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**Request for Proposals**

**“Art Heals”**

**Deadline**: 8/23/21

**Budget:** $3000 - $5000

**Eligibility:**

We are accepting proposals from artists who work and reside in Douglas, Franklin, or Jefferson counties in Kansas.

**About The Willow:**

### The Willow builds safer communities through shelter, services, and support to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. We serve Douglas, Franklin, and Jefferson counties in Kansas.

**Our Guiding Principles are:**   
  
**Equity:** The Willow promotes equity in our services and community by working to support the needs of a diverse population while being inclusive to people of all identities.  
  
**Community**: The Willow is committed to healthy partnerships, prevention work, outreach,  
collaboration, and education.

**Advocacy**: The Willow is committed to advocacy that is confidential, trauma-informed, low-barrier, and individualized.

**Empowerment:** The Willow works to empower survivors through peer support and respect, while honoring the dignity of those we serve.

**Support:** The Willow supports the well-being of survivors and advocates via self-care, education, innovation, and research-based practices.

**Project Description:**

The Willow seeks to acquire art for our conferencing space. The space is used for survivor support groups, educational classes and trainings, co-working, meeting space for advocates and clients, and for children who are waiting while their parents meet with advocates. We hope to create an inspiring space that is comfortable, hopeful, and soothing.

We chose the willow tree as our logo and motif in 2012. The concept is that a willow tree bends, but doesn’t break. Additionally, if you remove a limb from a willow tree and plant it in a new spot, it will grow and regenerate. This imagery is meaningful to our clients who often find themselves putting down new roots, and exhibiting high levels of resiliency in the face of multiple traumas and challenges.  
  
Next year will be the 45th anniversary of The Willow, and we are looking for work that reflects the history of the organization, its strong roots in the community, and the ideas of safety, comfort, empowerment, and advocacy which the Willow embodies. We are a dynamic organization that values diversity, inclusion, self-reflection, and leadership within our community.

The successful proposal will incorporate the willow tree. We are looking for three pieces, minimum of 24” x 40”, no bigger than 36” x 48” that are related to one another in a cohesive group that will hang on one wall of the space, together.

**Selection Process:**

Please submit the following by August 23, 2021:

1. Artist Biography: Share 500 words or less about your aesthetic, media, and professional career in visual arts. Also include a description of why this particular project appeals to you.
2. Sketch: Please include a simple sketch or mock-up of your proposed idea.
3. Description of the Project: Please describe in no more than 1000 words your intended product, what media you will use, and how it relates to our goals and the space.
4. References and Portfolio: Please include at least 2 professional references and pictures of at least 3 works in your portfolio.

**Timeline:**

Deadline: August 23, 2021.

Interviews: Megan Stuke, Executive Director, and Will Averill, Director of Communications, will select 3 finalists and set up a conversation either by phone or Zoom by August 27, 2021. Interviews will be complete by September 1, 2021.

Decision will be made by September 3, 2021.

Work should be complete by December 1, 2021.

**Submission requirements:**

Email submission to [mstuke@willowdvcenter.org](mailto:mstuke@willowdvcenter.org). PDF or other digital format is acceptable.

Contact information

Contact Megan Stuke at [mstuke@willowdvcenter.org](mailto:mstuke@willowdvcenter.org) with questions.