

Faculty of Science Gorlaeus Building Phase 2A Public Art Installation – Leiden University

Overview

The Faculty of Science is calling for proposals by an artist or artist-led team for a commissioned, site-specific, permanent public art installation. The work will be installed in the entry hall of the new Gorlaeus Building (phase 2A). The successful proposal will include details of the design, fabrication, and installation of artwork at the site. The finalist will be selected in early April 2023, and the installation of the artwork is expected by the end of 2023.

Background

The Faculty of Science at Leiden University is a world-class faculty where staff and students work together in a dynamic international environment. It is a faculty where personal and academic development are top priorities. Our people are committed to expanding fundamental knowledge through curiosity and looking beyond their own discipline; their aim is to benefit science and address the major societal challenges of the future, for instance, sustainability and health.

The research carried out at the Faculty of Science is truly diverse, ranging from mathematics, information science, astronomy, physics, chemistry, and bio-pharmaceutical sciences to biology and environmental sciences. The research activities are organized in eight institutes. The faculty has grown strongly in recent years and now has more than 2,500 staff members and over 6,000 students. We are at the heart of Leiden's Bio Science Park, one of Europe's biggest science parks, where university and business life come together.

The aim of our research is to gain a fundamental understanding of the world and the people around us. We distinguish between two research domains: Fundamentals of Science and Life Sciences.

Fundamentals of Science – from the nucleus of an atom to the enigmas of the human brain. Our natural scientists, social scientists, and medical and biomedical specialists study the minutest particles, the greatest infinities, and the oldest galaxies. But they are also engaged in exploring the origins of our behaviour, the most complex datasets, and the smartest algorithms. Their research is driven by the desire to unravel the deepest secrets of humans and the universe, to make the unknown known, and – wherever possible – to apply this knowledge.

Life Sciences – the fundamental basis of all life is made up of complex processes involving cells, molecules, and DNA. Knowledge of the human genome, powerful microscopes, and gene expression techniques increasingly give researchers the opportunity to understand and control the most fundamental biological processes. Our researchers use this knowledge to search for and find stepping stones to new medicines and therapies. The researchers within each domain work on an array of subjects, such as artificial intelligence, quantum computers, sustainable energy, efficient medicine development, data science, and keeping the planet liveable.

The education in the Faculty of Science is closely linked to research and takes place at the institutes. The faculty offers eight Bachelor programs and fourteen Master programs within the

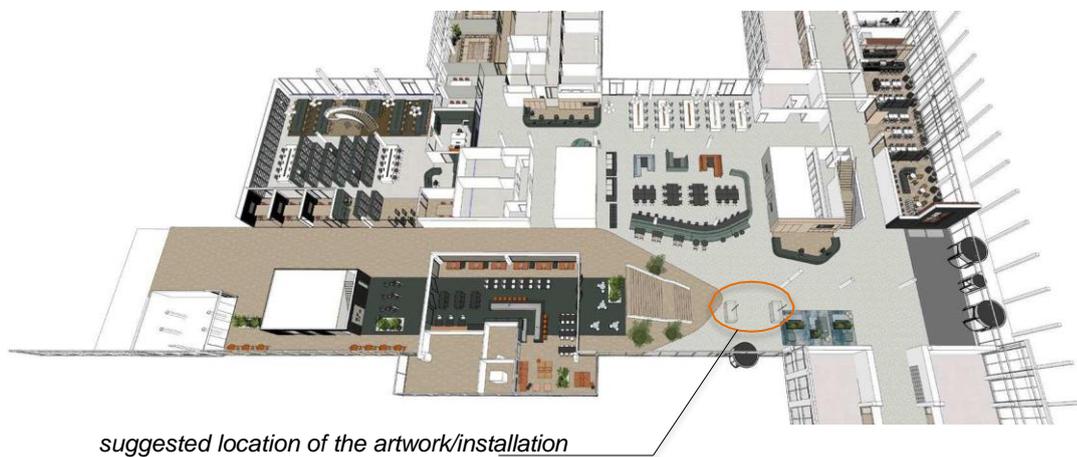
disciplines of Mathematics, Computer Science, Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biology, and Environmental Sciences. A considerable number of Master's students, PhD candidates, postdocs, and researchers from abroad create an international academic environment.

