



## RFQ: Small Walls

**Posting Date:** February 15th, 2024

**Application deadline:** March 17, 2024 11:59 p.m.

**Budget:** \$3000 artist and materials fee

**Department:** Learning and practice

**Special eligibility requirement:** Current/recent Mural Arts Assistant Artists

**Informational meeting:**

Wednesday, February 28

For questions or concerns, please contact Sahiti Bonam at [sahiti.bonam@muralarts.org](mailto:sahiti.bonam@muralarts.org)

For submissions, [follow this link](#).



## 1. Introduction

Mural Arts is inviting current and recent Mural Arts Assistant Artists to apply for the first of a multi-stage program titled “Smalls Walls”. The project seeks to amplify the voices of emerging artists looking for an opportunity to show their skills as capable muralists within the city of Philadelphia.

The project centers its efforts on the values of: low barrier access, creative expression, agency and self advocacy, talent acknowledgement, artist support and more equitable representation. Small Walls is a platform that also hopes to serve as an introductory experience for artists interested in collaborating with Mural Arts.

Three (3) artists will be selected to design and produce a temporary mural showcasing their own artistic style. Mural Arts will provide the artist with a site and guidelines based on the permission given for the use of that wall. Furthermore, selected artists will be provided with an all-inclusive fee of \$3,000, whereas the artist will be responsible for their mural making supplies. Mural Arts will provide access to the wall and when necessary, wall preparation.

## 2. Background (full project description)

Mural Arts’ Artist Relations and the department of learning and practice works to connect artists with resources to enhance their practice and professional development through a series of initiatives that aim to support artist’s careers. We are committed to supporting artists that represent the diversity of voices in this city, especially those who have historically not had access to representation or opportunities of this kind. With this in mind, Mural Arts is embarking on the creation of a resource that will allow for emerging talent in the Philadelphia Arts sphere involved with the local public and community art practices to showcase their talent.

“Small Walls” is a program based on a series of temporary murals (with a **1 year** duration) that would offer emerging mural artists in our local arts ecosystem first-hand mural production experience.

Typically, Mural Arts takes on the approach of intense community engagement as a central part of the mural production process. In this case, “Small Walls” will center on the artist’s visual praxis and production skills as a platform of expression. The walls provided are selected with the purpose of being low maintenance and quick turnaround, and will consist of walls not surpassing than **12’x20’**ft in scale.



### 3. Scope of Work, Budget and Schedule

#### Scope of Work

Through this 2-month opportunity, the chosen artists and Mural Arts staff will be responsible for the following scope of work:

#### Artists Responsibility

All selected Artists are expected to comply with the following:

- A written project idea and mural design “final” concept
- Artist(s) should provide a clear idea of their schedule and have the ability to commit to agreed timeline
- Engage in regular meetings with the Project Manager/Artist Relations Director to further develop creative concept and overall plan
- Maintain timely communication throughout the project.
- Share regular updates, ideas, and questions with Project Manager as the project takes shape
- Produce design concepts and mockups for project and mural
- Work with Mural Arts Design Review team on modifying concept if necessary
- Complete on-site mural installation work
- Submit invoices and receipts for reimbursement as approved by the Project Manager
- Take part in an artist talk panel to discuss the artist’s process and experience of the “Small Walls” project and personal practice

#### Mural Arts’ Responsibility

- Provide a Project Manager as main source of contact and support
- Onboard the artist(s) through the mural development process
- Establish a concrete development and installation schedule
- Provide administrative support by processing artist payments and reimbursements, purchasing project supplies, and managing contractors associated with the project
- Provide a low-maintenance wall space of around 12 x 20ft (or less) for each participating artist
- Provide guidance and feedback on design processes through the Artist Relations office
- Organize a design review process
- Coordinate any necessary arrangements for communications and logistics of the art talk

**Disclaimer:** Mural Arts will not be responsible for providing the selected artists with assistants. If the selected lead artist wishes to have assistance on their own accord, it will be responsibility of the artist as part of their creative process.



## Artist Fee and Budget

Each artist will be provided with a total of \$3,000 fee, which includes \$2,500 honorarium and \$500 for supplies. Furthermore, the selected artists will also be offered a \$200 program honorarium as part of an artist talk to take place after the mural installation.

- The \$3,000 artist honoraria will be paid to the artist following different stages of the project:
  - 25% of the total honorarium (\$750) will be paid upon signing of the artist contract.
  - 25% (\$750) will be paid upon approval of the final design.
  - 50% (\$1,500) will be paid once the mural is complete.
- Artists will receive \$200 to attend and speak at the artist panel talk.

## 4. Artist Selection Process

### Eligibility

This edition of Small Walls is intended for Mural Arts Assistant Artists who have reached a critical moment in their professional journey and who would benefit from developing and directing their own project. This is not a project designed for mural makers in a mature phase (with several murals under their belt as Lead Artists). A later installment of the Small Walls will welcome a general population of artists from within and outside of Philadelphia.

Other eligibility requirements:

- Must be based in the city of Philadelphia or surrounding communities.
- Prior demonstrated experience on mural production (eg. assisting with installation or attended trainings/workshops ) and/or proven ability to scale work onto a large, flat surface

### Process

“Small Walls” is a Request for Qualifications process. It will abide by the following process.

