



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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: 1945 N DAMEN AVE “Welcome to Bucktown” MURAL

Wicker Park Bucktown Special Service Area #33 and the Bucktown Community Organization are seeking qualifications and proposals for a mural wall installation to be painted at 1945 N Damen Ave.

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 and Hebru Brantley. The purpose of this mural is to welcome visitors and commuters to the Bucktown neighborhood by highlighting the charm and local character of the community. **Please include a literal or creative rendition of the phrase “Welcome to Bucktown” in your mural renderings.** All proposals will be reviewed by the Arts Committee of WPB SSA #33. Funding for this project is already approved and the committee will make all curatorial decisions in regards to artist selection.

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**. Murals will be accompanied by a plaque with the work’s title, the name of the artist, and any other relevant information. Completed murals will also be photographed and included in the WPB mural archive & database (on the Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce website) and the City of Chicago’s Mural Registry.

Mural Site & Location

We are currently seeking mural proposals and designs for the **north wall of 1945 N Damen Ave.** (Studio 1945), in the alley facing the PNC Bank parking lot. Scale is flexible but should not be above the feasible scope of the allocated budget and stipend and **should not exceed the area designated by the red frame (26' x 10')** in the accompanying rendering. The mural site has already been primed, and artist is responsible for any additional wall preparations they see fit.

Please see bottom/end of this RFP for a larger site image. These 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.

Installation

Special Service Area #33 and the Bucktown Community Organization request that the mural be completed no later than **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st**.

Budget

Selected mural artist will receive a stipend of **up to \$10,000**, with flexibility to increase or decrease funding at the committee's discretion based on scale, labor, and equipment factors. 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 MONDAY, JUNE 30th**:

- Brief description of the mural 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 mural with any flexibility considered and noted
- Three to five examples of previous and similar work

- Artist statement, resume/CV, and bio for the artist
- Stipend request (not to exceed \$10,000) 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 "Bucktown Mural Initiative Proposal."

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



