



MAKING SPACE: A MURAL AND

# MAKING SPACE

## CALL FOR ART

The Elgin Social Justice Collective is searching for a mural artist to work with our community to design and install a permanent mural based on the business board ups that were put up in anticipation of protests during the summer of 2020.

For more information about the project, visit [XXX](#).

## ELIGIBILITY:

- Application is open to artists of all backgrounds and level of accomplishments, worldwide.
- Anyone receiving funds directly from the City of Elgin will not be considered for funding.

## NOT ELIGIBLE/FUNDING WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR:

- Purchasing permanent equipment or capital expenditures.
- Operating expenses or scholarships or educational programs in any school.
- An existing deficit from a previous year or previous project.
- Hobbies or recreational projects.
- Any project for a religious or political purpose.
- Any group receiving money directly from the City Council or payment in-kind agreements.
- Projects already funded by the City of Elgin, Elgin Human Relations Commission, or Elgin Cultural Arts Commission.

## FUNDING REQUESTS:

Actual honorarium awards will be contingent on the budget available pending final grant announcements. All applicants who are approved for funding under this program shall enter into a professional services agreement. The ESJC is not responsible for lost or mis-delivered mail. Payment of approved honorarium will be only after full execution of the professional services agreement and the processing of appropriate cash request documents. All honorarium awards are processed at the same time. The maximum honorarium request that will be accepted is \$13,000.

**Application deadline is Monday, February 22, 2020 @4pm**

# PROJECT GUIDELINES

- Only one honorarium per calendar year per artist will be funded.
- An artist or artist organization may act as a fiscal agent only once per year and cannot act as a fiscal agent for another artist or artist organization.
- Expenditures of grant monies must occur between January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021.
- It is the responsibility of the honorarium recipient to complete any and all necessary permits or applications for the City of Elgin.
- The artwork must be created specifically for the city of Elgin, and the Elgin Social Justice Collective (ESJC). The city of Elgin must be listed as the originating location. Artists must acknowledge the ESJC in all promotional materials, publicity and informational materials used.
- Artists must complete the proposed artwork within the timeline, budget, and feasibility plan that is proposed. A final report detailing an additional maintenance care plan is required upon completion and installation of the artwork.
- Only one application per artist will be accepted.
- Changes to a proposed artwork once an honorarium has been awarded will necessitate a formal written Request for Project Change as well as a revised budget. This request for change can not be guaranteed; should denial of a Request for Project Change occur, Grantee shall refund all monies received within 30 days of notice of denial.

## ELGIN SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLECTIVE SUPPORT

- Access to the installation site for artwork creation purposes.
- Support for the installation and de-installation of the work.
- Maintenance support as is feasible, reasonable and adheres to the plan as proposed by the artist.
- Publicity support for the proposed artwork.
- Signage for the artwork.
- Unveiling event after or at the time of installation.
- The City of Elgin will not provide insurance for the artwork.

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

What space can we make to allow for further artistic expression? How can we create a lasting reflection of the activities of the summer of 2020? What space can we make to allow for peaceful and impactful gatherings of community members to engage? How do we elevate equity in our community?

These questions arose in response to the historic summer of 2020 and the response that Elgin's community had to the killing of George Floyd. Elgin's residents came out and peacefully protested along with many others across the nation. Downtown businesses were largely boarded up in an abundance of caution based on the looting happening in other communities; happily, no looting or damage occurred in Elgin. Local artists and activists activated to express their solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement artistically on the boards adorning the businesses.

An ad-hoc group of community individuals (now known as the Elgin Social Justice Collective) came together and worked to identify a project that would address those questions. The project consists of four parts: a mural, a documentary, a Juneteenth partnership, and a scholarship.

Using the board-ups as inspiration, a professional mural artist will be commissioned to design, develop, and install a mural permanently in the downtown working in collaboration with our community. The community will be encouraged to participate in the actual installation of the mural, during which opportunities to engage with other community members and begin building relationships will be plentiful. The entire process of this new mural will be documented, including interviews with the original board-up artists and community members participating in the project. The documentary, as well as ways to donate to the scholarship will be noted on the mural itself. The mural will be unveiled during the annual Juneteenth Celebration. Also, a part of the Juneteenth celebration will be an installation of 'Art Cubes' which will serve as a blank canvas for community members to use art to speak to their experiences with the Black Lives Matter movement and its impact on their lives. These 'Art Cubes' provide an artistic and spontaneous engagement opportunity annually.

