



Hulett (Mitigation) History Art Project  
Request for Qualifications

RFQ Issue Date: 05-30-2025

Inquiry Period: 06-02-2025 – 06-23-2025

Qualifications statements due: 06-30-2025

Review and Scoring Period: 06-30-2025 – 07-21-2025

- Interviews with short-listed firms: 07-28-2025 (if applicable)

Notification of Selection: 08-11-2025

Project Completion: 11-01-2026

Submit Responses via e-mail to:

Eric Neff, Grants Manager, Education and Support Services

State Historic Preservation Office

Ohio History Connection

800 E. 17th Ave.

Columbus, OH 43211-2474

p. 614.297.2532

eneff@ohiohistory.org – NOTE: MUST HAVE “Hulett (Mitigation) History Art Project” in  
Email Subject Line

**Ohio History Connection**

The Ohio History Connection, formerly the Ohio Historical Society, is a statewide history organization with the mission to spark discovery of Ohio’s stories. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization chartered in 1885, the Ohio History Connection carries out history services for Ohio and its citizens focused on preserving and sharing the state’s history. This includes housing the Ohio’s State Historic Preservation Office, the official state archives and the Community Engagement Department and managing more than 50 sites and museums across Ohio. For more information, go to [ohiohistory.org](http://ohiohistory.org).

**Project Background:**

**Purpose of the Project**

This art project seeks to honor the historic contributions of the Hulett Ore Unloaders to the Port of Cleveland and their vital role in shaping the maritime and industrial heritage of the greater Cleveland area.

Invented in 1898 by Clevelander George H. Hulett, the Hulett Ore Unloader revolutionized the unloading of iron ore, coal, and limestone from lake freighters on the Great Lakes. These towering 100-foot, 800-ton machines featured cantilevered arms and massive buckets capable of removing up to 17 tons of material in a single scoop. Their introduction dramatically reduced unloading times—from as long as a week to just half a day for a 600-foot freighter like the *William G. Mather*—transforming Cleveland into a global hub of steel production.

At their peak, 77 Hulett's operated in Great Lakes ports, with 14 located in Cleveland alone. The four surviving examples on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Dock at Whiskey Island were built in 1912 for the Pennsylvania Railroad by Cleveland's Wellman-Seaver-Morgan Company. Though one was briefly used in New York City, the Hulett's fixed design made it unsuitable for tidal ports.

By the late 20th century, advances in shipping technology rendered the Hulett's obsolete. The rise of self-unloading freighters, which required less infrastructure and offered greater efficiency, led to the gradual retirement of these machines. By 1992, 61 of the 66 U.S. ore carriers were self-unloading, and Conrail—having inherited the Hulett's from the Pennsylvania Railroad—ceased their operation. After 80 years of service, the last four Hulett's at Cleveland's Whiskey Island fell silent at the close of the 1992 shipping season.

This project pays tribute to these engineering marvels and the legacy they represent in Cleveland's industrial story.

### **Situation and Need:**

Ohio's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at the Ohio History Connection operates with a small but dedicated team tasked with achieving a wide range of preservation objectives. To support our efforts in honoring the historic contributions of the Hulett Ore Unloaders to the Port of Cleveland and the broader maritime heritage of the region, we are seeking professional services to help bring this vision to life.

The selected firm will serve as an extension of SHPO, providing critical expertise and capacity in the areas of art project selection and management—functions that exceed the resources currently available within our staff. This collaboration will ensure the successful development and implementation of a meaningful public art initiative that pays tribute to these engineering marvels and their lasting impact on Cleveland's industrial legacy.

### **Project Artist Eligibility**

- These public art commissions and potential purchases are open to all professional artists, artisans, or artist-led teams that live and work in the state of Ohio and are at least 18 years old.
- An artist/artisan is defined as a skilled practitioner that generates designs and concepts for creative works that reflect form, beauty, and aesthetic perception. All artists on the team must live or work in Ohio.
- Subcontractors may be used and are defined as those providing technical implementation such as construction, fabrication, and/or assembly for portions or all of a finished product under direct supervision and control of an artist that live and work in the state of Ohio and are at least 18 years old.
- Staff of consultant are not eligible to apply for this commission.

### **Scope of Work:**

Ohio's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at the Ohio History Connection is seeking an Art Project Consultant with a proven track record of excellence in developing and executing art projects, identifying prospective artist(s), and cultivating project site(s) relationships for the eventual art project location.

The consultant's responsibilities will include:

- Develop an RFP for the art project including a site for the project. (\_\_\_ Time – \_\_\_ hours)
- Score art project submittal(s) and submit final recommendation to the Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office.
- Develop an art project implementation plan that includes recommendations from local partners (Cleveland Landmarks Commission, Port of Cleveland, etc.) to make the art project a reality. (\_\_\_ Time – \_\_\_ hours)
- Assist with meetings and other related tasks as needed. (\_\_\_ Time – \_\_\_ hours)
- DRAFT Budget for Project Follows:
  - Art Project(s) Consultant Fee: \$30,000
  - Art Project(s) - All Inclusive: \$140,000
  - Total Project Costs: \$170,000

### **Preferred qualities:**

1. Experience working with agencies similar Ohio's State Historic Preservation Office.
2. Demonstrated success completing public art projects.
3. Ohio-based and high familiarity and experience working with Ohio art projects.

### **Requirements:**

1. The consultant must be based in Ohio.
2. Provide rates estimation. Rates must be a combined hourly rate for any/all billed hours, regardless of the level of staff working on the project.
3. Consultant must submit estimated hours to accomplish projects at the time of proposal to estimate overall potential cost (the projects will be scoped with hours, etc., once the firm has been selected and the projects become actionable).
4. Consultant's rate proposal should include how regular meetings, phone calls and other on-going communications such as Teams, e-mail, texts, etc. are to be billed.
5. Consultant's expenses must not exceed **\$30,000** in Calendar Years 2025-2026, unless authorized by the Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office.
6. Submit the credentials of the key, regular individual(s)/team who would work on the project including their role, related expertise and experience.

The intent is to enter into a one-year agreement, beginning in Calendar Year 2025.

## **Submission Guidelines:**

### Qualifications

- Experience and qualifications of the consultant, including the resume or Curriculum Vitae of the principal professional providing direct services for this project.
- Statement of particular expertise and experience in performing art project services, particularly as these relate to similar types of projects.
- A narrative that addresses how the Scope of Work, as outlined above, will be accomplished, including a timeline with realistic benchmarks and the number of hours required to accomplish the plan.
- Brief description of 2-3 successful art projects completed within the past five years.

### References

- At least two references for related work completed within the last three years. List contact name, title and role within the work, address, phone number and email address for each reference.
- Examples of completed work prepared for one of the clients listed.
  - Examples can be in the form of photographs, Scope of Work documents, links to websites about the projects, etc.

### Proposed Costs

- Project budget and expected payment terms.

### What to include:

- Clear outline of responsibilities for both Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office and selected consultant.

## **Evaluation Criteria:**

All accepted proposals will be reviewed by Ohio's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in partnership with the Cleveland Landmarks Commission will be evaluated and scored using the following criteria:

- Overall match between RFP requirements and proposal: Understanding of scope, objectives and completeness and coherence of response.
- Demonstrated ability of consultant to carry out art installation of similar character and scope.
- Cost effectiveness.
- Qualifications and previous work as a consultant.
- Ability to communicate in writing as evidenced by the response to this RFP.