

## Request for Qualifications

### Mobile Artist Tools

RFQ Deadline: Sunday, March 19, 2023 | 11:59 pm

SlideRoom application portal: <https://springboard.slideroom.com/>

Artist Workshop/Info Session on Zoom: Thursday, March 2 | 6:00 – 8:00pm  
<https://springboardforthearts.org/grrl-zoom>

Springboard for the Arts' **Ready Go** is a collection of artist-created, mobile tools that are purpose-built to pique curiosity, prompt interaction and facilitate engagement. The Mobile Artist Tools are available for hire by libraries, non-profits, cities and businesses seeking new and creative ways to interact with their patrons, communities, employees and customers.

Springboard for the Arts is teaming up with the Great River Regional Library (GRRL) to commission two new Ready Go Mobile Artist Tools (\$5,000 each) to be added to the roster and work with GRRL branch libraries. Please visit the Ready Go website at [www.readygoart.com](http://www.readygoart.com) to browse the collection of Mobile Artist Tools. It's the best way to learn what it's all about!

### Background

**Springboard for the Arts** is a national leader in creative community development. Our approach is rooted in the principles of community organizing and focuses on a "lots of little" strategy that surfaces unrecognized leaders in communities, builds public narratives from a multiplicity of perspectives and voices; and creates low-risk opportunities for collaboration. This equity-based model centers the lives and experiences of the people in and of the place; values the relationships, partnerships, and creative capacity that artists and communities build together and aims to build power and agency for individuals, neighborhoods and communities. Springboard is based in St. Paul and Fergus Falls, MN.

### Great River Regional Library (GRRL)

GRRL serves central Minnesota with [thirty-two branch libraries](#) in Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, and Wright counties. Our vision is The Neighborhood Gateway: Inspiring Central Minnesota to shape the future through exploration, knowledge and connection. GRRL offers **nearly 1 million items** from any GRRL branch library, with free delivery between our branches. Our collection features books and more books -- nonfiction, reference, fiction, best sellers and popular reading, young adult, children's, and large print. Patrons can also access our Digital Library, with books and audiobooks free of charge to download. We offer **many other services**: [Ask a Librarian](#) information assistance, public Internet computers, business services, online databases, wireless Internet service, book selection advice, the educator request form, tours, language learning software, genealogy resources, and [library events](#). See the [services catalog](#) for more information. You may also read the library's [Annual Report](#) for information about library activities over the last year.

## **Project Details and Parameters**

With funding from the Minnesota Legacy Amendment, GRRL brings many artists and performers into its branch libraries to provide cultural and artistic programming and experiences for patrons. They are particularly interested in culturally relevant, open ended, less prescriptive experiences that allow patrons to explore and create with an artist's guidance. We've heard from GRRL patrons that events are more meaningful when participants have more chances to decide the result or goals. GRRL has been hiring multiple Ready Go mobile tools over the last five years and is looking to add to the roster of available tools that can do work with their branches.

Many Ready Go tools work with libraries across the state, often with funding from the [Arts & Cultural Heritage funds via the Minnesota Legacy Amendment](#) that is meant to bring artists into libraries all over Minnesota.

For this particular commission, we seek two artists or artist teams to create two new Ready Go Mobile Artist Tools designed to do work with branch libraries of the Great River Regional Library system.

- Artists/artist teams will create a mobile tool that works to fulfill GRRL's goals but can also function for any user or library once it is added to the Ready Go roster.
- The two \$5,000 commissions include all aspects involved in creating a mobile tool that will first be tested and used with GRRL libraries and then be added to the Ready Go roster.
- Required aspects include: design, fabrication, programming development, tool testing (including supplies needed), Ready Go roster listing and artist payment.
- Selected artists will be provided feedback on design, programming and other support from Ready Go and GRRL librarians.
- The new mobile art tool must be completed (fabricated and tested) by July 31, 2023 and be ready for use during August/September events with GRRL in late Summer 2023. Those who cannot meet these deadlines are asked not to apply.
- Upon completion of this project, the artist/s retain ownership of the mobile tool they created. The tool will be added to Springboard for the Arts' existing roster of tools at [www.readygoart.com](http://www.readygoart.com), and the artist will be available for hire. Commissioned artists must commit to having their mobile tool available for hire on the Ready Go site for at least 18 months.
- Must be willing and able to do work with the Great River Regional branch libraries- headquartered in St Cloud and anywhere from 40 minutes to 2.5 hours from the Twin Cities.

## **Additional info**

- The work and events Mobile Artist Tools do requires an interest in people and working with all sorts of folks- please make sure this is something you are excited about!
- Many of the most successful Ready Go tools provide opportunities for making- artists guiding an open process together with participants.

- We want mobile tools to encourage participants to be involved at whatever level is most comfortable for them. Sometimes that's actively making art, sometimes it's observing the process, or just talking with the artist about the project.
- We are especially interested in supporting projects led or created by artists or artist teams who identify as BIPOC, Native, LGBTQIA+, and/or artists with disabilities.

### **Eligibility**

- Artists/artist teams of any discipline who live anywhere in Minnesota.
- Ability to meet key dates as listed in the timeline below.
- Artists/teams are not required to have previous mobile art experience, but will need to demonstrate ability to complete a large project.
- Artists/teams who work in any mediums are encouraged to apply if they are interested in creating a Mobile Artist Tool that is purpose-built to pique curiosity and prompt interaction.
- Artists/teams must be willing and able to travel to GRRL branch libraries for test events, feedback sessions and official events.