Images of some of the artwork will be used to start a t-shirt campaign to raise funds for two purposes: a second scholarship for the existing Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship program, which is awarded annually to Elgin students who have demonstrated an active interest and meaningful involvement in the areas of human rights, civil rights, social justice and/or world peace. The second purpose is to raise funds and awareness for the permanent mural to be installed.

# ARTWORK SCORING

The ESJC will review Call for Art applications based on the criteria listed below. Successful applicants should demonstrate a clear purpose for the artwork, offer support to demonstrate their ability to successfully complete their proposal, a balanced budget and timeline, and a strong commitment to making artwork accessible and relevant to a diverse range of participants. Applicants should also show that their proposals have artistic and cultural value. It is recommended that proposals not include designs that would be considered inappropriate and/or indecent by community standards.

## APPLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

### STEP ONE

Submit your completed application and additional documentation by the deadline listed in the application.



### STEP TWO

The ESJC will review the application and vote in February and notify applicants of their application status.



### STEP THREE

Selected applicant will complete necessary paperwork, establishes timeline and expectations. Marketing and promotion begins.

### STEP FOUR

Applicant begins collaborative creative process for the mural in March.



### STEP FIVE

Artwork fabrication and installation begins. City staff provides support as has been identified during the installation.



### STEP SIX

Artwork is unveiled at the Juneteenth event in June. Final report and maintenance plan submitted.

# AWARD CRITERIA

The ESJC reviews and evaluates each application based on the following criteria. These criteria may not apply to every application, and do not represent the only means of evaluation.

## ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

- What is unique about the proposed artwork? What is timely about this proposed artwork? How does this project highlight artistic quality and its intended aesthetic or cultural impact on its audience?
- What risks will you take with this project? How is the proposed artwork forward thinking?

## TECHNICAL COMPETENCE

- Do you have the level of skill needed to accomplish the project?
- Are the budget, timeline, installation and maintenance feasible and realistic?
- Do you have past work that will provide evidence to support the level of experience needed to complete the project?
- Does the list of materials reflect the level of research needed for the project and the artwork?

## NARRATIVE SUPPORT

- The narrative should support, explain and defend the work.
- Does the proposed artwork narrative provide evidence of sound management and planning and a realistic timeline?
- What problems, difficulties, or challenges are you likely to encounter with this project and how does your narrative address them?
- Does the narrative fully describe how you will address the collaborative process for creating a mural with community input and public installation?
- Does the narrative describe the materials anticipated to be used and the expenditures that will be covered by the budget?
- Do you have experience with engaging the community to create and install a mural?
- Does the proposed artwork work towards accomplishing the goal of placemaking?
- Does the proposed artwork offer encouragement or support the community surrounding the site?
- Does the proposed artwork fit the location's identity?

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# MURAL LOCATION

## Downtown Elgin pocket park

The Downtown Elgin pocket park is located near 67-69 S. Grove Ave. The park runs between South Grove Avenue and Spring Street.

- The pocket park is a small park that creates a pathway between two streets in downtown Elgin. The park consists of a wide gently winding sidewalk with landscaped areas on each side. Each side of the sidewalk has an area for a mural, one of which has a mural installed currently. The north side of the park has a vacant spot for the proposed mural. The location has 4 large black installation pillars and cross bars which support murals installed using the French cleat method. The pillars create an area approximately XX long and XX tall. They are approximately XX feet apart. These pillars easily support murals composed of treated and coated plywood that measures 4' x 6' up to a total of 60' long.
- To view images of the mural location as well as reference images of the events of the 2020 summer, please visit [elgin.box.com/makingspacecallforart](http://elgin.box.com/makingspacecallforart)