Our education takes place within a modern and inspiring research environment. Students work together with researchers, and Master's students are members of the research institutes. This creates an ideal environment for learning by performing research together with junior and senior researchers.

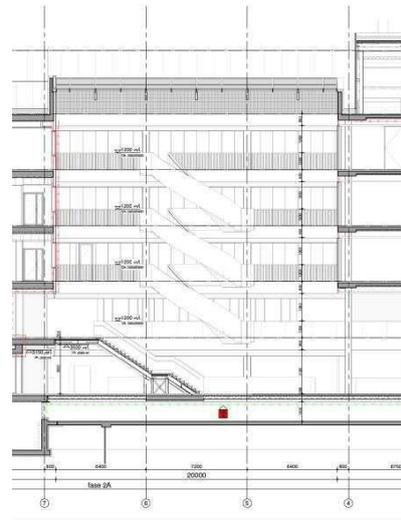
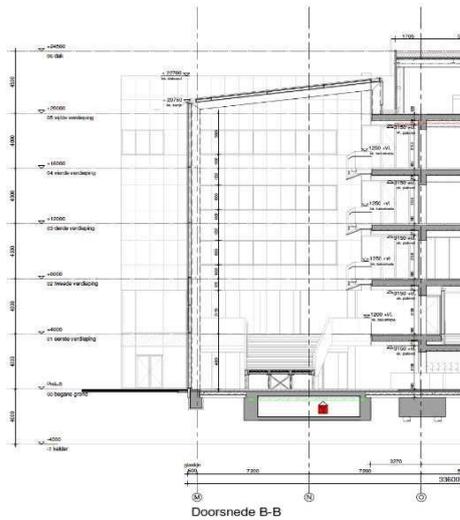
The new Gorlaeus building will be realized in three phases – the first phase (approximately 40,000 m²) was finished in 2016; phase 2A will be delivered in January 2024; phase 2B will be delivered by the end of 2027. The fundamental idea of the building is to bring together the different disciplines within our faculty. Therefore, the building exists of a large central axis with many shared facilities; in the wings, many different research facilities and the belonging workspaces are located to accommodate the concentrated work. In the design, a lot of attention was paid to sustainability and flexibility so that, when demands change in the future, it will continue to be a place where education and research lead to new knowledge and insights. Sustainability can be found in many technical details to control the climate (both in temperature/humidity and acoustics) but also in the materials and logistics used within the building.

Site Details

The commissioned artwork will be placed in the first part of the central axis in direct sight of both the main and the side entrances where a large percentage of students and staff enter the building.



The central axis at this point has a height of approximately 20 meters. The artwork will be hung on the construction beams of the glass atrium.



This first atrium is dominated by the main and side entrances (3), the reception desk (2), and the orientation within the building. At the same time, it hosts open study spaces (4), a student bar (5), and a multi-purpose area where lunch meetings or small exhibitions can take place (4). Opposite the main entrance, a large staircase leads up to the main lecture hall (1), and above the lecture hall, two floors of student laboratories are situated. This block is wrapped in a striking copper cladding perforated with a pattern that represents neurons (1).



With the commissioning of this installation, the faculty wishes to add a permanent piece of art that can complement the building and inspire the curiosity of research and education for many years to come.

Site-Specific Ideals

The artwork should engage with the building, the Faculty of Science and its vision, and the research carried out by the institutes (more information on the [faculty's website](#)). The artwork should ignite wonder and curiosity and connect with themes important to the faculty. Due to the building's public nature, the artwork should also attract the general public. It is expected that the artwork will be a permanent addition to the building.