**Note on artist teams:** By artist team we mean up to 3 artists working together on the artistic aspects of the commission. If you are planning to hire or include a technical consultant or fabricator, they would not be considered part of the artist team. Teams will pick lead artist to create SlideRoom account and submit team application.

### **Timeline:**

#### **RFQ opens**

February 8, 2023– <https://readygoart.com/in-the-community/rfq/>

#### **Artist Workshop/Info Session**

March 2, 2023 | 6:00 – 8:00pm

Zoom meeting- recorded and posted after. Sign up at: [springboardforthearts.org/grrl-zoom](https://springboardforthearts.org/grrl-zoom)

Attendance or viewing of recording is highly recommended!

#### **Responses to RFQ due**

March 19, 2023, 11:59pm

#### **Finalists notification (invitation to create full proposals)**

March 23, 2023

#### **Full Proposals due**

April 7, 2023

#### **Finalist presentations/panel meeting**

April 14th, 2023, 1:00-4:00pm

## **Selected Artists announced**

April 17, 2023

## **Kick off for selected artists/artist teams- attendance required!**

April 27, 2023

## **Mobile tool fabrication, testing and feedback**

April-July 2023

## **Public celebration- 3 official events with GRRL branch libraries, added to Ready Go roster.**

August/September 2023

## **Selection Criteria**

Responses to RFQ and full proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Quality of artist's past work as demonstrated in the submitted materials.
- Feasibility/technical considerations.
- Evidence of passion for working and creating art with all sorts of folks.
- Indication that artist/artist team has expertise (art related or other) to undertake project or can demonstrate a plan for accessing outside expertise to successfully complete project.

## **Selection Process**

From submitted responses to the RFQ, Springboard/Ready Go and GRRL will select finalists. Finalists will receive a stipend of \$300 to create a full proposal to be presented to a panel of artists and representatives from GRRL and Springboard/Ready Go on April 14th, 1-4pm. Two artists/artist teams will be selected to create the Mobile Artist Tools.

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## **Request for Qualifications**

### **Mobile Artist Tools**

SlideRoom submission due March 19, 2023, 11:59pm

SlideRoom application portal <https://springboard.slideroom.com/>

## **Application Submission Process**

1. Read RFQ for background, eligibility and application process.

Highly recommended to attend/view the **Artist Workshop/Info Session** -Thursday March 2, 2023 | 6:00 – 8:00pm

Sign up at: [springboardforthearts.org/grrl-zoom](https://springboardforthearts.org/grrl-zoom)

2. Complete and compile items A-D listed below (narrative, work samples etc.) to prepare for submitting to SlideRoom.

3. Find the RFQ and link to online application at: <https://readygoart.com/in-the-community/rfq/>

4. We will be in touch if there are any questions about your submission.

## Application Assistance

Springboard is committed to improving access to our programs and services for all persons.

Applicants who need technical assistance with completing the form, or uploading or formatting files, can schedule a half-hour phone call or videoconferencing session by emailing:

[andy@springboardforthearts.org](mailto:andy@springboardforthearts.org)

For questions and assistance related to eligibility, preparing a submission and/or feedback, please contact Ready Go Manager: [peter@springboardforthearts.org](mailto:peter@springboardforthearts.org)

## Application Questions

### A. Applicant info

- Contact information: name, email, phone, address—you will enter this when you create a SlideRoom account. (Teams- pick one lead artist to create account)

**Slideroom will prompt you to list above info for additional artist team members if applicable. Note:** other artist team members must also meet eligibility requirements. Technical experts are not considered artist team members.

Instead of written responses, we also welcome video submissions to the Narrative questions. We will be making decisions based on your answers, not the quality of the video.

See time limits for each question. Record videos using a laptop, tablet, phone or camera and upload them to YouTube or Vimeo. (Here you can find instructions for Youtube <https://support.google.com/youtube> and Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/join> Be sure to make the videos Public or Unlisted on YouTube.)

### The application includes:

### B. Narrative

1. **Artwork and approach (2000 characters including spaces, video response- 3 minutes max)**

Describe your medium(s), and approach to art making. Talk about how that would relate to an approach for this opportunity.

Note: Do not propose a project idea at this time, but simply discuss general ideas on how you would think about this.

2. **Why this opportunity? (2000 characters including spaces, video response-3 minutes max)**

Tell us why you are interested in this opportunity and commission. Mobile Artist Tools require a passion for working with all sorts of folks-libraries serve everyone, all backgrounds, and ages are welcome- please address your interest and experience in this. Add any other info you feel is relevant for the panel to know.

**C. Resume** – maximum 2 pages—please upload in PDF format for each team member if applicable.

**D. Work Samples** –you will add these in SlideRoom along with title and image description text.

Individual artist applicants can upload up to 8 work samples. More than 8 will not be shown to jurors. Teams of 2 artists can upload up to 10 work samples. Teams of 3 artists can upload up to 12 work samples.

Visual work: Submit .jpeg images— Images must be under 5 MB.

You can upload images with any dimensions, as SlideRoom resizes images larger than 1280 x 1280 x 72 ppi.

Text work: Submit in .pdf format. 1 page = 1 work sample (ex: 4 page file = 4 work samples).

Audio/Video work: Provide full URL links (i.e. YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud). 1 minute = 1 work sample (ex: 4 minute video = 4 work samples).

