Morris Home Provider Site

Request for Proposals

Deadline: March 31, 2020

Concept and Summary:

The Porch Light Department of Mural Arts Philadelphia is working with the community within the residential recovery program at Morris Home in West Philadelphia. **Morris Home supports trans- and gender-nonconforming individuals as they develop the knowledge, skills and supports necessary to promote sobriety, manage emotional and behavioral difficulties, choose and maintain safe and healthy lifestyles, and develop healthy relationships with peers, family and the community.** The only residential recovery program in the country to offer comprehensive services specifically for the transgender community, Morris Home provides a safe, recovery-oriented environment that treats residents, alumni, and the surrounding community with respect and dignity.

This program aims to create opportunities for Morris Home members and alumni to develop confidence in art-making and wellness skills, battle impostor syndrome, and unapologetically take up space. The participants in the program have been working with artist Wit Lopez through weekly workshops. The program is now seeking a new mural design artist for the next phase of the project, slated to begin in April and to last through June, 2020.

**Mural Arts is seeking an experienced lead muralist to create a comprehensive design and execute a mural for Morris Home provider site.** The artist should be secure about working with trans- and non-binary participants, those who are experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, mental health challenges, and substance use challenges. The artist is not responsible for leading the day-to-day work of the participants. The mural design should come from visiting the space and input from conversations with participants.
Separate funds will cover assistant artist hours and supplies. The artist or artist team will also receive organizational support from the Porch Light project manager, along with other behavioral health resources and support.

Additionally, the production phase will include weekly paint/production workshops at Morris Home; small paint/production events at affiliated/community sites; and at least one large scale paint day/resource fair at a site near the wall. The mural will be dedicated by an event in coordination with Morris Home.

**Location for engagement:** West Philadelphia  
**Location for Wall:** TBD, likely West Philadelphia

**Mural Project and Artist Selection Schedule:**  
Applications Due: March 31, 2020  
Artist Selected and Notified: April 15, 2020  
Engagement and Design: April 20 - May 15, 2020  
Production Begins: May 15, 2020

**Artist Fees:** The lead artist will receive $10,000.

**Artist Responsibilities:**
- Engage with Morris Home members and alumni. Our recommendation is to spend at least 4-5 days in the program during the engagement phase, working alongside the participants.
- Create a mural design centered around the values of Morris Home.
- Participate in Mural Arts’ Design Review process.
- Create and install mural, with assistance from assistant artist(s) and Morris Home community members.

*Porch Light and Mural Arts staff will purchase and deliver supplies, secure necessary authorizations, provide support with participants, and provide all other logistical support.*
Please respond with your statement of interest, a short design concept narrative (up to 2 pages), 5-10 images or examples of your mural/painting artwork, and a CV of your relevant experience to Kali Silverman, contractpm@muralarts.org, by March 31, 2020. In your written submissions, please make sure to include your experience with and approach to community engagement and your work with this population.

Background:

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 process, rooted in the traditions of mural-making, to create art that transforms public spaces and individual lives.

The City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services seeks to educate, strengthen, and serve individuals and communities across Philadelphia, so that all Philadelphians can thrive. The vision of DBHIDS is of a Philadelphia where every individual can achieve health, well-being, and self-determination.

The Porch Light program, a joint collaboration with the City of Philadelphia’s Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, focuses on achieving universal health and wellness among Philadelphians, especially those dealing with mental health issues or trauma.