned due to wind, snow load, or seismic activity. Sculpture must comply with standard engineering practices and requirements. The selected artist will receive \$500 upon selection

to submit a color sketch or digital image of the artwork to scale. All proposals should reflect the theme of the conceptual overview and the site (www.bethelks.edu). The sculpture should appeal to a broad audience (beyond social work) but also represent the core values and themes in the contextual overview.

Important Dates:

March 15, 2025:	Application & Entry Due
October, 2025:	Artist Selection Committee Meets
March 15, 2026:	Concept Design Due
October, 2026:	Installation & Unveiling

Application Requirements:

- Artist Resume
- 3 professional references
- 6-8 examples of previous work
- Statement of interest in the project

Eligibility Requirements:

The artists submitting proposals should be:

- 18 years or older
- individual or collaborative art submissions welcomed
- high level of creative engagement
- connect with the conceptual themes of the call
- meet the installation requirements of the call
- artist who is willing to collaborate with a team
- artist who can represent minoritized populations in identity or work

Any questions can be directed to our Program Manager Elissa Harris, bcs@bethelks.edu