



## Request for Proposals for a Watershed-Themed Site-Specific Installation

The Umbrella's Musketaquid Arts & Environment Program, in partnership with OARS, seeks proposals for a site-specific art installation to be exhibited April 15 – May 20, 2020 at the Umbrella Arts Center gallery, 40 Stow Street, Concord MA. Proposals are due January 20, 2020.

### 1. The Call

The Umbrella's Musketaquid Arts & Environment Program presents a series of annual activities coinciding with Earth Month to celebrate the confluence of art and nature. This year's activities include a community art exhibition, parade, talks, and performances. The Umbrella is partnering with OARS, a local non-profit, to present this year's program around the theme of Water. We seek proposals for an installation that will augment our community art exhibition on view from April 15 – May 20, 2020. There is a \$2000 stipend offered, which should cover artist fees and materials.

The goal of this installation is to engage and immerse our attendees in our theme of the local freshwater watershed, the Concord River Basin. The name Musketaquid honors the wisdom of Concord's first people who described this place according to its nature, "the place where the waters flow through the grasses." Strong proposals will be grounded in a sense of place, and will in some way represent the Concord River Watershed, also known as the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord (SuAsCo) watershed. (See watershed map below). Sense of place is integral to our program as we connect to the past and to the present through observation, reflection, and creation.

Since we are an educational non-profit, strong proposals will also describe how the installation facilitates understanding of fresh water and the natural history of our watershed. We will work with the winning artist to clarify and support any educational components of the installation. See additional information about the theme in number 8 below.

Although proposals of any media are welcome, including but not limited to 2D, 3D or digital work, any audio component must be limited to low background sound, since the gallery area is also used for access to office areas and as an informal meeting space.

We recommend that artists visit the site before submitting their proposals. Images of our space are included in the additional information section below. For questions, or to arrange tour of the gallery space with one of our staff, email Nancy Lippe: [nancy@theumbrellaarts.org](mailto:nancy@theumbrellaarts.org).

### 2. Key Dates

- Deadline for proposal submissions: January 20, 2020
- Selection of artist: February 1, 2020
- Date on which work in the Gallery can begin: April 7, 2020
- Exhibition Dates: April 15, 2020 to May 20, 2020

### 3. Proposal Instructions

Proposals must be submitted by 11:59 PM EST January 20, 2020 via email to Nancy Lippe, [nancy@theumbrellaarts.org](mailto:nancy@theumbrellaarts.org)

Proposals should include:

- Artist name, address, email, and telephone number
- Text description and visual illustration of the proposed installation
- Artist CV
- Artist Statement

- Website site or social media accounts if available

#### 4. Presenting Organizations

- **OARS.** OARS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, improve and preserve the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord Rivers, their tributaries and watersheds, for public recreation, water supply, and wildlife habitat. <http://oars3rivers.org/>
- **The Umbrella Arts Center.** The Umbrella Arts Center in Concord Massachusetts is a non-profit cultural organization committed to nurturing and encouraging the arts throughout the Metro-West community. We house 50 artists' studios in our 1929 school building, offer a full program of art classes for children, teens and adults and an Arts and Environment program, and host the performing arts in our 400-seat theater. <https://theumbrellaarts.org/>
- **Musketaquid.** Musketaquid is the Arts & Environment Program of the Umbrella Arts Center. It promotes a discovery of the arts, a passion for place and nature, and environmental responsibility. We sponsor an integrated program of community events including our signature Musketaquid Earth Day, Solstice Celebrations, adult and children's classes, the Ninjas in Nature Summer Camp, and public art. <https://theumbrellaarts.org/program/arts-environment>

## 8. Additional Information

### A. More on our theme of “Water”

Our theme invites artists to consider “Water” from a variety of perspectives: the science of the water cycle, its wonder and beauty, the engineering involved bringing water to people, social and political issues, and the immense power of water to both create and destroy.

Trees and green plants pull water from the earth and offer it to the atmosphere in *transpiration*, while the ground, lakes, and the ocean also give up moisture through *evaporation*. Atmospheric moisture condenses and eventually falls to earth as rain, snow, sleet or hail. Through snowmelt and surface runoff, the fallen water feeds streams and then rivers and lakes—always moving downward. The entire land area draining into a given river, forms that river’s *watershed*. Water also enters the earth where it nourishes trees and other vegetation, or it sinks deeper to become *groundwater*, which flowing always downward, feeds lakes, springs, and wells. All fallen water either enters the ocean or evaporates and the cycle repeats.

There is the intricate beauty of a snowflake’s symmetrical design, the tranquility of a flowing stream, the invitation of a winding river carrying autumn leaves, the abundant life of swamps, fens, marshes, and estuaries, and the pure magic of a spring. Can we hold on to these things both physically and spiritually? In the United States, we assume that we will have drinkable water from our faucets, but supplying clean water is a complex process involving reservoirs, wells, pumps, filtration, rounds of disinfection, and hundreds of miles of local distribution pipes. Each town has its own system, story, and history. Even now Concord and other towns litigate for control of limited water resources.

