

## RFQ: Sharswood Mural and Placemaking Project



*Henry Ossawa Tanner: Letters of Influence, by Keir Johnston. Photo by Steve WeInik.*

**Posting Date:** April 30, 2024

**Application deadline:** June 2, 2024 11:59 p.m.

**Budget:** Project budgets and artists fees will vary, based the project and artist responsibilities

**Department:** Community Murals

For questions or concerns, please contact at [phil.asbury@muralarts.org](mailto:phil.asbury@muralarts.org)

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

*Please note that applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, and opportunities will be awarded as they become available, so early application is encouraged.*

## Introduction

Mural Arts is partnering with the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) to invest in new public art projects in Sharswood over the next two years. These art projects are part of the area's ongoing transformation occurring through the improvement of distressed public housing and the addition of new residences, shopping and community spaces. Mural Arts is working with PHA as part of the Sharswood Blumberg Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan.

The project's aim is to develop multiple artworks and placemaking initiatives that bring value to the community of Sharswood. Projects are being considered for public buildings, community parks and open spaces, as well as along the Ridge Avenue commercial corridor. The themes could highlight the neighborhood's history, issues important to the community now, and people's visions for the future.

The purpose of this a call is to create a roster of artists – including muralists and artists who work in materials such as mosaic, metal, wood, fabric and graphics – who would be interested in working with the Sharswood community for the creation of murals or other artworks, activations or installations within community spaces. Projects could be permanent or temporary.

Mural Arts will convene a panel to review all applicants' materials. All applications that meet our selection criteria will be placed on the roster we are creating. If you are placed on the roster, you will be contacted when opportunities become available, with detailed information about scope of work, roles, timing and payment for that opportunity, and you will be asked to let us know if you are interested in being considered for the opportunity. If you are interested in being considered for the opportunity, you will be placed on a list of finalists who would be interviewed and/or asked to submit proposals. Artists who are asked to submit a proposal will be compensated, and artists who are selected will receive an agreed upon stipend in addition to a budget for materials and supplies necessary to complete the artwork.

This roster will take the place of individual RFQS for each project. Because the nature and timing of the projects we will undertake is not completely known, Mural Arts cannot guarantee that every artist who joins the roster will be offered an opportunity, nor that the timing or budgets will be suitable to all interested artists.

## Goals

The goals for creating murals and placemaking projects, and for the process that leads up to projects, are to:

- Explore and make visible the neighborhood's stories – past, present, future – in collaboration with community and project stakeholders

- Enhance existing public and community spaces through the addition of functional design elements that meet the needs of the space and add visual features linked to the neighborhood's stories
- Embrace the creative talents of community members in the creation and production of work
- Support the efforts of the Philadelphia Housing Authority and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency in implementing the Blumberg–Sharswood Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan and to promote affordable housing choices in North Philadelphia.

## Scope of work

Artists will be expected to provide the following services.

- Conduct research as necessary to understand the site and the project, and other considerations as necessary to inform the artistic approach
- Participate in ongoing community and stakeholder engagement activities, organized by the artist and/or Mural Arts
- Create designs for the artwork, activation or installation and (if necessary) prepare the digital files necessary for presentation and design review
- Present concept to Mural Arts and to stakeholders Collaborate with Mural Arts production team on the installation / production of the artwork / activation / installation
- Fulfill artist responsibilities within contracted budget and schedule

## Qualifications

We are seeking artists with a variety of skill sets that may come into play:

- Mural making
- Ceramic and tile
- Mosaics
- Woodwork, metalwork
- Fabric, printmaking
- Concrete formwork
- Graphic design, photography, filmmaking
- Storytelling, spoken word, poetry

## Eligibility

This opportunity is open to artists based in the Philadelphia area who have experience with community engagement, mural making, and/or other types of public art projects. Both established and emerging artists are encouraged to apply. Artists with ties to Sharswood are especially encouraged to apply. Artists must be citizens of the U.S. or have U.S. work authorization.

## Selection process

Finalist selection will abide by the following process.

- RFQ application submission
- Review of all applications by an artist selection committee that includes the following individuals:
  - Philip Asbury, Director of Community Murals
  - Community Murals Project Manager
  - Todd Bressi, Mural Arts Consultant
  - 2 External Members who are not Mural Arts staff and/artists
- Applicants will be notified of opportunities that fit their skill sets, once those opportunities emerge, and will be asked to confirm their interest and availability
- The committee will screen interested, available artists and develop a short list of final candidates for an interview with the Project Manager, Mural Arts Artist Relations Director and Department Director
- Artists will notified about the selection decision

## Review criteria

Artists will be considered for the roster based on the following criteria:

- Experience, technical skills and capacity to work on a mural or placemaking project
- Alignment of interests and practice working within a deep, community-engaged process
- Specific affinity with Sharswood or general understanding / experience of communities with similar histories and circumstances in Philadelphia
- Passion and intent to develop a career in the creative industry.

## How to apply

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, and how working on a project with the Sharswood community will build on enhance your practice
  - Description of your interest in working on mural making and community placemaking projects in Sharswood
- **CV/Resume**
- **Examples of Artwork/Portfolio**
  - Please provide 5-10 images of artwork in JPEG or PDF format of past public art projects, exhibition work, client work or personal work that show your capacity to produce a mural or placemaking project
- Provide a minimum **two references** who can speak to your creative practice and ability to take on a project like this. At least one reference should speak to your ability to work within a deep, community-engaged process

## Application instructions

Artists interested in applying for this opportunity should collect the required materials above and submit your application [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 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.

### **About the Sharswood-Blumberg Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan**

Sharswood is a Choice Neighborhood, a designation and program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for neighborhoods anchored by public housing where public and private dollars are leveraged to support locally-driven strategies in a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Choice helps communities revitalize neighborhoods by improving distressed public and/or assisted housing, catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood and helping residents with educational, workforce, and health programming.

Read more here: <https://www.sharswoodblumberg.com/>