



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Cincinnati Nature Center is seeking multiple artists to create site-specific, original light installations as part of the 2024 *Light in the Forest* event.

### ◆ December 2024 ◆ Select Evenings ◆

*Light in the Forest* is a winter walking tour of seasonal lights reflecting a theme of peace, nature, and contemplation. The one mile illuminated trail will lead you past enchanting ponds, fields, and woodland areas.

This unique display will include artistic light installations, live music, festive treats, holiday shopping, and a visit to the historic Krippendorf Lodge.

We expect to welcome over 20,000 guests to this community event.

Being a nonprofit organization, the revenue we receive from this event helps to support our mission of *Inspiring Conservation*.





## Cincinnati Nature Center

Cincinnati Nature Center believes nature is for everyone. Since opening our doors to the public in 1967, this belief has remained the cornerstone of everything we do. Each year, we welcome over 320,000 nature enthusiasts from around the region and beyond to explore the 1,800 acres of forests, prairies, streams, ponds, and wetlands that make up our two locations—Rowe Woods and Long Branch Farm & Trails.

Because each person's connection to nature can be deeply personal, we offer programs, volunteer opportunities, clubs, events, and more that provide opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to engage with nature at their own pace and within their own interests.

For children, we offer lots of opportunities for nature play, exploration, and discovery through specific programming, school field trips, camps, and our Nature Preschool.

But it's not just about what we offer to people. We work to protect more than 800 species of plants and wildlife and our 1,800 acres of land through research and education. Our visitors, members, and neighbors become a part of a community that learns how they can help in their own yards and neighborhoods. With a passionate team of staff and volunteers, we strive to improve visitors' experiences while keeping our focus on protecting this haven for all of its inhabitants.



## Request for Proposal

Cincinnati Nature Center is seeking multiple artists to create site-specific, original light installations as part of the 2024 *Light in the Forest* event. This opportunity is open to professional light installation artists, visual artists, sculptors, and groups or businesses with experience in light installation work, animation, projection mapping, or digital art.

Project awards ranging from \$1,000-\$10,000 may be provided to each selected artist per installation or a combination of installations.

Applicants must submit the following to be considered:

- A concept proposal
- Supporting images
- Budget
- Additional support needed from Cincinnati Nature Center
- Artist statement and bio with complete contact information (name, address, email, phone number)
- 3-5 samples of past work

In addition to the artist installations, the Nature Center will set up all path and auxiliary lighting, additional installations, a decorative historic home, music, and a holiday shopping experience.

***The application deadline is April 26, 2024 at 5 pm.***

## Project Intent

The 2024 *Light in the Forest* theme is “Woodland Enchantment: discover the whimsy of winter.” The vision is to create unique outdoor visual light experiences along the one mile long, accessible walking trail. It is intended to blend with nature.

This site-specific artwork can:

- Provide enhancements to the fields, forests, ponds, and trails using lights and reflection.
- Highlight the importance of the Nature Center’s values and the environment.
- Highlight the natural features found any time of year along the trails, water, forests, trees, and fields of the Nature Center.
- Provide excitement and interest for the community as a whole.
- Provide interactive artwork that invites visitors to be a part of the installation.

**Artists may submit more than one installation for more than one area.**

## Please Note

Abstract whimsical and/or color images/mapping/projections are welcome and encouraged to take the visitor to a more magical place. Collaboration with the natural elements found along the trail is highly encouraged (such as ponds, trees, fields).

Installations must be able to withstand large temperature and weather fluctuations including snow, sleet, rain, sun, and high winds for the entire duration of the event.

Art installation space is limited due to electrical access. All artists will work directly with Cincinnati Nature Center’s Facilities Manager to optimize potential placement of installations and their electric capacity. This may include the use of generators.

Artists will work with the Nature Center’s Facilities team to ensure installations are safely displayed and secured. The Facilities team will be responsible for turning on and shutting down installations each evening. If the installation needs repair, the artist is expected to arrive on site to make the necessary repairs within 24 hours.