Site-Specific Requirements

- The weight of the artwork/installation can be no more than 250 kg and will be hung on the main construction beams.
- The artist will work together with the university and the builders to accommodate the design to comply with regulations concerning fire detection and fire extinguishing appliances. This may influence the permeability of the artwork/installation for water and light in all directions and could also imply a limitation on the extent to which materials reflect light.
- In height, the space between 5-10 m is free of obstruction; above and below this zone the artwork/installation must keep clear of the [fire extinguisher compliances](#) (red zone) and clear of the [fire detection beams](#) (green zone).
- If the artwork/installation makes any noise or light, the artist is aware of the fact that both can be limited by the university in time and intensity to assure that research and education can be performed without disturbance.

Budget

The maximum assigned budget for this commission is 70,000 EUR where the artist's fee and the production of the artwork are expected to amount to 60,000 EUR and additional costs for installation (including possible extra electrical or data point installations) can account for up to 10,000 EUR.

The commission project abides by the [Fair Practice Code](#), recognizing the importance of fair remuneration of the artist's work.

Submission Requirements for Round One

Applications must be submitted online and in English. Applicants need to submit:

- Cover letter (explaining motivation and interest in the project; max 1 page; PDF);
- Short narrative description of the preliminary project idea/concept (if possible, together with a sketch or an illustration; description of the preliminary idea and the additional visualization max 2 pages; PDF).
- CV (PDF);
- Artist statement (summary of artistic career; max 1 page; PDF);
- Selection of up to 10 artworks with brief annotations (title, date, materials used, location; at least one artwork should showcase previous experience with a large-scale permanent art installation and/or art in public space; PDF);

- Link to an online website/portfolio showcasing examples of previous artistic work, expositions, and/or commissioned projects.

The full application of the proposal must be submitted in digital format to artwork@science.leidenuniv.nl by **January 13, 2023**. Submissions that are incomplete or submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Selection Process/Timeline

The selection will occur through a process of an internal review consisting of the members of the Faculty's Arts Committee, the Faculty Board, and the architect of the building project.

Round One

Applications are considered based on the submitted proposals and their alignment with the set criteria:

- Responsiveness to the site and the site-specific ideals;
- Adherence to specifications of the site;
- Experience working with large-scale permanent art installations and/or art in public spaces;
- Artwork's thematic relevance to the faculty and its focus (research and education) long-term;
- Motivation to participate in the project.

Round Two

After the internal review, 3-5 semi-finalists will be selected and invited to create a detailed project concept including additional sketches. To achieve this, artists will be invited to visit the site (which is under construction) and the existing part of the faculty building as well as to interact with the faculty's researchers. The invitations of the selected semi-finalists will be sent between January 30 to February 3, 2023, and the requirements and evaluation criteria for Round Two will be announced on February 8, 2023. Selected artists will receive funding for the development of their detailed proposals (2500 EUR per artist).

December 16, 2022: Round One opens;

January 13, 2023: Round One closes; internal review begins resulting in 3-5 semi-finalists;

January 30 – February 3, 2023: Notification of pre-selected artists;

February 8, 2023: Round Two opens;

End of March 2023: Round Two closes; internal review begins resulting in the selection of a finalist;

Early April 2023: Confirmation with the finalist (the selected artist or artist-led team);

To be set in coordination with the artist: Completion of the artwork;

To be set in coordination with the artist: Expected installation;

End of December 2023: Opening of the artwork.

Eligibility

This call for submissions is open to professional artists of all nationalities who preferably live and work in the Netherlands. The participation of artists who are at an early stage in their artistic careers is encouraged.

Qualifications

Artists should have experience managing project budgets as well as experience with fabrication processes related to large-scale permanent art installations and/or art in public spaces. Proven knowledge of and experience with the proposed materials and mediums of the installation is highly desirable.

Contact

For further inquiries please contact artwork@science.leidenuniv.nl or check out [the FAQ document](#). If necessary new updates of the FAQ will be uploaded periodically after 2 January.

Annex

Photos/illustrations of the building project can be found on [About the project - Leiden University \(universiteitleiden.nl\)](#)