



**Mural Arts
Philadelphia**
Roots & Reimagination
40th Anniversary



William and Letitia Still - Request For Proposals

Issued: Feb 15, 2024

Application Deadline: Mar 17, 2024

Artist Fee: \$12,000

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

For questions or concerns, please contact **Phil Asbury** at phil.asbury@muralarts.org



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Introduction

Often called the “Forgotten Father” or “Captain” of the Underground Railroad, William Still was a well-known Black political activist and businessman in 19th-century Philadelphia. He and his wife, Letitia George Still, transformed their home at 625 S Delhi Street into a vital waystation for those coming through the city via the Underground Railroad.

As leaders of the abolitionist movement, the Stills assisted the passage of hundreds of enslaved people through the Underground Railroad, including several of Harriet Tubman’s trips to the south. Additionally, William Still is credited with extensive work for the PA Society for the Abolition of Slavery and was an advocate for universal suffrage.

Mural Arts Philadelphia is seeking to honor the Still’s legacy by working with an artist that :

- Has the ability to deliver a design in the style of narrative portraiture
- Understands the importance of doing their due diligence in historic research
- Is experienced in painting on a large scale and on a range of different surfaces, specifically rough stucco
- Believes in the power of social activism
- Has the motivation to empower future generations through design

Interested individuals should submit their applications by **March 17rd, 2024**. Please see below for more details on application requirements.

Additional project background

The lead artist will be supported by 1-2 assistant artists, selected in conjunction with Project manager and/or Department Director. An up-to-date lift certification is required. In anticipation of



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project installation in May and June 2024, we will also require availability for engagement with the local community and mural production. Work prior to this may be done virtually.

For more information on the Still family, please visit the following:

- [The Still Family in Philadelphia - What Did They Eat? Where Did They Stay? Black Boardinghouses and the Colored Conventions Movement](#)
- [William Still's National Significance - William Still: An African American Abolitionist](#)

About Mural Arts Philadelphia

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/>**



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Scope of Work, Budget and Schedule

Scope of Work

We are seeking an artist with the following requisites:

- Experience painting directly with acrylic paint and on rough stucco. This mural will not be painted on cloth
- Experience working on a large scale.
- Willingness to work outdoors
- Experience in designing, planning for the production of, and painting large-scale projects
- Willingness to participate in a community engagement process to inform the mural's design
 - This mural is located within the jurisdiction of the Bella Vista Neighborhood Association
- Ability to collaborate with Mural Arts project managers/representatives to develop and implement the project plan
- Ability to manage painting assistants
- Anticipated installation - May-June 2024

Artist Fee and Budget

Selected artist will be compensated a total of \$12,000 for the project:

- Payments will be in three installments of \$4,000.
- The first installment of \$4,000 will follow the selection/acceptance of the Lead Artist role for the project.



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- The Second Installment of \$4,000 will follow 50% completion of the project as described by the artist contract.
- The final installment will follow the completion/dedication of the mural (end of June 2024)

Schedule

- **February 2024:** Artist selection process begins and finalists are given three weeks to create a preliminary design with compensation
- **February - March 2024:** Design and community engagement
- **April - May 2024:** Installation
- **June/July 2024:** Dedication

Artist Selection Process

Mural Arts will collaborate with the stakeholders in identifying and hiring the artist(s) for this mural based on desired style, qualifications, and other factors. Once selected, the artist(s) will engage in a collaborative design process, which includes incorporating feedback into a design that is then reviewed by all stakeholders including community members, the site owner, and an internal design review committee.

Submission Requirements

Interested artists should submit:

- A CV or resume (up to 2 pages)
- Artist website or online portfolio (optional)
- A cover letter (up to 2 pages) including:
 - Your background / relevant past experiences
 - What motivates you / interests you most about the project
 - How you would approach your engagement with the stakeholders
 - Your general availability during the project period, indicating other professional obligations and any other constraints on your availability



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- Up to 10 images of past completed work that you consider relevant to this project.
 - Please make note of what work was done independently and what work was done in collaboration with other artists
 - *Digital images must be JPEG files and must be no more than 300dpi and no larger than 1024 x 768 pixel resolution. Each image must be unlocked and downloadable for viewing.*
 - *Each JPEG file must be titled with the artist's name and number that corresponds to the annotated image list. File name example:
JonesJane001, JonesJane002.*
 - A list of images, including the following information:
 - *Image name*
 - *Artist's name*
 - *Title of artwork*
 - *Location*
 - *Date of Completion*
 - *Budget*
 - *Medium*
 - *Dimensions*
 - *Brief description*
- Two professional references that can speak to your creative talents and your ability to undertake this project. Include name, address, email address and telephone



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How to Apply

Submissions will be accepted electronically through the [following link](#).

Any questions should be directed to Phil Asbury at phil.asbury@muralarts.org. Mural Arts will reply with an acknowledgement of all submissions it receives.

Miscellaneous

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



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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

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.