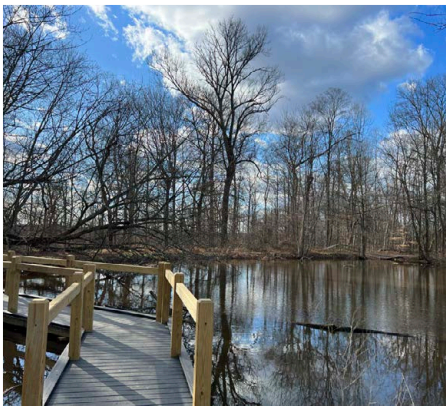
Installation space will require the selected artist(s) to adapt to the site’s limitations and the art element placement determined by the site coordinator.

## Site Visits and Key Contact

Applicants are invited and encouraged to visit Cincinnati Nature Center in Milford, Ohio. Site tours will be available with our Facilities Manager, Ryan Maloney, on pre-determined days and times. Please contact Ryan at [rmaloney@cincynature.org](mailto:rmaloney@cincynature.org) to arrange a site visit.

# Winter Landscape at Cincinnati Nature Center

View some of the design space available in the photos below, or schedule a visit to walk the event trail.



## Criteria for Selection

- This request for proposal is open to all interested artists.
- Appropriateness of the artist's medium, style, and previous professional experience as they relate to the art goals and opportunities in this project.
- Experience with projects of similar scale and scope, including familiarity with outdoor, weather-resistant art displays.
- All displays must last the entire *Light in the Forest* season, December 5–29. All artists must be accessible throughout the month for possible repairs to their installation(s).
- The 2024 *Light in the Forest* theme is “Woodland Enchantment.” Priority will be given to works that align with this theme, however, we understand everyone may have a different interpretation of this theme. Creativity is encouraged.

## Application Submission Procedure

Please prepare and submit the following information to Laura Whalen via email: [lwhalen@cincynature.org](mailto:lwhalen@cincynature.org).

### 1. Project Description

Provide a long description (one page or less) and a short description (one paragraph) of an overview of the installation including a description of how the installation ties to the general theme of the Nature Center and this event.

### 2. Project Details

Specify proposed location, budget, and materials and support needed from the Nature Center.

### 3. Timeframe/Work Plan

Provide a brief outline of the steps involved in the proposed installation with time requirements. Installation must be completed by November 14, 2024.

### 4. Bio

Provide a brief bio of artist/company and previous experience.

### 5. Sample Work Portfolio

Provide the link to artist's website and/or up to five digital images.

### 6. References

Provide a minimum of two references.

## Timeline

1. March 11, 2024 – Cincinnati Nature Center announces RFP.
2. April 26, 2024 – RFP Submission DEADLINE.
3. May 1–June 7, 2024 – Interviews to expand on artist submissions and meet the Nature Center team.
4. June 14, 2024 – Artist notification of selection.
5. June 28, 2024 – Engagement contracts signed with proof of artist liability insurance.
6. October 14, 2024 – Installments may begin once coordinated with site manager.
7. November 15, 2024 – Artwork installation to be completed per RFP guidelines.
8. Payment Schedule:
  - 1/2 payment with signed agreement
  - 1/4 payment post successful installment
  - 1/4 payment upon completion of the event (week of January 6, 2025).

## Artist Benefits

- **Compensation**  
Payment for work based upon acceptance of proposal.
  - **Artist/Company name will be listed/mentioned in the following:**
    - *Light in the Forest* news releases
    - Digital and/or printed event maps
    - Cincinnati Nature Center website
    - Social media highlight with link to artist webpage
    - Possible collaboration with a Nature Center representative during news interview
    - Trail signage near installation
  - **Ticket package**
    - Eight general event tickets to distribute to employees, clients, and/or customers
    - Ten tickets for a special preview evening for event sponsors, regional media outlets, Nature Center board members, and high-level donors.
  - **Additional benefit**  
Opportunity to host an artist talk and Q & A session during the *Light in the Forest* preview evening.
- 

## Questions?

Please contact Laura Whalen at [lwhalen@cincynature.org](mailto:lwhalen@cincynature.org) or (513) 774-1945.

Cincinnati Nature Center  
4949 Tealtown Road  
Milford, OH 45150