

Denver Art Museum Mural Project

Request for Proposals

For the second installation of the Denver Art Museum Mural Project, the Denver Art Museum (DAM) is looking for a local artist* to work with the museum and community members on a mural in the Sie Welcome Center of the Martin Building that will be on view for up to three years.

*Opportunity is open to individual artists or multiple artists working in collaboration.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The intention of this project is to create a mural for the Sie Welcome Center that:

- Tells a story of Denver and the Metro area's vibrant, diverse creative communities.
- Showcase the long-standing tradition of mural art in Denver.
- Welcomes the students, families, and visitors of all ages who walk through our doors.

The proposed mural design will:

- Include themes of Denver and your community(s).
- Represent and celebrate community voices.
- Engage community* in the conception, design, or other component of the mural.

*At the Denver Art Museum, community engagement is an important method for connecting museum visitors and general public with artworks in an impactful and accessible way. Engaging community can take many forms dependent upon the artist's practice: collecting stories from a specific community that are visually integrated into the design, gathering specific feedback from a community to inform the design, and/or literally collaborating with community members on components of the design. We welcome the artist's creative ideas for community engagement in the design of the mural.

We believe creativity inspires communities, conversations, and connections. The installation of the Denver Art Museum Mural Project will expand the museum's ability to enrich lives by sparking creative thinking and expression.

Wall dimensions: approximately: 12'x26'

The ideal artist(s) for this project:

- Mural artist(s) with experience working on public art projects, with community, and within a variety of environments.
- Local, with strong ties to communities in the [SCFD](#) seven county Denver metro area (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties).
- Interested in projects that incorporate community voices and/or provide participatory experiences for the public.
- Able to work with the institution's planning parameters and collaborate with museum staff on project planning.

As an institution, we believe the Denver Art Museum is both a platform for and an amplifier of the voices of people of all races. We acknowledge that Black lives matter and communities of color – Latino/a,

Indigenous, Black, and Asian – have been underrepresented in art museums over decades, both internally and externally. We are committed to elevating all voices, artworks and perspectives and strive to support racial equity inside and out.

Expectations of the artist(s):

- Fulfill a contract with the DAM.
- Develop a final proposal with a production budget.
- Create and install a mural in the Sie Welcome Center at the Denver Art Museum.
- Participate in documentation of the project in the form of interviews, photography, video, etc., that could be used onsite and online to develop and promote the project.
- Attendance at all meetings.
- Available to engage with the public for one program during a Free Day at the DAM – such as an artist talk, meet and greet, or workshop. Any additional programming is to be determined and would be part of a separate contract.

The DAM will provide the recipient with the following services and support:

- A payment of \$10,000 (allocated over a series of three payments)
- The museum will cover production costs for the mural. A separate materials budget will be determined with DAM staff based on the final artist proposal and production budget.
- DAM team will assist in planning and organizing community involvement with the mural design as needed.
- DAM team will plan and organize the artist(s) engagement with the public during a Free Day at the DAM.
- Onsite support during installations from DAM Exhibitions and Facilities teams.
- Marketing and promotional materials created by DAM staff.
- Photography documentation.

ELIGIBILITY

Successful candidates must:

- Currently live and work within [SCFD](#) seven county Denver metro area (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties)
- Be able to commute to the museum during the project period.
- Pass a background check.

SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions should include the following:

1. Mural Project Proposal – A brief written statement on your proposed mural concept that answers the following questions:
 - a. What themes of Denver and your community will you include?
 - b. How will your mural concept represent and celebrate community voices?
 - c. Describe your method/s for engaging community in the design of the mural. Share some examples of the kind of community input you would seek to integrate into your mural concept.
 - d. How will your mural represent the future the community wants to see?

- e. What communities have you worked with in the past and/or communities you would want to connect with for this project?
- f. How do you see creativity as a tool in building community?
2. A proposed tentative production budget.
3. An up-to-date résumé or CV.
4. A maximum of 10 images of your work.
5. Names and contact details of two professional references.

Please submit the above information using this JotForm: <https://form.jotform.com/240036302532138>

Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of DAM staff and external Denver-based arts professionals. If short-listed, you will be invited for an interview with members of our panel.

In this interview, you will be asked questions by the selection committee and asked to present a rough sketch of your ideas or another visual representation of your mural concept, as well as a list of proposed materials and estimated budget for materials and production. Artists invited to present will be offered a \$200 stipend for creating and delivering the presentation.

Final selection will depend on the following criteria:

- The strength of your mural proposal.
- Your interest in and ability to engage community.
- Your interest in collaborating with DAM staff.
- The quality of your previous work.
- Your interview.
- Your professional references.

TIMELINE

Applications open: January 8, 2024

Deadline for applications: Feb 14, 2024 at 11:59 pm MST

Notification of short-listing: March 15, 2024

Interviews: April 1-5, 2024

Final selection: Mid-April 2024

Initial proposal from selected candidate due: End of May 2024

Installation of mural: Early-mid January 2025

Opening: Mid-January 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email Sarah Rockett, Manager of Creative and Public Engagement at srockett@denverartmuseum.org or Ann Lambson, Associate Director of Creative and Public Engagement at alambson@denverartmuseum.org with specific questions about this opportunity.