

Request for Proposals for Sculpture For the Christa McAuliffe Bronze Sculpture, Concord, New Hampshire

Deadline for Submissions: Monday, July 31, 2023

The Christa McAuliffe State House Memorial Commission (the “Commission”) established by Executive Order 2023-02 (enclosed herein) is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals for Sculpture (RFP) for one site-specific bronze monumental sculpture of educator and astronaut, Christa McAuliffe.

Artist Eligibility

Artists with proven experience in representational bronze monumental sculpture and the creation of art for public spaces are encouraged to apply. Citizens of the United States and/or legal residents are eligible. Citizens of the state of New Hampshire are encouraged to apply.

About the Project

The Commission is seeking a life size bronze sculpture of Christa McAuliffe. The sculpture shall be unique, dynamic, accessible, and approachable highlighting Christa’s commitment to educating the next generation and her selection as the first teacher in space. A brief biography of Christa can be found on page 5.

Selection Committee

The selection of artwork for the Christa McAuliffe Sculpture is overseen by the Commission, made up of elected officials and private citizens.

Selection Criteria

The Commission reviews proposals submitted by artists and selects artwork based on the following criteria:

- Quality, appropriateness, and suitability of the proposed sculpture in relation to the RFP:
 - Design considerations: sculpture must be durable, require minimal maintenance, meet safety standards, and adhere to building codes, and other state regulations.
 - Medium, forms, and concept: suitability of the proposed medium, forms, and artistic concept to the stated project request.
 - Suggested location: suitability of the proposed sculpture to the location. The sculpture will be placed on the front portion of the New Hampshire State House and the specific location will be determined by the Commission, but artist recommendations are encouraged.
 - Consideration should be given to the historic nature of the final location and the existing sculptures, memorials, and other historic landmarks already in place.
 - An online 3-D virtual tour of the State House Grounds can be found at: [New Hampshire State House \(tourmkr.com\)](https://www.tourmkr.com)
- The artist’s ability to carry out the commission, to keep the project within budget, and to complete the work on schedule. Assessment is based on evidence of successful projects undertaken and completed as noted in the artist’s resume and work samples.
- It should be noted that Executive Order 2023-02 calls for the sculpture to be unveiled in its permanent and final location on or before September 2, 2024. Artists are encouraged to submit proposals even if further timeline discussions are deemed necessary by any artist or the Commission.

Design Considerations

Proposals for the outdoor sculpture should factor in the need for the sustainability and longevity of materials and media. The selected patina and coating must be easily maintained and repaired.

Adverse site conditions include: wind, sun, snow, extreme heat, freezing temperatures, potential for vandalism, etc. Therefore, the Selection Committee request that the sculpture acquired for this site be durable, low-maintenance, pose no hazard to the public, and require minimal conservation (optimally maintenance free for up to 20 years). Artists submitting proposals are required to provide a statement of recommended maintenance, as well as a recommendation for lighting of the artwork.

Medium, Forms, & Themes

The Selection Committee requests:

- Material for the proposed exterior, in-the-round sculpture must be bronze.
- The proposed sculpture should enhance and support the Capitol setting complimenting the historic context.
- The scale of the sculpture should relate well to the surrounding architectural elements, be attractive from a distance view as well as up close by visitors.
- Style specifications – the Commission would like the sculpture to be approachable, highlight Christa's commitment to education and be representative of the moment she played in history. "I touch the future, I teach." – Christa McAuliffe.

Location for Sculpture

The placement of the sculpture will be located on the front portion of the New Hampshire State House grounds, Concord, NH.

Budget

Artists submitting proposals should include all expenses for the proposed sculpture including the cost of transportation, sub-ground level anchoring (footing), excavation, labor and equipment costs of installation, and any above ground base. Itemize costs on the standardized budget form provided. Costs can include: supplies and materials; artist(s) fees; any subcontracting work related to the project; studio rental; electricity, telephone; travel costs; secure base; an amortized portion of general liability insurance, and a small contingency percentage. No design fees will be paid for preliminary sketches or designs submitted with the proposal. Documentation photography for the artist's portfolio is not an allowable expense.

Semi-finalists may be asked to refine their proposals or present their plans to the Selection Committee. The Committee reserves the right to make a decision that it believes is in the best interest of the project and to adjust the process as needed.

General Liability Insurance

- Artists receiving contracts for commissions are required by the State Attorney General's office to have current General Liability Insurance.
- Artists are not required to have General Liability insurance at the time the proposal is submitted. However, artists selected for the project are required to submit a current Certificate of Insurance at the time of contracting to verify that a current general liability insurance policy is in place and that limits of coverage are appropriate to the scope of the project being undertaken.
- If an artist has a General Liability insurance policy in place at the time of proposal and wishes to add an amortized portion of this cost to the budget at the time of submission, this should be included in the budget.
- If an artist does not have General Liability insurance at the time of submission and/or the level of coverage is insufficient to address the scope of the proposed project, the line item in the budget for "insurance" can be left blank. The cost of insurance can be added to the budget after review and selection and will be included in the budget submitted to the Selection Committee for approval.