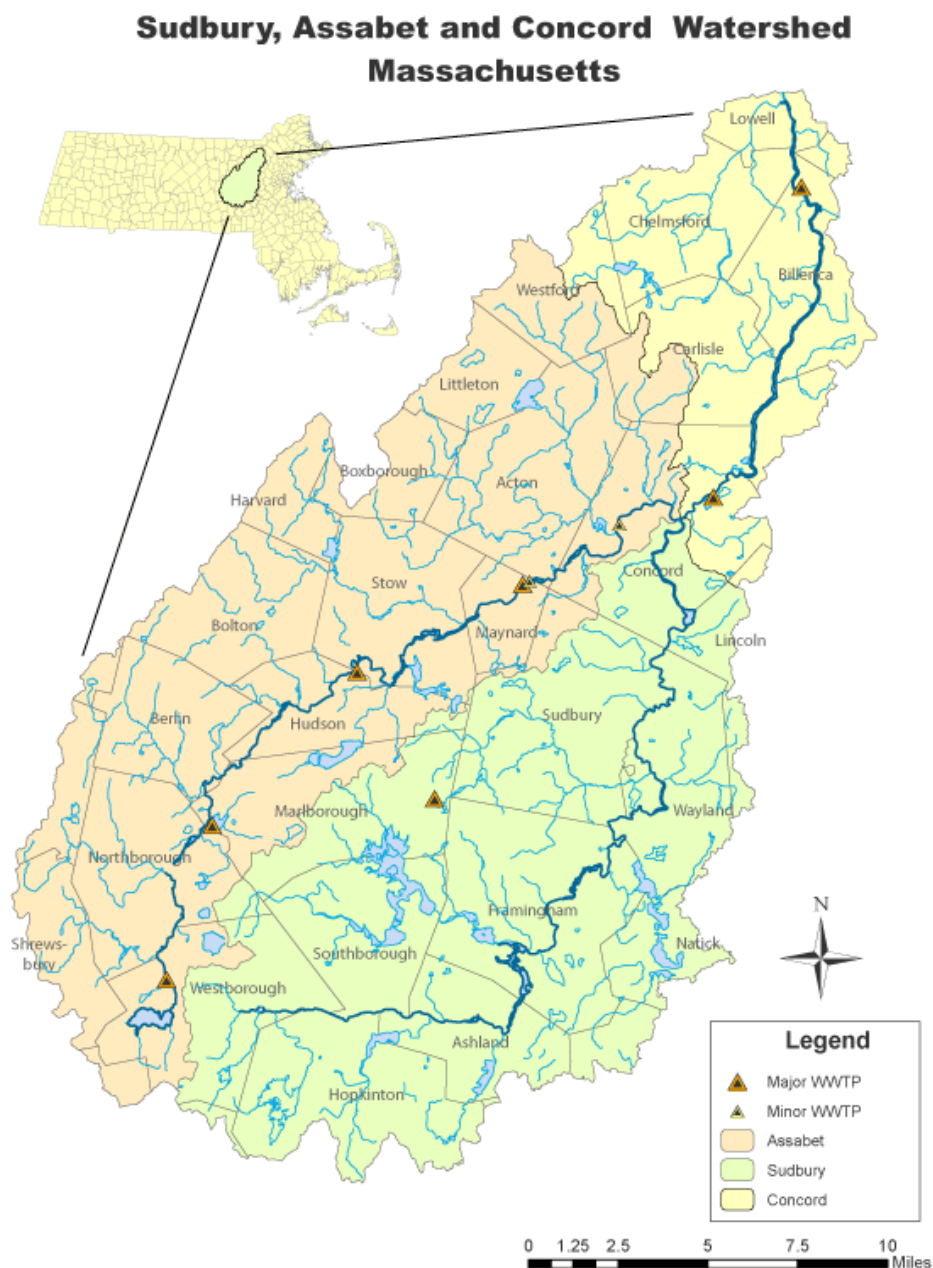
Nor does everyone have equal access to clean water. Some 2 million Americans live without access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and race is the strongest predictor of such problems. Both African American and Latinx households are twice as likely as white households to lack complete plumbing, while Native American households are 19 times more likely. Worldwide, 780 million people lack access to an improved water sources, and 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation.

Flowing water has immense potential power. Available waterpower along the Merrimack River made huge cotton mills possible and built the cities of Lowell and Lawrence in Massachusetts, and Manchester

in New Hampshire. But too much water can create massive destruction and globally flooding causes annual urban property damage estimated at \$120 billion. Too little water can be just as destructive, and global climate change will dramatically increase both flooding and drought.

