Project Overview
The project shall reconstruct the Rundel north terrace structural concrete and steel framing, slabs, columns and foundations, the remaining phase of structural repairs for the Rundel building. It will create a new, updated public riverfront terrace and replace the east (South Avenue) sidewalk. The proposed design concepts incorporate recommendations from City of Rochester planning initiatives (Center City Master Plan, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, 2016 Rose Fellowship initiative). The new riverfront terrace will include river viewing platforms, historical and educational interpretive features, public seating, landscaping, a water feature, bicycle amenities, railings, and lighting upgrades. It shall also include a public art feature at the corner of Broad Street and South Avenue.

Public improvement of the current north terrace, which is inaccessible today, is vital to attract and retain downtown residents and library users. It has potential to infuse new life into Center City and encourage civic and economic vitality. Over the last several weeks, the project has been re-emphasized as a component of ROC the Riverway, a series of riverfront capital investments with state and local funding support. The Rundel north terrace project will be an early ROC the Riverway phase that compliments future proposals for the Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center expansion and civic plaza on Broad Street.

North Terrace Design
LaBella Associates and Bayer Landscape Architecture were retained by the City in January 2017. Working with a project advisory committee over the last year, they have developed a design for the north terrace that draws from the history of the site (raceway, aqueduct, Erie Canal, subway), its connection to the river, and the civic, intellectual and architectural significance of the Rundel Memorial Library Building. This “river theater” concept will be presented to the joint Rochester Public and Monroe County Library System Boards of Trustees on February 26, 2018. Library administration supports this concept as it addresses the following goals:

- North terrace long-term structural rehabilitation and a complete concrete terrace slab and north/east sidewalk reconstruction.
- Terrace reconstruction not in-kind, but as a new and engaging space that celebrates the Library and its relationships with surrounding housing, businesses, community civic centers and the public realm.
- The ability for the Library to actively program the terrace with exhibits and events, to support and extend the Library’s community dialogue, to tell the history of the Genesee waterfront, and to engage the City at a larger scale.

Public Art
City administration has recommended, and included in the overall project budget, a public art installation for the corner of Broad Street and South Avenue. The budget for the art installation
is $250,000. Similar to other major City renovations in the public space, it is recommended that an artist is commissioned to work with LaBella, Bayer, City Environmental Services and the Library to create a piece that compliments and is coordinated with site design and construction.

**The Library’s Proposed Role in Public Art Commissioning**

The City has undertaken an ambitious schedule for bid of the Rundel north terrace project (tentatively late fall 2018). Given this timeline and the current project commitments of City Environmental Services and Planning Divisions, and City approval processes for professional services, it is likely an artist would be commissioned too late in the terrace design to incorporate their work in the construction plan documents. LaBella and Bayer strongly advocate for the ability to work with the artist to ensure the public art installation is structurally feasible and aesthetically/programmatically integrated.

To that end, the Library has emerged as the recommended entity to oversee the public art commissioning process. The Library shall administer a Call for Artists, or Request for Qualifications, to select an artist to design, fabricate and install artwork for the north terrace. The Professional Services Agreement with the artist shall be administered by the Library, approved by the Rochester Public Library Board of Trustees as well as Rochester City Council.

**What is involved in a Call for Artists/Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**

- An RFQ is used to narrow an artist field based on a set of criteria, including past/current art achievements that are of similar scope and scale to the Rundel north terrace project.
- The RFQ does not require a specific art proposal to be submitted, but asks for statements of interest and brief description of artist’s approach to the project.
- A small number of finalists are selected from responses to participate in a detailed interview and concept presentation. A stipend shall be paid for travel/initial design.
- This process allows project stakeholders to work with the selected artist from design development through art installation to ensure a cohesive terrace design, and for the installation to be coordinated with City preservation, planning and permitting agencies.
- It also allows for Library, City and public input with full design proposals for the space prior to construction and installation.

**Basic Parameters Proposed for RFQ**

The RFQ will include information regarding the project site, site history, current design plan, budget and schedule. The art installation objectives will note the historical significance of the site and Rundel building, the Genesee River adjacency, the architectural, spatial and civic relationships at the site, and the site’s role in contributing to the vibrancy of Center City. Consideration will also be given to recognizing the symmetry and balance within the terraces, in relation to the Rundel Memorial Building’s architectural design. A stipend shall be paid for artist finalist travel/initial design, funded by the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library.

**Proposed Rundel Public Art Committee**

It is intended that the Committee be led by Library Administration, with responsibilities including: review of the draft RFQ, evaluation of responses and finalist selection, interviews
with finalists, recommendation of artist, and 1-2 follow up meetings to review the installation. The Committee is proposed with desired representation as follows:

- **Arts Community** – recommend two representatives (one organizational, one artist)
- **City Council** – Council member and/or staff representative
- **City DES** – Landscape Architect, prior Public Art evaluation/implementation experience
- **City NBD** – City Planner, prior Public Art evaluation/implementation experience
- **Neighborhood connection** – representative from Washington Square Park Neighborhood Association or Center City Community Coalition (C4)
- **Library** – staff with historic and cultural understanding of project
- **Library Trustee** – fiduciary and policy responsibility, artist agreement oversight

**Schedule**
- RFQ Issuance: March 2018
- Review of initial responses: April 2018
- Interviews for finalists: May 2018
- Artist selection: by May 24, 2018
- Board and Council authorization: June 2018
- Artist design development: July-October 2018
- Final Art Committee Review: October 2018
- Internal City reviews: through November 2018
- **Rundel Terrace Construction/Art Installation**: fall 2019