How to Submit a Proposal

Artists must submit the following materials electronically on the Commission's website, <https://www.governor.nh.gov/christa-mcauliffe-state-house-memorial-commission>:

- 1) **Proposed Design.** Include a two-dimensional graphic representation of preliminary concept. Concept may be presented in any medium (photo, graphite, colored pencil, pen & ink, watercolor, etc.).
- 2) **Prior Work.** Five (5) to fifteen (15) still images (JPG) that provide an example of the quality of your work (full and details shots) including 1-3 photos of completed work that directly relates to your proposal.
- 3) **Itemized budget** (see Budget Form below).
- 4) **Artist's concept** for the artwork and a **statement of recommended maintenance**.
- 5) **Sculpture specifications** including: Dimensions and weight. Indicate any unusual foundation support or anchoring that might be anticipated.
- 6) **Resume** including 3 references.

The Selection Committee will honor the copyright and intellectual property rights of artists submitting proposals.

Deadline: Monday, July 31, 2023.

No late proposals will be accepted.

Questions? Contact James Scully at (603) 271-2121, James.F.Scully@nh.gov

Christa McAuliffe Memorial Sculpture Project
BUDGET FORM (Required) **one budget form per commission proposal*

ARTIST'S NAME: _____

Fill out only the applicable items below.

Item	Cost
Design & execution of artwork (artist fee)	
Materials	
Studio Rental (only if renting)	
Electricity (prorated amount relevant to the execution of this artwork)	
Telephone (long distance calls made in connection with working on this artwork)	
Travel costs (associated with the design and installation of artwork) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65.5 cents per mile 	
Installation costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take into account all aspects of installation from start to finish. • Three-dimensional artwork must be securely mounted to a horizontal surface and include cost for appropriate base. • Include engineering studies if needed. • Include any required rental equipment (examples: truck, crane, scaffolding, etc). • Include any subcontractor fees. 	
General Liability Insurance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artists receiving contracts for commissions requiring installation are required to have General Liability Insurance by the State Attorney General's office. • The insurance should cover the artwork during transportation and delivery and cover the artist and general public while the artist is installing artwork on-site. This proposal budget can include an amortized amount of insurance proportional to the scope of your proposed artwork as it relates to your yearly activity. An estimate/average can be \$200 - \$600 depending on the scale of the project and installation. If you do not have general liability insurance please leave this blank. • For more information See "General Liability Insurance" paragraph on page 2. 	
Other (please explain):	
Other (please explain):	
Contingency (5% -10%) Please build in a contingency appropriate to the scope of your proposal.	
TOTAL BUDGET =	

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Sharon Christa McAuliffe

Born September 2, 1948, Sharon Christa Corrigan grew up in Framingham, MA, the daughter of Irish American Edward Corrigan and Lebanese American Grace George Corrigan. Inspired in May 1961 when she saw the broadcast of her fellow New Englander Alan Shepard – America’s first astronaut - launch into space, 8th grader Christa Corrigan told her friends she’d like to travel to space too. They dismissed the idea, telling her that girls couldn’t do that.

Putting the dream of spaceflight aside, Christa pursued a different path: education. She enrolled in what was then known as Framingham State Teachers College, graduating in 1970 with a bachelor’s degree in education and marrying Stephen J. McAuliffe, who she’d dated since high school. They moved to the D.C. area, where Steve pursued a law degree and Christa began her teaching career as a history and civics teacher in middle and junior high schools in Maryland. Eight years later, she had earned her master’s degree in education from a historically Black college, Bowie State College, and she, Steve and their young son Scott headed back to New England. They settled in Concord, New Hampshire, where she taught history at middle schools in Concord and Bow, and where she and Steve welcomed Caroline, a daughter, into their lives. In 1983, Christa dove into a new position at Concord High School, teaching social studies, economics, law and a course she designed herself, *The American Woman*, to 10th, 11th and 12th graders. Christa McAuliffe proved to be an enthusiastic teacher dedicated to experiential education. She earned her nickname, “The Field Trip Teacher”, from her drive to get her students out into the community to learn firsthand about the world in which we live.

Meanwhile, after the heady years of the Space Race, where in less than a decade, American astronauts went from an initial 15-minute space flight in 1961 to landing on the moon in 1969, Americans’ interest in space exploration had waned. People began to take space travel for granted, finding a program that sent space shuttles to orbit just 250 miles above Earth and return in a week or two, much less engaging than a program that had sent people all the way to walk on the surface of the Moon, 250,000 miles from Earth. The solution, President Reagan announced in 1984, was to send someone everyone could relate to, one of America’s finest, a teacher, into space. “When the shuttle lifts off,” Regan announced in September 1984, “all of America will be reminded of the crucial role teachers and education play in the life of our nation.”

