



Special Service Area #33
Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce
1414 North Ashland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60622
(773) 384-2672

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Wicker Park Bucktown UTILITY BOX MURAL SERIES

Wicker Park Bucktown Special Service Area #33 is seeking qualifications and proposals for a series of small murals to be painted on utility boxes throughout WPB Special Service Area #33 boundaries.

Project Description

This piece of public art will be highly visible located along one of Wicker Park Bucktown's popular commercial corridors and in close proximity to murals by other renowned artists such as CZR PRZ, Jake Merten, Lisa Wronski, and Hebru Brantley. The purpose of this mural is to welcome visitors and commuters to the Wicker Park neighborhood by highlighting the charm and local character of the community with a cohesive mural series featured in 4 distinct areas throughout the neighborhood, while also discouraging vandalism of any kind on public utility boxes. All proposals will be reviewed by the Arts Committee of WPB SSA #33.

Murals and public art in Wicker Park Bucktown serve many purposes in the community including but not limited to:

- beautifying the streetscape
- increasing foot traffic and enhancing the pedestrian experience
- deterring vandalism
- supporting local Chicago artists by creating work opportunities and visibility
- fostering a sense of community, pride, place, and belonging for all residents of and visitors to the neighborhood
- establishing Wicker Park Bucktown as one of the most prominent arts communities in Chicago

As a highly visible part of our neighborhood fabric, all SSA #33 funded murals in Wicker Park Bucktown are intended to be displayed and maintained for a **minimum of three years**. Completed murals will be photographed and included in the WPB mural archive & database (on the Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce website).

Mural Site & Location

We are currently seeking mural proposals and designs for **FOUR** utility box sites throughout the Wicker Park Bucktown Special Service Area #33 boundaries. Two of the four proposed locations (intersections of **Wood/Wolcott/Milwaukee** and **Milwaukee/Western**) house two utility boxes each, and two locations (intersection of **Damen/Division**, and **Damen/Armitage**) house one utility box each, meaning that we are seeking a total of 6 utility boxes to be included in the mural series. **Utility box locations, dimensions, and photos can be reviewed in Attachment A.** The mural sites will be primed, and artist is responsible for any additional site preparations they see fit.

These attached photos may be used by the artist to help create their mural design and proposal. Please email SSA33@wickerparkbucktown.com to request additional or larger format images if needed.

Budget

Selected mural artist will receive a stipend of **up to \$600 per utility box**. Stipends will be distributed in two installments, the first 50% to be paid upon acceptance and the remaining 50% upon completion of the artwork. The stipend is intended to cover all costs of the project, including materials, equipment rentals, and artist fee. Unforeseeable circumstances aside, murals not completed in an appropriately timely fashion or according to approved proposals may receive reduced payment. Unfinished murals are ineligible for complete payment and artists may possibly be barred from receiving funding as part of any future SSA #33 arts programs.

Artist Requirements

Artist will be responsible for securing any permits and equipment necessary for completion of the artwork. These expenses should be noted in the proposed budget submitted with the application. All necessary labor must be secured by the artist. Mural cannot require structural alterations to the hosting property and should not cause any lasting damage. Selected artist should have reliable experience and demonstrate a sound ability to take on public art projects from initiation through to completion.

Proposal Details and Requirements

To be considered, artists should submit the following as a single PDF or similar file no later than **11:59pm on Sunday, October 18th**

- Brief description of the mural series project and plan of execution (approximately 250 words)
- Accurate and legible drawings and/or digital renderings of the proposed work
- Approximate size and scale of the proposed murals, which must comply with utility box dimensions attached.
- Three to five examples of previous and similar work
- Artist statement, resume/CV, and bio for the artist
- Stipend request and estimated, itemized budget expenditures
- Plan and timeline for project completion

- Any special requests and/or concerns should be articulated in the proposal

Complete proposals should be emailed to SSA33@wickerparkbucktown.com with the subject line "Utility Box Mural Series Proposal."

Please contact Special Service Area #33 at SSA33@wickerparkbucktown.com with any questions or concerns or to confirm receipt of your proposal.

