



CALL FOR ARTISTS: **MURALISTS**

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
Bench Mark Program Mural

Budget: \$12,000
Issue Date: Monday, April 8, 2024
Deadline: Monday, May 6, 2024

Project Description

The City of Lancaster, in partnership with the Bench Mark Program, SoWe, Pennsylvania Council of the Arts, and South Central PaARTners at Millersville University, is seeking a qualified artist or artist team for the commission of a mural on the west facing exterior wall on the Bench Mark Program building located at 102 South Prince Street.

The selected artist will serve in a 20-day residency sponsored by South Central PaARTners. The residency will include mural development and mural painting as well as in-person sessions with the students of the Bench Mark Program to develop the mural design and to teach the basic principles of mural making. See Student Workshop section below for further details.

About the Bench Mark Program

Bench Mark Program, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in 2014 to transform the way we serve our community's most vulnerable, yet promising population: underserved youth. Many young adults simply do not respond to traditional therapy, prevention programs, or even probation. To maximize their potential, we needed to earn their trust through a common bond: exercise. In addition to our Open Gym Program and Women's Strength and Fitness Center, we also offer a comfortable lounge for youth to relax, an opportunity for them to do schoolwork, or search and apply for jobs. Our programming connects with youth for years at a time, often meeting them while they are confined to the youth detention center and working with them until they have successfully completed juvenile probation. We are the consistent resource in the background of their lives, present for as long as they need us, and until they achieve their goals.

Artwork Specifications

The exterior wall measures 36-ft long and 22-ft high. The wall in question has a slight texture. A lift will likely be required.

The subject matter of the mural is: “An Undercurrent of Strength.” The wall in question faces Water Street, which was originally a stream that was paved over in 1870. The subject matter should relate to water in some way, be it realistic or abstract, as well as the strength building that is at the core of the Bench Mark Program’s mission. Themes to consider should include the power of moving water, how individuals flow with the changes, and how a strong undercurrent guides the flow.

Color palette, style, and other artistic elements are at the artist’s discretion.



Student Workshops

The artist’s residency will last 20-days. Days that do not include mural painting will be in-person sessions with Bench Mark Program students. Workshop days may include concept development, idea sketching, and teaching basic principles of the mural design process. Note that one “day” can be as brief as one hour on site.

The selected artist will meet with the program manager upon selection to develop a work plan that suits the artist’s schedule, interests, and abilities.

Timeline

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Call issued | Monday, April 8, 2024 |
| Deadlines for submissions | Monday, May 6, 2024 |
| Finalists selected and notified | Friday, May 17, 2024 |
| Finalist interviews | Monday, May 20 – Friday, May 24, 2024 |
| Artist selected and notified | Friday, May 31, 2024 |

Eligibility

This commission is open to all professional artists, or a team thereof. Applicants must be 18 years or older. Applicants must be able to pass the following clearances:

- Criminal Background Clearance (Act 34)
- FBI Federal Criminal History – Fingerprinting (Act 114)
- Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151)

The selection committee will select artists without regard to race, color, religious creed, ability, ancestry, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Submission Requirements & Submission Procedure

Please fill out the attached application form and answer application questions.

In addition to the application form, please submit the following:

- A statement of interest
- Resume
- Portfolio that includes 5-10 images of previous artwork relevant to project scope

Submission Procedure

To be considered, applicants must submit their applications on or before Monday, May 6, 2024

To apply, submit materials via email to Molly Kirchoff, Program Manager of the Office of Public Art, at the following address:

Molly Kirchoff (she/her)
Program Manager, Public Art & Urban Design
mkirchoff@cityoflancasterpa.gov
(717) 847-0285

Selection Process

Prospective candidates are invited to submit applications on or before May 6, 2024. A selection committee made up of stakeholders, City staff, Public Art Advisory Board representatives, neighboring residents, and local artists will review applications and select up to three (3) finalists by May 17, 2024. Finalists will be notified and scheduled for an interview with the selection committee. The artist to receive the commission will be announced on May 31, 2024. The selected artist will meet with the program manager to develop their work plan the following week.

APPLICATION FORM

Name:

Preferred Pronouns:

Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

Application Questions (to be answered in 400 words or less)

1. Describe your experience working on murals.
2. Describe any experience you may have working with students, teaching artist workshops, mentoring, volunteering, and/or other forms of community engagement. If you do not have any previous experience, describe your interest in and ability to work with students.
3. Describe how you interpret the subject matter prompt: "An Undercurrent of Strength." Themes to consider include the power of moving water, how individuals flow with the changes, and how a strong undercurrent guides our flow. How will these themes inform your design?

Application Attachments

Please attach the following items:

- Statement of interest
- Resume
- Portfolio that includes 5-10 images of previous artwork relevant to the project

Submission Procedure

To apply, email your responses to the application form and application attachments to:

Molly Kirchoff (she/her)
Program Manager, Public Art & Urban Design
mkirchoff@cityoflancasterpa.gov

If you have questions, email mkirchoff@cityoflancasterpa.gov or call (717) 847-0285