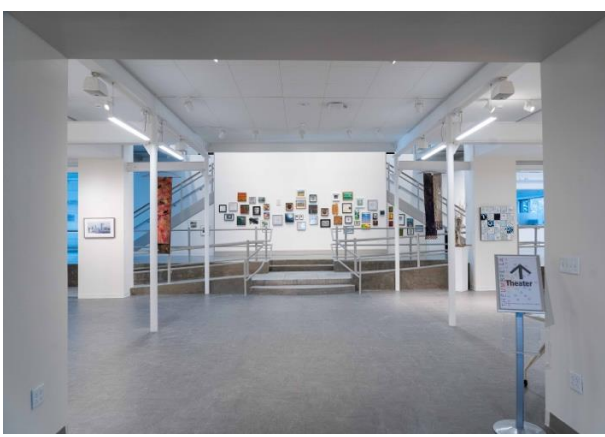
### B. Watershed Map

This map shows the watershed drained by the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord rivers. The entire scope of this map is sometimes called the *Concord River Watershed*, and is also known as the *Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord (SuAsCo) Watershed*.

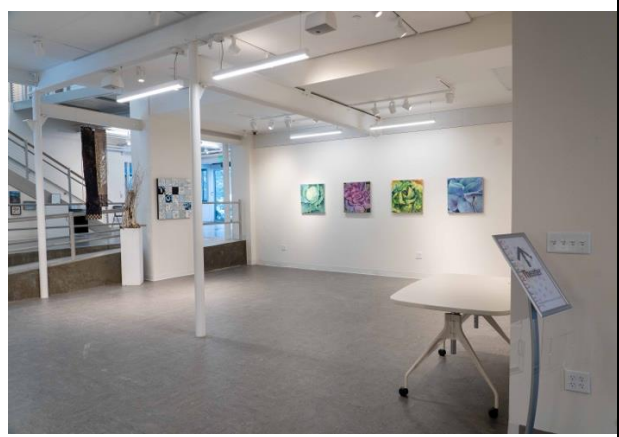


**C. The Space**

These photos show the gallery space at the Umbrella, 40 Stow St. Concord, MA.



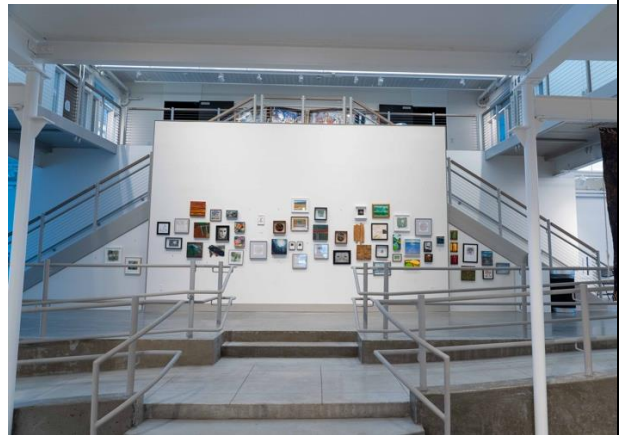
Entry to gallery. All space in sight plus area out of sight on next floor is available for the installation



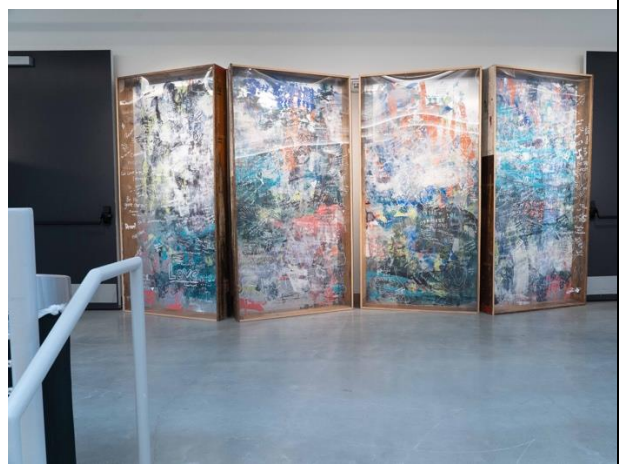
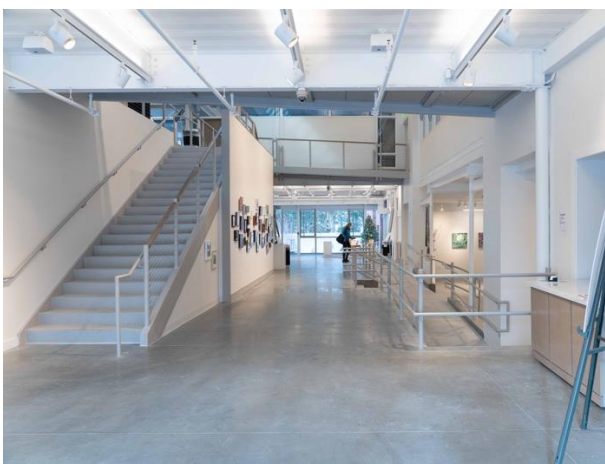
Right-side lower gallery. Wall will be used for 2-D community art, and the floor area beyond the pillars will be available for 3-D community submissions.



Left side lower gallery. See comments on right-side lower gallery.



Lower back wall. Available for installation. Could be used for projection, mural, etc.



Side view of lower back wall and one of two stairways

Upper back wall at head of two stairways. The four panels will be gone and this smaller wall available for the installation