## ABOUT THE MURAL LOCATION

The site of the proposed mural has historically been a place for public art in Elgin. The location for the new mural is where a community art mural stood for 10 years in Elgin. In 2016, the painted image was discovered to be the top half of a famous lynching photograph. Neither the artist nor the City could say why this topic had been chosen as a mural subject. There was no interpretive plaque or interpretive information from 2006 available. Protests erupted for days before the City took down the mural, and then there were months of public meetings to hear the public outcry. Most people expressed their thoughts as feeling tricked or duped. The empty mural supports have sat for the past 4 years as a reminder that public art is meaningful, significant, and should tell the truth. When the Elgin Social Justice Collective was formed, it was decided very early on that any permanent mural should be located in said pocket park where the previous mural stood for so long.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: 847-931-6019

E-mail: [CulturalArts@cityofelgin.org](mailto:CulturalArts@cityofelgin.org)

URL: [www.cityofelgin.org/publicart](http://www.cityofelgin.org/publicart)

Address: 150 Dexter Ct, Elgin, IL, 60120



# APPLICATION:

## SECTION 1

If a honorarium is awarded, the applicant hereby agrees that:

- The activities and services for which assistance is sought will be administered under the supervision of the applicant.
- The proposed artwork is original in design and the sole creative idea of the applicant.
- The applicant has read and will conform to the program guidelines.
- The applicant will expend funds received as a result of the application solely on the project and programs described herein.
- Any funds received under this grant shall not be used to supplant any budgeted funds.
- The applicant organization will comply with all laws, acts and ordinances of the United States, the State of Illinois and the City of Elgin, and further agrees that no person will be excluded from participation or be denied the benefits of any program, activity or service on the basis of race, sex, sexual preference, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, or disability. The applicant further agrees to make every attempt to ensure the the program is accessible to persons with disabilities.
- The figures, facts and representations in this application, including all exhibits and attachments, are true and correct to the best of its knowledge and belief.
- Failure to follow these guidelines will disqualify the applicant for future grants and/or honorariums.
- Cancellation of funded projects will result in forfeiture of funds and funds must be returned within sixty (60) days of the scheduled event.

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Signature of Authorizing Official

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Date

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Signature of Applicant

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Date

## SECTION 2

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Location of the Artwork: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Dimensions: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Lifespan of the Work: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION 3

Complete the attached budget to the best of your ability. If any of the categories do not apply to your project, simply ignore that line item. If you wish to expand on any areas or need additional space, you may forgo this form and attach your own budget spreadsheet.

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>BUDGETED</b>
Administrative	
Artistic	
Technical/Production	
Outside Professional Services	
Equipment Rental	
Travel/Transportation	
Marketing/Promotion	
Materials/Supplies	
Insurance	
Installation/De-Installation	
Other Expenses	
<i>Total Expenses</i>	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Admissions	
Concessions/Publications	
Fees	
Corporate/Business	
Grants	
Foundations	
Individuals	
Other Income	
<i>Total Income</i>	

# CALL FOR ART CHECKLIST

Please provide ONE (1) copy of the following information, in the order listed. Do not print front and back. No late, incomplete, or double-sided, will be accepted. Digital copies are acceptable and preferred as long as they are shared as one link or document. Applications are scored blind, so please redact your name, website, and contact information from all pages with the exception of page 8 of the application. Application: Pages 8-10 of this document should be the top of the document. If you are attaching your own budget, replace that page of the application with your own budget.

- Narrative/Proposal: 1-3 page maximum narrative/proposal addressing the award criteria and how they apply to your proposed project. This document should include the expected timeline and the detailed care and maintenance plan. Minimum 10 point font.
- Design Illustration: 4 page maximum mockups for the project. Must be no larger than 11x17 in size.
- Artist Resume: 1 page maximum with the artist's history and relevant experience.
- Supporting Materials: 5 page maximum containing relevant materials such as exhibition catalogs, articles, reviews, etc.
- Work Samples: 5 page maximum, Images of good quality in jpeg format, no larger than 11x17 in size.
- Supporting Materials: 5 page maximum containing relevant materials such as exhibition catalogs, articles, reviews, etc.
- References: 1 page maximum listing at least 3 professional references that can be contacted. Include names, phone numbers, and email addresses.

## **Submit your completed application via mail to:**

City Hall, Attn: Amanda Harris

150 Dexter Ct, Elgin, IL, 60120

## **Or email to:**

[culturalarts@cityofelgin.org](mailto:culturalarts@cityofelgin.org)