



## **City of Oak Park/Oak Park Public Library Mural: Request for Artist Proposals**

The City of Oak Park is pleased to launch a request for proposals for a public mural project. The artwork will be located on the east facing exterior wall of the Oak Park Library located at 14200 Oak Park Blvd, in Oak Park, Michigan. Proposals are due by 5:00 pm on **April 8, 2024**.

### **Background**

The City of Oak Park is located on the southern border of Oakland County and has a population of nearly 30,000 residents. The City takes pride in its diverse community and embraces all of the cultures celebrated within its borders. Incorporated in 1945, Oak Park was formerly known as “The Family City” and continues this legacy by offering a wide range of family-oriented activities and civic involvement opportunities. As its population boomed through the 1950s and 1960s, the City came together to support the building of the Recreation and Library building in the late 1950s to facilitate activities for the growing population. Residents recently voted to support the expansion of recreation amenities and programs. This expansion will begin with the transformation of a vacant green space, directly adjacent to the future location of the mural, into The Oak Park Community Event Hub. This vibrant new public space will include a four-seasons farmers market and event space, amphitheater, memorial garden and outdoor gathering spaces, making this mural a showcase to the first stage in this exciting new City development. The Library has a tradition of supporting the arts, as does the City of Oak Park. The Library is currently visited by nearly 7,000 area residents each month and continues to be a place celebrated by the community with a mission to “provide materials, services and information to the diverse community within the City of Oak Park to meet the community's lifelong educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs”.

### **Project Goals**

- Inject vibrancy into our municipal campus
- Support the Library's goal of projecting a welcoming environment
- Create a point of interest in our City
- Serve as a destination that inspires pride in our City
- Deepen sense of place and community identity
- Highlight the unique diversity of Oak Park
- Celebrates the mission of the Library

### **Total Project Budget**

\$12,000

## Budget Description

The maximum project budget available is \$12,000. This is inclusive of all fees and expenses, including but not limited to the artist's fee, materials, design costs, travel costs, equipment, installation of the artwork and any other associated costs.

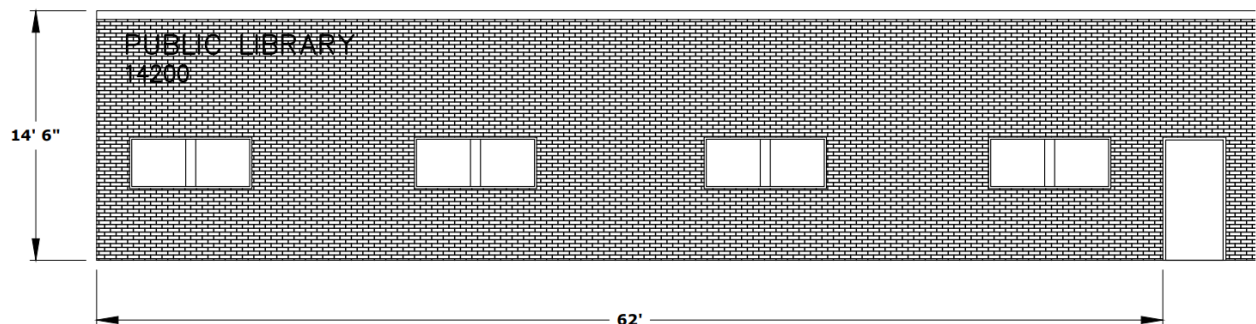
## Location and Site Specifications

The mural will be located on the East facing exterior wall of the Oak Park Public Library, located at 14200 Oak Park Blvd, in Oak Park, Michigan. The building is owned by the City of Oak Park and leased by the Oak Park Public Library. The site is a highly visible and prominent exterior wall of the Oak Park Public Library. The site faces the future location of the City's new Event Hub, an exciting new public space that will include an all-season farmer's market, amphitheater and open space, and will host many community-wide events. The location also faces the main parking lot of the Library and is easily seen by all motorists traveling on Oak Park Boulevard.

The exterior wall chosen for the site location is composed of brick and mortar. It contains four windows. See the image below. The proposed mural must encompass a majority of the indicated wall and may incorporate the Library's signage (identified in image below).

## EASTERN LIBRARY FACADE

TOTAL SIZE:  
FROM SOUTH CORNER TO EMPLOYEE DOOR: 867 SFT  
NOT INCLUDING WINDOWS: 784 SFT  
EACH WINDOW: 21 SFT



Please note, the City will remove the landscaping along the section of the wall that will include the mural. The City will provide the artist with a scissor lift, upon advanced request and the completion of a liability waiver. Additionally, the City will construct barricades to restrict public access to the site area and remove any impeding landscaping. The City will not provide any further supplies, tools, or equipment. The Artist will be responsible for providing all necessary supplies, tools, or equipment needed to complete the proposed project.

## **Selection Process**

The Library Mural Public Art Ad Hoc Committee will review submissions and make a recommendation to City Council regarding the selected mural. The final selection will be decided by City Council and require final approval from Mural Review Board, who will review the mural to ensure it is in compliance with the City code of ordinances. For reference, City code of ordinances defines a mural as “a design or representation which does not contain promotional or commercial advertising painted or drawn on a wall.” While the artist has the freedom to incorporate the current building signage in their design, if the mural design contains the words "Oak Park Public Library" or "City of Oak Park," then it must encompass less than 25% of the total design space to avoid being considered signage.

The selected artist will be responsible for overseeing the design and installation (in coordination with City staff) of the mural and is expected to work cooperatively with the project stakeholders, city staff, and consultants.

The mural must be suitable and acceptable for public viewing of all ages and must reflect positively on the community. Proposals must be within the project budget and timeframe. The evaluation of the proposal will be based on the following criteria:

1. Success in reflecting the project goals
2. Artist's experience:
  - a. Creating permanent, durable, outdoor murals using materials appropriate to the environment
  - b. Creating public artwork in cooperation with city agencies and multiple stakeholders
  - c. Accomplishing projects of similar complexity with the budget, timeline, and constraints
3. Project budget
4. Demonstration of craftsmanship

**Installation must be completed by September 30, 2024**

## **Application Requirements**

- Detailed design and narrative illustrating the mural concept. Must include colors, dimensions, proposed materials, requirements for maintenance. Narrative must include artistic intent, explanation of the proposed exhibit and how it meets the criteria listed above.
- Itemized budget
- Detailed timeline
- Resume: (Maximum 2 pages) Outline your recent experience and accomplishments as an artist. If applying as a team, each member may submit a separate one-page resume. Resume must include:
  - Samples of your work - a maximum of ten (10) files: digital images and video files are all acceptable with corresponding titles to match the Support Description list (below).
  - Support Description list: (Maximum 2 pages) For each image/file submitted, include relevant project information. For example, list the title, date, size, and medium for studio work. For public art projects include a description, location, materials, budget, and commissioning organization.
- References: Provide at least three references who are familiar with your work as a professional artist. Include names and contact information only.

**How to Apply:**

The entire proposal must be submitted by **April 8, 2024**. Applicants may submit one or multiple works of art for consideration.

They may be submitted electronically to: [cvanvleck@oakparkmi.gov](mailto:cvanvleck@oakparkmi.gov) or may be dropped off or mailed to City Hall, addressed to:

City of Oak Park  
c/o Crystal VanVleck, Library Mural Public Art Ad Hoc Committee  
14000 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237

All listed application requirements must be met or the application will not be considered.

**For Questions, Please Contact:**

Crystal VanVleck, Deputy City Manager of Community Services at [cvanvleck@oakparkmi.gov](mailto:cvanvleck@oakparkmi.gov) or 248-691-7401.