Attachment A:

Wood/Wolcott/Milwaukee Intersection Utility Boxes (1393 N Milwaukee Ave)



Large Box: W 44" x H 54" x D 27"



Small Box:

Top – W 25" x H 40" x D 17.25"

Bottom – W 15.5" x H 20" x D 15.5"

Milwaukee/Western Intersection Utility Boxes (1939 N Milwaukee Ave)



Large Box: W 44" x H 75" x D 27.5"

Side Appendage: W 16" x H 47.25" x D 15.25"



Small Box:

Top – W 25" x H 40" x D 17.25"

Bottom – W 15.5" x H 20.5" x D 15.5"

Damen/Division Intersection Utility Box (2001 W Division St)



W 22.25" x H 47" x D 23.25"

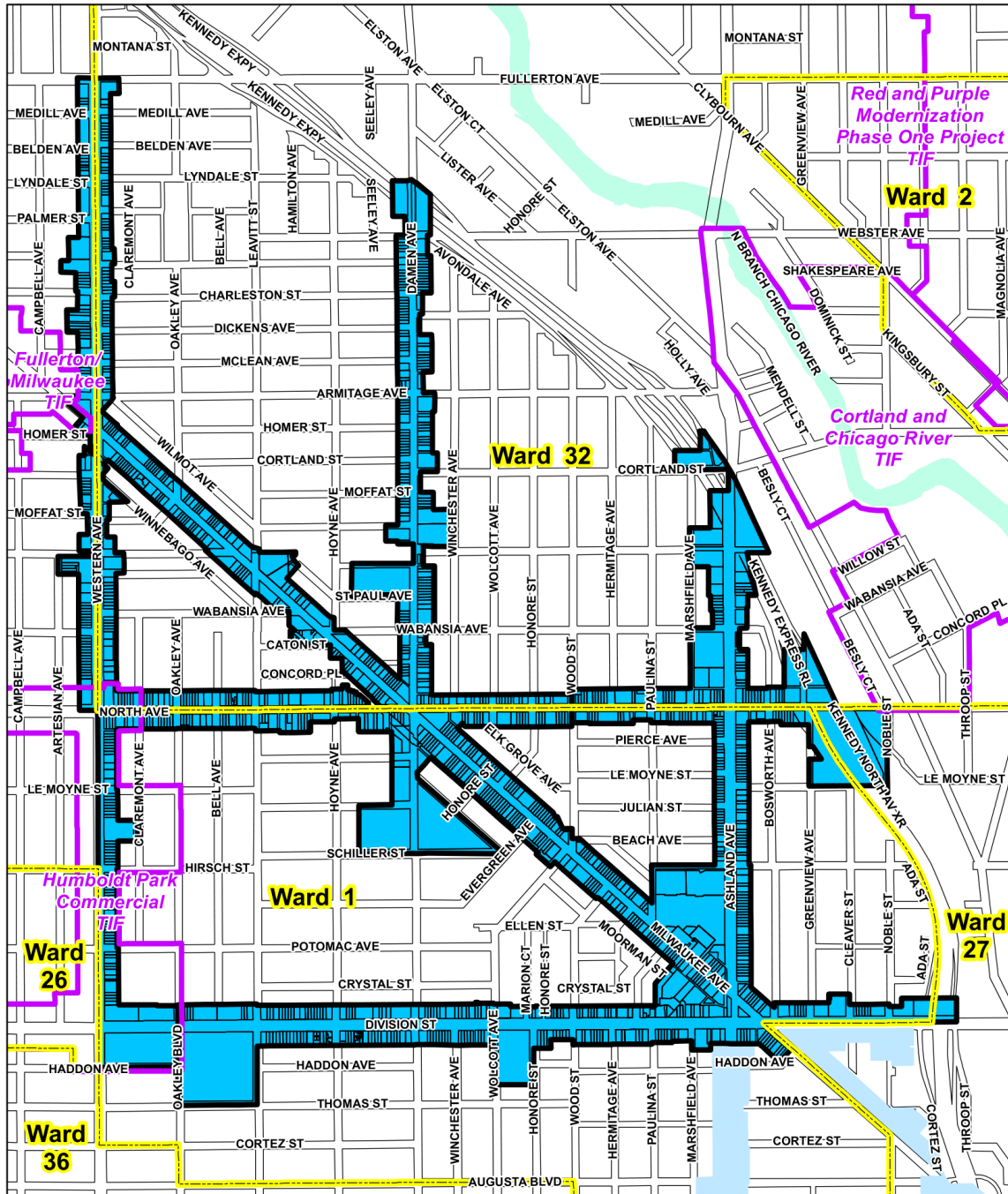
Damen/Armitage Intersection Utility Box (1992 N Damen Ave)



