



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

El Paso Police Department Headquarters Mural Project
Application Deadline: February 29, 2012 by 5 pm

CALL TO ARTISTS

The City of El Paso Public Art Program invites professional artists or artist teams living within the County of El Paso to submit their qualifications to be considered for City of El Paso Police Department Headquarters mural project located at 911 N. Raynor in the Five Points area.

ELIGIBILITY

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is open to all artists and/or artist teams who are residents in the County of El Paso that are professional practicing artists and have experience working on large scale paintings and/or murals. If applying as a team, the team leader must be knowledgeable and experienced with murals and mural related materials. In addition, artist or artist teams must agree to sign a contract with the City of El Paso, carry personal liability insurance, and be willing to meet all contractual obligations, engage in meetings with community members and stakeholders, and adhere to a timeline.

Current employees of the City of El Paso, their spouses, or members of the Public Art Committee are not eligible to apply. The City of El Paso does not accept qualifications from undergraduate students for Public Art Projects.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & OVERVIEW

The City of El Paso Public Art Program is seeking artists or artist teams to create a series murals on west facing façade of the Police Department Headquarters building located at 911 N. Raynor. Four panels have been identified on Piedras Street, each measuring approximately 8ft by 12ft for the design and development of a series of murals.

The commissioned artist will be required to gather research and present an original design reflective of the history of the Five Points area.



SITE DESCRIPTION

The history of Five Points is almost as old as the history of El Paso which was annexed by the city in 1889. “Five Points” was once a modern, vibrant community, El Paso’s first suburb and its first shopping center. Situated between Fort Bliss and Downtown, it was once home to many of the city’s most prominent business, professional and civic leaders. Five Points had every element of a great community: Fine parks, beautiful neighborhood schools and churches; a mix of custom homes from modest to grand, homes to fit every income and architectural taste; and a great mix of successful small retail and professional business. It was once a very livable community.

In 1916 the Ralston Hospital was erected on the site where the El Paso Police Department Headquarters now stands. After only a few years, it was sold and became the Masonic Hospital, the first local hospital to meet the standards for approval from the American College of Physicians and Surgeons. It was also the first to have a regular staff of surgeons, the first to recognize the value of footprints in identifying babies and the first to establish a school of nursing, graduating 142 nurses before it closed in 1943. In 1945 the Masonic Hospital closed abruptly due to financial constraints.

The property sold to Sears and construction began in 1946, and Five Points got the big department store it had been lacking, the first department store to locate outside of downtown. For almost 40 years Sears served as a successful anchor for the Five Points Business District. Sears moved to Cielo Vista in 1982, marking the steady decline of the Five Points Business District. The building remained vacant until 1988 when the El Paso Police Department located its headquarters there.

BUDGET

Total project budget is \$20,000 to include design and installation.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted using the Call for Entry (CAFÉ) online application system managed by the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF). Artists will be required to create a username and password and set up a personal account, free of charge, at www.callforentry.org. Following successful set up, all interested applicants will be granted full access to our detailed application; simply click on “Apply to Calls”, then click on **“City of El Paso: Police Department Headquarters Mural Project.”** Your account information and images will be archived and saved for your convenience and easy access when applying to future calls using CAFÉ.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please upload the following onto the CAFÉ online application system:

- Letter of Interest: briefly describe your interest and qualifications for this project. Describe your experience and approach in working with communities.
- Current resume which outlines your experience as an artist. Artist teams must submit a resume for each member.
- Six (6) images of completed past artworks; including: title of work, dimensions, medium, year of completion, location, three (3) sentence description, and budget amount. If applying as a team, only six (6) images can be submitted.
- Images must be sized to the following dimensions (as required by the CAFÉ online application system)
 - New Dimensions: CAFÉ now accepts images of that are 1920 pixels on any one direction. i.e. 1920x1333 pixels.
 - File Format: BASELINE JPEG (do not use progressive JPEG format)
 - Compression: Please size each image to be no more than 1.8 MB in file size. On average, each image will be roughly 1.2 MB. Larger is not necessarily better. Please discuss image preparation with a professional to determine if compression for images of artwork is needed. JPEG images cannot be saved as progressive JPEG files. Progressive JPEG files will appear on the CAFÉ Web site, but will not display properly during the jury process.
 - Color Space: Save images as in RGB color space, preferably sRGB
 - Media: Internet submissions only
 - File Name: CAFÉ will automatically rename files

ARTIST TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- If available, please include images of work that demonstrate a collaborative effort to create an artwork by all members of the team.
- In your Letter of Interest please state how the team has worked collaboratively in the past and what role each team member played. If you are applying as a team and do not have previous experience working as a team, please state how you would approach working collaboratively on a municipal project, e.g. bridges, neighborhood park, branch library, public safety facility, etc.
- When applying as a team you are expected to accept the commission as a team throughout span of the project.

SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA

An artist selection panel (ASP) will be established to review applications. The ASP will be comprised of one member of the Public Art Committee (PAC), a representative from the local art community, a representative for the Police Department and a member from the community. The ASP will select artists based upon the following criteria:

- Aesthetic merit of past projects and artwork; appropriateness of artwork medium and artistic concepts for all audiences.
- Visual impact on pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- Experience, success and/or interest in creating public artworks in collaboration with architects, design teams, and community members.
- Past public art commissions not required for review, but submitted work should demonstrate potential for consideration as part of a public art selection process.

TIMELINE:

- Submission Deadline: **February 29, 2012 by 5 o'clock pm**
- Artist Selection Panel Review: **March 8, 2012**
- Public Art Committee Review: **March 13, 2012**
- Notification to Selected Artist: **March 19, 2012**

***Note: The above mentioned dates are tentative and subject to change.**

QUESTIONS

Should you have any questions or concerns with the RFQ please don't hesitate to contact:

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