Suddenly, Christa McAuliffe saw the chance to combine her dream of spaceflight with her vocation of teaching! Over 11,000 teachers from across the U.S. and its territories applied to become NASA’s first Teacher-in-Space. At the very last minute, Christa completed her application, proposing a project in which she would teach lessons from space, and keep a journal - just like the pioneer women whose journals helped make her lessons in *The American Woman* class come alive for her students. In 1985, NASA chose 104 candidates - one winner and one runner-up from each state, D.C. and U.S. territories, and brought them to the Johnson Space Center in Houston to train – and for NASA to evaluate them vis-à-vis the qualities they sought in the person who could best serve to rekindle public enthusiasm for spaceflight, while making it relatable to the average American. From out of this initial group, NASA selected 10 teachers as finalists. Christa McAuliffe soon rose to the top. On July 19, 1985, in a ceremony at the White House, then Vice-President George H.W. Bush made the announcement: Out of the 10, Christa McAuliffe was selected as NASA’s first Teacher-in-Space.

Christa underwent rapid training for her flight as a payload specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger’s STS 51-L Mission. Her enthusiasm for teaching and for space were evident. She captured the world’s imagination. She spoke of her fierce dedication to her profession: “I touch the future: I teach.” And as she did with her students, she urged young Americans to learn all they could about the universe in which we live, as she noted that space was in all of their futures.

Between her selection as NASA’s Teacher-in-Space to her launch, Christa captured the heart of everyone in New Hampshire. Granite Staters felt such pride in one of our own being

selected. There were parades, appearances, TV and radio interviews. She became part of every Granite Stater's family.

On the chilly morning of January 28, 1986, children in New Hampshire and all across America were tuned in to the television broadcast of the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger. Payload Specialist Christa McAuliffe smiled and waved to the crowd as she and Commander Dick Scobee, Pilot Mike Smith, Mission Specialists Ron McNair, Ellison Onizuka and Judy Resnick, and Payload Specialist Greg Jarvis headed to the Challenger and prepared for take-off. On the ground, friends and family gathered in NASA's VIP seating area to watch the launch, including Christa's parents, 9-year-old Scott and his entire elementary school class and New Hampshire's then-governor, John H. Sununu. The Challenger launch was glorious. But due to the cold weather at launch, a serious malfunction in an O-ring had developed, causing the Challenger to explode 73 seconds after launch. All seven crew members were lost.

Children across America and their teachers and families witnessed the loss of the world's most beloved teacher and her brave crewmates. It became a moment, embedded in the consciousness of all who witnessed or heard about the loss on that day, in which people would never forget where they were when it happened.

Inspired by this 37-year-old social studies teacher, her legacy lives on in the lives of her students, who have become teachers, artists, scientists, judges and more. She continues to touch lives through the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, the official state memorial dedicated to her and her hero, Alan Shepard, where over 2 million people of all ages and walks of life have explored the universe since it opened in its original incarnation as a stand-alone planetarium. Innovative teachers have been able to pursue imaginative, creative educational programs while supported by New Hampshire's Christa McAuliffe Sabbatical Program. Begun by families of the Challenger crew, hundreds of Challenger Learning Centers across North America engage students in simulated space missions. Concord's Christa McAuliffe School is one of hundreds of schools, youth sports tournaments, educational programs and events across America bearing Christa McAuliffe's name. Her curiosity, enthusiasm for teaching, learning and opening up young minds to all of the possibilities in the universe, remains an inspiration to all. ([Christa McAuliffe — Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center \(cm-center.org\)](http://ChristaMcAuliffe—ChristaCorriganMcAuliffeCenter(cm-center.org))).

FOR MORE INFORMATION on Sharon Christa McAuliffe, including images:

ONLINE:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration profile page: [Astronaut Bio: Christa McAuliffe \(04/2007\) \(nasa.gov\)](http://AstronautBio:ChristaMcAuliffe(04/2007)(nasa.gov))

Biographical essay written by the McAuliffe Center: [Christa McAuliffe — Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center \(cm-center.org\)](http://ChristaMcAuliffe—ChristaCorriganMcAuliffeCenter(cm-center.org))

IN PRINT:

A Journal for Christa: Christa McAuliffe, Teacher in Space by Grace George Corrigan. University of Nebraska Press, 2000. ISBN-13: 978-0803264113.

A memoir of Christa from the account of her mother, Grace George Corrigan.

Teacher in Space: Christa McAuliffe and the Challenger Legacy by Colin Burgess and Grace George Corrigan. University of Nebraska Press, 2020. ISBN-13: 978-1496218162.

A biography which honors the life of Christa McAuliffe by telling her story in an inspiring way to help realize and honor Christa's dream of touching the future through education.

Throttle Up! Teacher Astronaut Christa McAuliffe by Tom McAuliffe II. Next Stop Paradise Publishing LLC, 2022. ASIN: B0BPHWYHFR

An account of Christa's contributions to education, space exploration, and inspirational life stories.