



Exterior Mural Request for Qualifications

Introduction

In partnership with the Public Art Committee of the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC), Artists Repertory Theatre invites artists/artist teams who are living in Oregon or SW Washington to submit qualifications for a site-specific exterior mural(s) at the renovated Artists Repertory Theatre building in the Goose Hollow Neighborhood of Downtown/Southwest Portland (1515 SW Morrison Street). One artist/artist team will be selected to create murals on the building. The prime goal of the murals is to create connection and interest for pedestrians. The potential “canvas” includes the 15th Avenue and 16th Avenue exterior walls, and the artwork could potentially wrap to Morrison Street side – the front of the building at the discretion of the artists. The 15th Avenue side will receive the highest visibility due to access from the I-405 freeway off ramp along MAX light rail running west on Morrison Street. Additionally, there are more than 1,000 units of housing, recently completed or under construction in the adjacent neighborhood, and the Portland Timbers Stadium is nearby, all generating significant foot traffic. Though the budget available for the commission results from a design requirement by the City of Portland, ART is delighted to support the work of muralists and the arts beyond the world of theatre.

The budget for the murals is **\$75,000**. RFQ submissions are due by **Friday, July 14, 2022 at 11:59pm PDT**. Further information about [the project](#) can be accessed at the ART website.

Art/Mural Opportunity

We are seeking an artist/artist team to create an original mural artwork to be painted across portions of two exterior walls of the renovated ART Building situated on the half city block between 15th and 16th Avenues on SW Morrison Street. The east half-block wall faces SW 15th Avenue and the west half-block wall faces SW 16th Avenue. If the artist/artists team desires, some portion of the artwork may wrap around the corners and extend to the exterior wall on SW Morrison Street – the front of the building. Because of the size (50'x 34') of the SW 15th Street (east) and 16th Street (west) walls, ART is not requiring the artist/artist team to cover the walls in their entirety, but to create locations of interest in the mural and building. Schematic drawings of the walls are included at the end of the RFQ. The wall surface is uneven in some areas which may be incorporated into the design. ART is particularly interested in Indigenous and BIPOC artists.

Information Session

- Wed, June 28, Time TBD - On Zoom with representatives of the selection committee and the project design team to share information about this opportunity, outline the submission process, and answer questions. If you need further information about the Zoom info session or need any accommodations in order to attend, please email ART's project manager, jsmay@artistsrep.org.

About Artists Repertory Theatre

Artists Repertory Theatre's (Artists Rep or ART) mission is to produce intimate, provocative theatre and provide a home for a diverse community of artists and audiences to take creative risks. Founded in 1982, ART is the longest-running professional theatre in Portland. Begun by local artists who desired to produce contemporary theatre that addressed the issues of our time, ART has grown into a significant presence in American theatre with a legacy of regional, national, and world premieres. ART commissions new plays, hiring playwrights to write stories that ART is then the first theater to produce. Recent Broadway and Off Broadway runs of ART commissions include *The Thanksgiving Play* by Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota) and *Wolf Play* by Hansol Jung. ART's FY24 season will be the first programmed by new Artistic Director, Jeanette Harrison, of Onondaga descent and the first known Native Artistic Director of a LORT theatre ([League of Resident Theatres](#)). Harrison's goal is to make ART a national hub for Native talent and other emerging theatrical artists.

Budget

The selected artist/artist team will receive \$75,000 for this opportunity to create a site-specific exterior mural(s). This fee is inclusive of all project expenses including artist fees, design development, permits (as necessary), materials, anti graffiti coating, scaffolding equipment, insurance, any associated travel or additional expenses for these activities, and communication, coordination with the design team, construction team and third-party contractors who may help to fabricate and install the artwork.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to artists/artist teams based in or with strong roots in Oregon or Washington. If applying as a team, ART prefers that the team lead live or have strong local roots and at least 50% of the team meet the residence eligibility requirement. ART is committed to reflecting the cultural richness of our city by promoting opportunities for emerging and historically underrepresented artists. Artists/artist teams representing communities of color are strongly encouraged to apply. As ART does with playwrights, we are committed to engaging new artists and expanding the range of artistic and cultural expression.

The construction team is aiming to have the walls painted and ready for the artist(s) to paint in early September 2023. The selected artist/artist team goal will be to create, complete and install their artwork in mid to late September/October 2023.

Selection Process

The selection process will be a combination of virtual and in person meetings. A selection committee composed of members of the ART staff, board, architect, and an outside curator will review the RFQ submissions and select up to three semi-finalists to develop project proposals.

Criteria for selecting semifinalists for interviews are (1) quality of past work as demonstrated in submitted images; (2) ability and interest in creating site-specific artwork; (3) existing interest in and/or ability to create connections to the Portland arts, Indigenous, BIPOC and theatrical community.

These semi finalists will be invited to the construction site for a pre-design tour. The semi finalists will each be paid stipends of \$2,500 to develop a full proposal for the murals. These proposals will then be presented to the selection committee (via Zoom). The purpose of the presentation/interview is to allow the artist(s) and panel to meet each other and engage in a mutually beneficial and informative conversation. It's an opportunity for the artist(s) to better understand the context of the project and the intentions the selection panel has for the final art piece. Both parties are given the chance to ask questions and determine best alignment and artist selection for the project. After the interviews are completed, the selection committee will choose a final artist/artist team to award this opportunity to. The selected artist(s) will then be issued a Design Phase contract during which they will create a proposal that includes a design for the exterior mural, a budget and a timeline.

Please note the selection committee reserves the right to select an artist who does not directly apply to this call, if appropriate. Likewise, the committee maintains the option to make no selection from submitted applications and to reopen the selection process or propose other methods of selection if no applicant is accepted.

How to Apply

All application materials must be emailed to Artist Rep at jsmay4915@gmail.com

Statement of interest

Applicants are invited to submit their responses to the prompts below **either** in a written statement* or in an audio* or video statement**.

**Written statement: 3000 characters or less*

***Audio or video statement: Upload an audio/voice or video recording no longer than 2 minutes*

Please outline the following:

- Your/your team's interest in this project
- Why you'd be a good match for the project
- How you foresee your work connecting to the mission and values of ART
- You/your team's capacity and/or experience to complete the scope of work
- If applying as a team, a description of each person's role and how you anticipate working together
- Up to 5 past work samples. These samples are the primary way the quality of your work will be judged. Provide up to two images, no larger than 5MB each, for each work sample. For each image, please provide title, artist name, media, dimensions, year completed, budget and location. Conceptual information is desirable but not required.

RFQ AND SELECTION & PROPOSED TIMELINE (Subject to negotiations with semi finalists and the selected artist/team.)

Wed June 28 - Information session - Zoom meeting to outline RFQ

July 14th - RFQ deadline

July 21nd - Semi finalists announced

July 28 - Pre-design walk through at site

August 11th - Design proposals due

August 18th - Finalist announced

Mid September/October - Creation/painting of artwork

