



CALL TO ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS J2019-16

METRO PARKS TACOMA PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Eastside Community Center, Tacoma, WA

Youth Mural Project

Deadline: September 3, 2019, 11:59PM

Budget: \$16,000 all inclusive

Summary

Metro Parks Tacoma is looking for a muralist or team to work collaboratively with youth to create a new mural for the Eastside Community Center (ECC). The mural will be approximately 8' tall x 32' wide, sited inside the ECC in a prominent location. The muralist or team will be selected by an all-youth panel.

Artist Eligibility:

- Applicant(s) may apply as an individual or as a team
- Applicant(s) must live in Pierce County
- Applicant(s) must be 18 years or older
- Panel will prioritize applicant(s) with a tie to the Eastside community
- Applicants cannot be an employee, board member, council member, or commissioner of Metro Parks Tacoma or the City of Tacoma
- People who are members of historically disenfranchised racial, ethnic, cultural, and other identity groups are encouraged to apply

Selection Criteria:

- Artistic quality as exemplified in past work
- Experience creating murals
- Experience leading teams to implement projects
- Experience working with community, especially youth
- Ability to connect with youth
- Ability to think conceptually and imaginatively
- Ability to create artwork responsive to a site and its community context
- Ability to think and work in a scale and with materials appropriate to the site
- Ability to create work that is safe, durable, and requires little maintenance

The art selection committee will be composed of young people with a connection to the Eastside Community Center campus. Staff will do an initial review for eligibility.

Artwork Opportunity

The Youth Mural should involve and appeal to local youth. It should include the work of young people in the design and execution. Both the process and finished artwork should help create community ownership of the new center, particularly for young people, and maintain a high level of artistic quality. The artwork will be sited inside the main entrance to the center, to the right of the main staircase, between two large windows (see photo to the right). The approximately 8' tall by 32' wide mural should be painted on panels so that youth can participate in creating the work. The artist will be responsible for all materials and installation, and will be required to use a portion of their budget to incentivize youth participation. Metro Parks Tacoma will help recruit students as needed and assist in securing a space to work.



Project Background

The Eastside Community Center (1721 E 56th St.) opened in October 2018 on the First Creek Middle School campus, and offers a wide variety of recreational, enrichment, and learning opportunities for people of all ages. The Center is a Metro Parks facility, built through a larger partnership with City of Tacoma, Tacoma Housing Authority, and Tacoma Public Schools. The creation of the ECC was driven by a strong grassroots movement and community buy-in, and inspired by a vision of Billy Ray Shirley III, a youth leader whose life was cut short before he could pursue his dream of building a community center: metroparkstacoma.org/eastside.

Artists Christopher Paul Jordan and Kenji Stoll worked with community to develop an Art Brief that proposes several different opportunities to incorporate artwork into the Center, including the Youth Mural. As detailed in the Art Brief: "A painted mural work was a popular recommendation among young people throughout the engagement process and was even visually represented in many students' concept artworks. It responds to the need for something vibrant, energetic, and custom within the space, and provides a great opportunity to tie in local history, cultural influences, and source youth engagement in its creation. Concepts that are imaginative and futuristic surfaced as potential intergenerational themes for the artist and youth team to play with." View the Art Brief here:

<http://cms.cityoftacoma.org/CEDD/TacomaCulture/arts/ESCCArtBrief.pdf>

Timeline

September 3, 2019	Deadline for submissions
September 13, 2019	Selection of 3 finalists
September 20, 2019	Interviews and selection of finalist
October 2019	Contracting and planning
November 2019-January 2020	Mural design and implementation
February 28, 2020	Mural completed

To Apply

Send us the following items via Submittable: <https://tacomaarts.submittable.com/submit>.

- Up to 10 images of past work, including images of completed murals if available, plus artwork information.
- Resume with three professional references (only finalists' references will be contacted)
- Short answer responses:
 - Describe your connection to the Eastside (up to 100 words).
 - Give us your artist bio, describing your work and artistic practice (up to 100 words).
 - Why are you interested in this project (up to 100 words)?
 - How would you approach collaboratively designing and implementing a mural with young people (up to 100 words)?

Questions?

Contact Rebecca Solverson, 253-591-5564, rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org.