

POLAR LAB

Arctic Comfort Design Competition

What does it take to survive in cold climates and the midnight sun? What do we need to adapt? Can mankind invent tools for survival? How can design aid in providing solutions? How can contemporary design find a way for us to seek comfort in the elements and in the midst of change? Is there an object to be designed that might provide shelter in or access to the Northern environment that will keep us complacent or push us forward? Are there objects for temporary relief or interactions for long-term social change? Does each object improve the environment or allow us to exist within it? What forms can comfort take?

The Anchorage Museum invites proposals for **Arctic Comfort**. Conceptual drawings shall be submitted through the proposal process. Accepted proposals will result in constructed objects and installations, which we will feature in the external and internal communal spaces of the Museum, to be on view through May 2015. Durability and the ability for public interaction required. Artists must construct their own objects and work with Museum staff on any installation-based projects. We are looking for insightful and creative proposals that encourage interaction, critical thinking and move away from polarization and political statements. We are looking for the human and individual element and the way each person can relate to the Northern environment and all its complexity. Entries should push the concept, be thoughtful, be engaging, suggest good construction, and not be simplistic political statements, though we are open to humor, irony, and constructive discussion.

Criteria

Open to anyone regardless of locale (Museum will not cover the costs of shipping of objects/materials). Open to groups, collaborations, and students/all ages.

The display and construction of accepted proposals may still be subject to conversation and development with Museum staff and its representatives. If a proposal is accepted, the designer grants the Museum permission to use the concept sketches and descriptions as well as images of the final work for promotion of the Polar Lab program and the Arctic Comfort competition. By entering, the designer also grants permission to the Museum to use images and descriptions of proposals in a "Notable Entries" feature. Permission extends to a variety of promotional vehicles, including digital and print.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Polar Lab Creative Team and designers will be notified of their inclusion by January 31, 2015. Recipient of **Arctic Comfort Award** will receive a cash award of \$1000. Award will be determined by the Polar Lab Creative Team. Criteria for judging includes: Degree of innovation, aesthetic quality, functionality and usefulness, emotional content, and impact.

Works will be on exhibit at the Museum from May 1-31, 2015. We may invite some entries to be on view throughout the summer.

How to Enter

Proposals must include a sketch, description of the object or installation, description of how the public will interact, proposed location for the work, description of durability (relative to indoor/outdoor and public interaction). **All proposals must be digital.** The Museum may contribute up to \$500 for supplies/realization of design ideas, but a proposal of these costs must be detailed in the proposal. Proposals not seeking funds will also be considered. The Museum will not pay for shipping. The Museum may have some A/V equipment and staff resources available to aid in realization, but this must be outlined/requested in the design proposal.

Deadline for entries: December 1, 2014. Proposals should be emailed to: northerninitiative@anchagemuseum.org

Completed works from accepted proposals must be delivered to the Anchorage Museum. Details for delivery to be provided to participating designers after notification.

Entry fee: None

For more information, please contact: northerninitiative@anchagemuseum.org