Utility Box @ Northeast Corner

W 21.75" x H 37.5" x D 17.5"

Attachment B



- Legend**
- Wicker Park / Bucktown
 - Other SSA
 - TIF
 - Wards (2023)

Wicker Park / Bucktown SSA #33



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WORK PRODUCT

Attachment C

Background on WPB and Core Values

What is WPB SSA #33?

WPB is the Special Service Area for the Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods of Chicago. The mission of WPB is to sustain and promote the prosperity and unique qualities of life in the Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods and commercial district, whilst preserving its diverse character for the benefit of its residents, visitors, and businesses through the wise and discerning investment of resources to enhance our public ways.

Core Values

The Commission of SSA #33 has a set of core values that are at the heart of any and all decisions made. These values guide the Commission, influencing goals, priorities, and allocation of funding for projects.

Environmental best practices are preferred, and should be incorporated into all projects. Being located in a well-established urban area presents unique environmental challenges. Green space is limited, while hard, impervious surfaces abound, especially on the commercial streets of WPB. Alternatives to conventional methods of managing stormwater runoff should be explored and implemented whenever possible. As natural resources become more and more limited, the need to recycle as well as find alternative methods for powering vehicles, buildings, etc. is becoming more imperative. The Commission of WPB is committed to finding ways to encourage recycling and a more “green lifestyle” in order to lessen the burden on infrastructure and resources.

Walking, bicycling, and public transit are preferred methods of transportation. Traffic congestion and parking are major concerns in the Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods. The Commission of WPB feels that it is important to maintain the neighborhoods as safe, interesting, and inviting places to walk and bike. When residents are walking and biking, they are more likely to use transit. The private vehicle is here to stay and needs to be considered in planning, however, the Commission of WPB desires to put the needs of walkers, cyclists and transit riders first, as they are the more sustainable means of transportation in an urban setting.

Public space, particularly streets, are an integral part of making a neighborhood exciting. When people talk about a great neighborhood, they are often referring to the public life of the neighborhood, an experience that can only be had in the public way, on streets or sidewalks. An active, exciting, and interesting street life is the backbone of successful neighborhoods, as it serves residents, visitors, and businesses of all kinds equally. When people talk about a great neighborhood, they rarely speak of the interior of houses or stores, but rather the people they watch, the storefronts that catch their eye, the outdoor spaces where they relaxed, and the overall experience of being in the neighborhood as experienced from its sidewalks. To this end, the Commission of WPB is interested in maintaining the unique atmosphere of Wicker Park and Bucktown that can only be experienced in the public way.

Honoring the heritage of the neighborhoods while progressing into the future.

The Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods have been home to many artists, musicians, writers, and others in the creative community for many years. Unfortunately, there has been a decline in the creative community, a detriment to the culture and liveliness of the neighborhoods. Similarly, the neighborhoods have a wealth of architectural history that has also been lost. The Wicker Park and Bucktown neighborhoods are at an important crossroads: find ways to nourish the creative community and preserve architectural heritage so that it continues to flourish or risk further decline and the loss of what has helped define the neighborhoods for so long.

Any community process should be open and transparent to its stakeholders. WPB is funded through property tax dollars and exists as a public body. Any planning, budgeting, or decision-making process shall be open to the public. Innovative methods to solicit public comment and input are expected; WPB considers transparency and engagement to be paramount to its success and validity in the community.