- RFQ application submission
- Preview by an artist selection committee which consists of the following individuals:
  - Sahiti Bonam, Mural Arts Project Manager
  - Emilio Maldonado , Artist Relations Director
  - MAP DEIB committee representative
  - 2 External Members who are not Mural Arts staff and/artists
- Over the following week, a limited pool of applicants will receive a request for an interview with the Project Manager and Artist Relations Director
- 3 artists will be selected and notified from the pool of applicants



## Important Dates

**Submission deadline:**

March 17, 2024 at 11:59 PM

**Interviews:** March 21-22, 2024

**Artist selection/notice of acceptance:**  
March 23, 2024

**Contract finalization:** Apr 1, 2024

**Design delivery:** Apr 8, 2024

**Mural completion:** May 3, 2024

## Qualifications and Review Criteria

Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Full name
- Email address and phone number
- 10 images of work in JPEG format demonstrating the artist's skill. These will provide the selecting panel the ability to select candidates based on:
  - Appropriate sense of design and composition
  - Ability to handle material (spray paint, brush, etc) accurately.
  - Ability to mix colors accurately
  - Appropriate representational skills (portraiture, symbolism, abstract, etc) related to the project needs
- Passion and intent to develop a career in the creative industry.



## 5. How to Apply

### Preliminary Consultation / Information Meeting

Artists interested in applying may reach out with any questions or concerns to Project Manager Sahiti Bonam at [sahiti.bonam@muralarts.org](mailto:sahiti.bonam@muralarts.org).

### Submission Requirements

All interested artists are to gather and submit the following:

#### Applicants must submit:

- Contact information
  - First Name, Last Name
  - Address
  - Phone Number
  - Email
  - Website (if applicable)
  - Social Media Handles (if applicable)
- An artist statement (1-2 paragraphs), including
  - Description of your artistic practice
  - Description of artistic inspiration and concepts
- A statement explaining how “Small Walls” will enhance the artist’s practice
- Examples of Artwork/Portfolio
  - Please provide 5-10 images of artwork in JPEG or PDF format of personal work/projects
- Provide minimum one reference who can speak to your creative practice, they should be current or past Lead Artist, Project Manager or Mural Arts employee who can give testament to the trajectory of your practice
- CV/Resume

### Submission Instructions

Artists interested in applying for this opportunity should collect the required materials above and submit your application by **Sunday March 4, 2024** [using this link](#).



## Miscellaneous

### Insurance

#### Proof of Insurance

Prior to performing any Works or Services, or entering into a contract with Mural Arts, the selected artist(s)/artist team(s) must show proof of the minimum insurance as indicated below. This insurance must be maintained during the term of this Agreement:

- a. Workers' Compensation Insurance (including without limitation coverage for Artist, its officers, owners, principals, directors, employees, volunteers, guests, and/or agents) if applicable.
- b. Employers Liability Insurance, if applicable, with minimum limits of the greater of \$100,000 E.L. each accident, \$100,000 E. L. disease-each employee, \$500,000 E.L. disease-policy limit or as required by the law of the state in which the Project is located.
- c. Commercial General Liability Insurance, Insurance Services Office (ISO) form Commercial General (CG) 00 01 (12/07) or equivalent occurrence policy which will provide primary coverage to the additional insureds (Owner) in the event of any occurrence, claim, or suit with limits of the greater of: (1) Artist's actual coverage amounts or (2) One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) in the aggregate. Artist's insurer will add Owner as an additional insured on this policy using ISO endorsement CG 2010 (07/04) or its equivalent.
- d. Automobile Liability Insurance (1) having a combined single limit each accident in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) or in the amount of Artist's actual coverage, whichever is greater, and (2) coverage applying to "any auto", including hired and non-owned auto liability.

Artist may satisfy the insurance amounts by an umbrella / excess insurance coverage policy.

### Clearances

If necessary artist will need to provide the following:

#### Child Abuse Clearance

All artists and independent contractors working for MAA and/or MAP that will have contact with minors on a regular basis in the course of their work day are required to obtain and maintain valid child abuse clearance. It is the Artist's responsibility to obtain and provide to MAA and MAP the original clearance to be copied and maintained appropriately, without break in coverage. The Artist fully understands that if the Artist is named as a perpetrator of a founded report of child abuse, or has been named as the individual responsible for injury or abuse of a child, the Artists will be terminated from his or her position. By signing this contract, each Artist also affirms that he/she has made application for the official Child Abuse Clearance and will provide this clearance within 30 days of the start date of this Agreement, or cease work.



### Criminal Background Clearance

All artists working for MAA and MAP who will have contact with minors on a regular basis in the course of their work day are required to obtain and maintain valid criminal background clearance. It is the Artist's responsibility to obtain and provide MAA and MAP the original clearance to be copied and maintained appropriately, without break in coverage. Any clearances with record of criminal activity will be reviewed on an individual basis by an authorized MAA and MAP representative who will determine if the Artists may continue to work for MAA and MAP.

### About Mural Arts:

Mural Arts Philadelphia is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change.

For 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. Mural Arts engages communities in nearly 100 public art projects each year, and maintains its growing collection through a restoration initiative. Core Mural Arts programs such as Art Education, Restorative Justice, and Porch Light yield unique, project-based learning opportunities for thousands of youth and adults.

In recent years, Mural Arts has evolved into a multi-disciplinary arts organization exploring the intersection of muralism, public art and contemporary art. In addition, Mural Arts has collaborated with an increasing range of community, civic, cultural and development organizations to realize projects that have expanded the city's public art portfolio in new and exciting ways. Increasingly, Mural Arts has assisted in private organizations in commissioning artworks that engage the communities where they are working.

For more information: <https://www.muralarts.org/>