

DARE TO UNDERSTAND

RFQ DEADLINE: December 1, 2017

CONCEPT: Mural Arts and the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia are seeking an artist for a community-based mural project. In response to the numerous acts of hate that have occurred both in Philadelphia and throughout the country this year, we wish to facilitate a public art project that will provide opportunities for conversations between people of diverse faiths and cultures, including those who have been most impacted by acts of hate. The mural will be painted in Old City, a Philadelphia neighborhood with a rich history of interfaith co-existence. We are seeking artists to creatively interpret the Interfaith Center's initiative, "Dare to Understand."

GOALS FOR THE PROJECT:

- Create a beautiful mural through a process that encourages meaningful, positive interactions between people of different faiths and cultures
- Increase appreciation and knowledge of diverse traditions and perspectives
- Demonstrate that Philadelphia can be a model city for interfaith engagement and understanding

SITE: The mural will be located in Old City at 302 Arch Street. The wall is approximately 20 feet by 60 feet; please refer to photos on next page.

DESIGN PHASE AND COMMUNITY: Mural Arts and the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia are committed to giving a voice to communities through a collaborative and project-specific community engagement process. From the submissions received, Mural Arts and the Interfaith Center will select three artist finalists to prepare preliminary concepts for the mural design and propose ideas for how they might engage the community in the design of the artwork.

The artist who is awarded the commission will participate in a number of local neighborhood community meetings to inform their design process and obtain approval from stakeholders. During the production phase, Mural Arts usually offers paint days for community participation. The artist's role is to define how to interact with the community and what tools will be used or created to engage participants throughout the process.

FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION: The choices in fabrication and installation are based on the artist's preference combined with what is possible within the budget. The wall is very rough stucco and the artist should be comfortable working directly on the surface. The Mural Arts Program has years of expertise and will work closely with the artist throughout the process. Nonetheless, artists submitting proposals must have a firm grasp of mural making skills and their proposals must match the funding requirements. The Mural Arts Program will be responsible for maintaining the mural, which is expected to have a lifespan of at least 10 years, after its completion.

MURAL PROJECT AND ARTIST SELECTION SCHEDULE:

Deadline for submissions: December 1, 2017

Selected artists to be notified: December 20, 2017

Finalists present community engagement and design concepts: January 31, 2018

Discovery/Design Phase:

Community Meetings: February-April 2018

Design Reviews: April 2018

Production Phase: May-August 2018

Completion: August 2018

Dedication Event: August 2018 (date TBD)

BUDGET: Each artist finalist who is selected to prepare preliminary design concepts and engagement strategies will receive \$500. The total budget for production of the mural is \$17,000. This includes all artists' fees and labor estimated at \$8,000 and mural making supplies and equipment estimated at \$9,000. This amount may increase if fundraising targets for the project are exceeded.

ELIGIBILITY: This call is open to established and emerging artists, or an artist team, with priority given to artists who have demonstrated experience in managing a project of this magnitude.

HOW TO RESPOND:

Please send us the following elements by email and all labeled with your name:

1. Artist/Collaborative Statement of Interest, two pages maximum, (a) explaining how you would approach this project, including how you would engage the community in the design process (b) describing relevant experience that would contribute to your success in completing this project, and (c) confirming your availability to undertake this project within its timeline in Philadelphia
2. Current Resume or Bio
3. 5 digital images- examples of your work that give a sense of your skill and approach to this project

Submissions or questions should be addressed to: gaby.raczka@muralarts.org

SITE IMAGES:



About the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia

The Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia was founded in 2004 to advance trust and understanding in a region blessed with richness of cultural and religious diversity. Creating communities of hope and reconciliation in workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods is at the core of the Center's vision. From grassroots to leadership, the Interfaith Center contributes to the area's strength and vitality through multi-faith collaboration, education, dialogue, and service. For more information, please call 215-222-1012 or visit interfaithcenterpa.org.

About Mural Arts Philadelphia

Mural Arts Philadelphia is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change. For over 30 years, Mural Arts has united artists and communities through a collaborative and equitable process, creating nearly 4,000 artworks that have transformed public spaces and individual lives. Mural Arts aims to empower people, stimulate dialogue, and build bridges to understanding with projects that attract artists from Philadelphia and around the world, and with programs that focus on youth education, restorative justice, mental health and wellness, and public art and its preservation. For more information, call 215-685-0750 or visit muralarts.org.