



CALL TO ARTISTS

TACOMA MURALS PROJECT

Deadline: April 25, 2011

Opportunity

The City of Tacoma is seeking visual artists working in a diversity of artistic styles to participate in the Tacoma Murals Project as part of the City of Tacoma's Safe, Clean & Attractive initiative.

While the Tacoma Murals Project focuses solely on the creation of painted murals, artist applicants do not need to be experienced painters. Artists will be expected to push the boundaries of their current artistic style and work collaboratively as a team member to develop murals which truly reflect the varying aesthetics of our current day communities and appeal to a wide range of people from varied backgrounds.

Artists will invest approximately 40 hours into five classroom sessions and completion of a training mural in 2011. There will be an additional opportunity to collaborate on a community mural in 2012. The program will provide participating artists with an opportunity to gain classroom and hands-on public art experience, build their professional portfolio, and collaborate with other accomplished artists. The training program is provided at no cost to the selected artists.

About the Tacoma Murals Project

The Tacoma Murals Project is designed to train adult artists, who already possess strong artistic skills, to adapt their skills and work with community to design and implement high quality painted murals that are technically and aesthetically successful. The project includes a series of classroom sessions taught by experienced teaching artists and hands-on experience creating murals with community input. These community murals will be designed to fight blight and combat vandalism in select neighborhoods in Tacoma.

In spring/summer 2011, artists selected for the Tacoma Murals Project will participate in a series of 5 required training sessions with additional optional workshops. Training sessions will cover:

- mural surfaces and environments
- materials and budgeting
- surface preparation and mural coatings
- brush techniques
- enlarging designs
- research and community input
- creating a design

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- proposals and presentations
- responding to feedback
- working with community
- working as a team
- logistics and legalities: contracting, permits, insurance, etc...

Artists will then participate in the design and implementation of several training murals in summer 2011, under the guidance of lead artists. Upon completion of the training sessions and murals, students' abilities will be both self- and teacher-evaluated. Those who successfully graduate from the training program will be added to an apprentice artist roster and will have the potential to be selected to help design and paint community murals in summer 2012.

In summer 2012, five lead artists will select up to four apprentice artists each to participate in the creation of five large-scale community murals. Each artist team will design and implement a mural that reflects the stories and input provided by community participants. Apprentice artists will be paid at a rate of \$12/hour for their time creating the community mural. Upon completion of the community murals, apprentice artists' abilities will be both self- and teacher-evaluated. Those who graduate will be added to a publicly accessible mural artist roster.

Safe, Clean & Attractive Background

Tacoma's Safe, Clean & Attractive effort was born in April 2008, when City Manager Eric Anderson asked city employees to work with community members to improve Tacoma in two major ways: making Tacoma safer by reducing crime rates by 50 percent, and making Tacoma cleaner and more attractive. The Graffiti Reduction Through Community Based Art team was created in 2009 as an extension of this effort. The team aims to connect community with professional artists and technical assistance to create beautiful, diverse, and enduring community-based art projects in areas that are identified as prime graffiti sites.

Project Timeline (proposed dates, subject to change)

May 21, 2011, 10 am – 1 pm	Training session 1
June 4, 2011, 10 am – 1:30 pm	Training session 2
June 11, 2011, 10 am – 1 pm	Training session 3
June 18, 2011, 10 am – 1 pm	Training session 4
June 25, 2011, 10 am – 1 pm	Training session 5
July, 2011 (Saturdays/times TBD)	Creation of training murals
May – August, 2012	Creation of 5 community murals

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Eligibility

- Applicant must reside in Pierce, Kitsap, Thurston, or South King counties
- Applicant must be an individual
- Applicant must be a practicing visual artist, dedicated to producing artwork on a regular basis
- Applicant must be 18 years or older
- Applicant cannot be a current Tacoma Arts Commissioner, City staff member, or City Council member.

Selection Criteria

- Artistic Quality (as exhibited in past work)
- Demonstrated understanding of the elements of design including: color, line, shape, form, balance, texture, space, and unity
- Willingness to work collaboratively with community groups and an artist team
- Overall diversity of artistic talent in selected participating artists

Application Timeline

April 25, 2011

Deadline for application submission

Week of May 2, 2011

Review of applications/selection of artists

By May 13, 2011

Notification to applicants

Submission

In an attempt to reduce waste we prefer that submissions be made online/via e-mail. Any hard copy applications or support materials must be submitted no later than 5pm on April 25, 2011 (postmarks acceptable)

E-mail submission materials to:

Tacoma.Submissions@cityoftacoma.org with the words "MURAL_Your Last Name" in the subject line. If your email is over 9 MB in size, you may need to send attachments in several batches.

Or mail/deliver submission materials to:

Tacoma Arts Commission
Tacoma Murals Project
747 Market Street, Room 900
Tacoma, WA 98402

Application

Prepare and submit the following items:

APPLICATION FORM - Fill out the online application form at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TacomaMuralsProject>

OR, if you do not have internet access, fill out the Tacoma Murals Project application on pages 5 & 6.

WORK SAMPLES – if available, work samples should include documentation of similar past projects

- Up to 10 digital images of the artist’s past work
 - Submit only “High” quality JPEG files (do not use GIF, TIFF, or other formats.)
 - *Image Size*
 - Images must be at least 72 ppi resolution
 - Images smaller than 600 pixels per side are not recommended
 - *File Size*
 - Files must be less than 5 MB each
 - *File Labeling*
 - Files must be titled with a number indicating the viewing order, followed by the applicant’s name. The numbers must correspond to image descriptions as listed on the Work Sample Description Sheet. Use a “0” in front of single digit numbers and use only letters, numbers, and underscores. For example: 01_Smith.jpg; 02_Smith.jpg.
 - If using Mac OS 8 or later, be sure to include a “.jpg” extension at the end of each image title.
 - Do not embed the images into PowerPoint or submit moving image or audio files.

WORK SAMPLE DESCRIPTION SHEET (one page or less) including:

- Applicant’s name in the upper right corner
- Numbered order in which the images are to be viewed
- Title of each work represented in the image or activity depicted
- Media & dimensions (H x W x D”), if applicable, or description of activity
- If work is presented as part of a collaboration, explain your role in the larger project

RESUME

- Resume should not exceed 3 pages
- Name your resume file with your last name like this: “Smith Resume”

Help

For assistance, please call Naomi Strom-Avila at 253.591.5191 or email nstrom-avila@cityoftacoma.org.

Application Tacoma Murals Project

Name
Street Address
City , WA
Zip
Phone
E-mail
Website (if applicable)

Please check the word(s) that best describe your work

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abstract | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic | <input type="checkbox"/> Stylized |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cartoon | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Symbolic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Figurative | <input type="checkbox"/> Portraiture | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Folk Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Realistic | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geometric | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graffiti Style | <input type="checkbox"/> Representational | |

Why are you interested in participating in the Tacoma Murals Project?

What do you most want to get out of the training sessions?

What medium and materials do you create most of your work in?

Describe an experience working as part of a team. What was your role? What was the final outcome?

Are you available to participate in the training sessions on (check all that apply)?

- May 21
- June 4
- June 11
- June 18
- June 25

Are you available to participate in the creation of a training mural on Saturdays in July (exact dates and times to be determined)?

- Yes
- No

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Can you stand on a ladder/scaffolding?

- Yes**
- No**

Do you have a fear of heights that might preclude you from working up high?

- Yes**
- No**

Are you willing to adapt your artistic style for the work created in this program?

- Yes**
- No**
- Possibly**