

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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## Library Artists Wanted

By Cathy Tyson

**C**reative person or team of artists wanted to develop artwork for the currently under construction Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Must live or work within California, and apply before the Friday, April 11th deadline. There are two commissions available. The largest, with a budget of \$245,000 is for two site-specific pieces for the Outdoor Plaza Corridor that will hopefully not clash with the contemporary Bay Area Craftsman style of the building.

The Children's Activity Deck has a budget of \$82,500 for a permanent outdoor art project to beautify the enclosed outdoor area for younger patrons to blow off some steam, while their caretakers can read or relax while watching them. According to the project scope, "finalists will be asked to develop a proposal that may include some of the following characteristics: tactile, playful or whimsical, kinetic, interactive, imaginative, practical, durable and easy to maintain." Easier said than done.

"No one has applied so far, at least last time I checked," said Carin Adams, Project Manager at the Oakland Museum of California.

"We're looking for all kinds of possibilities," she continued. The Museum, because it's part of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium, was selected by the Library Public Art Committee to help with determining sites and managing the artist selection processes as well as overseeing the design and installation of the artwork.

The process won't happen overnight, and has a number of hurdles. One of the highlights for Lamorinda residents to look forward to

is the community display of proposal materials from June 9, 2008 through June 22, 2008. Winning artists will be announced on July 29 and tentative installation of the pieces will be April or May 2009. All dates subject to change.

Lafayette's Public Art Ordinance requires that public art is installed in structures of 10,000 square feet or more, and cost not less than 1% of the construction total. Before residents start complaining, its important to note that not even \$1 of Lafayette's General Fund was spent on the project. Funding came from the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency, a State Library Grant and substantial private donations.

At over 30,000 square feet of library and open space, the new building will be a landmark. It's considered a national model for future libraries, because of the unique partnership with a dozen regional educational and cultural institutions that comprise the Glen Seaborg Learning Consortium. Detailed application information for potentially famous artists is available on Lafayette's website, [www.love-lafayette.org](http://www.love-lafayette.org).