



## **Iowa Arts Council**

### **Request for Qualifications: Iowans Create Community Mural Program**

#### **Overview**

The Iowa Arts Council (IAC), part of the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), invites Iowa artists and artist teams to submit qualifications for the Iowans Create Community Mural Program, through which the selected artist or artist team will work with a selected Iowa community to plan, design and create an original, site-specific mural by June 30, 2026.

#### **Program Description**

Founded by the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) and now entering its fifth year, the program invites Iowa communities with a population of 20,000 or less to apply for the chance to work with an Iowa artist to design and create an original mural that showcases the community's spirit and unique creative and cultural identity. Knoxville, Washington, Cascade and Manchester were previously awarded a mural.

The selected artist or artist team will work with the IAC and the selected community to envision, design, and create an original mural that activates a public space, welcomes visitors and showcases the authentic character of the community. The selected artist or artist team will be expected to take part in several meetings with the selected community as part of the design and development process.

#### **Timeline**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| September 8, 2025   | Artist Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Opens    |
| September 26, 2025  | RFQ Application Deadline                         |
| By October 3, 2025  | RFQ Applicants and Finalists Notified            |
| October 24, 2025    | Artist Selected                                  |
| November 2025       | Community Selection and project kickoff          |
| November-March 2026 | Planning, Artwork Design and Development Process |
| March 2026          | Finalize Design                                  |
| April-June 2026     | Mural Execution and Completion                   |

Note: The timeline is subject to adjustment. Artists who have previously submitted mural program request for qualifications proposals may provide an amendment to their existing proposal through email.

### **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants must meet all the following requirements.

- Individual artist or artist team
  - Applicants who represent an artist team must apply as an individual on behalf of the group and clearly state their individual role.
- Current, full-time Iowa resident with permanent address in Iowa
- Legal Iowa resident as defined by [Iowa Code 422.4](#) and [Iowa Administrative Code 701.38.17 \(422\)](#)
- Full-time Iowa resident physically located in Iowa for the duration of the funding period

### **Artist Requirements**

The selected artist or artist team will be responsible for community engagement, planning, design, development, creation, and installation of the artwork within the given budget, using appropriate paints for the surface and painting a protective sealant on top of the mural. The vision for the work is a signature mural that projects the selected community as a great place to live, work, and thrive. Colorful imagery and a unified aesthetic are priorities.

### **Budget**

The total project budget is \$25,000. All costs associated with the public art project are covered by this budget, and no additional funds will be available.

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) will enter into a professional services contract with the selected artist or artist team. The value of the contract will be determined in part based on the size of the agreed-upon mural concept and a cost estimate for services provided by the contractor and approved by IEDA.

Eligible expenses may include artist fees for design work, project management, and creation of the mural; supplies and materials dedicated to the project; equipment rentals; and travel expenses. The selected artist or artist team is required to allocate a portion of the awarded \$25,000 grant to activities related to the final site selection, community engagement and planning

### **Artist Selection Process**

RFQ applications will be reviewed to identify the short list of qualified artists to be considered for the project based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.

- Appropriateness of the artist's work to the goals of the project, as evidenced by representations of past work and other supporting materials.
- Professional experience is adequate to meet the demands of the project.
- Availability to participate in the project's planning, design, approval, and implementation as required within the project timeline.
- Strong desire to engage community stakeholders in the concept development process.

## **APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

### **Application Requirements**

All RFQ applications must be submitted through [iowaartscouncil.slideroom.com](http://iowaartscouncil.slideroom.com)..

Applicants must submit the following required materials:

1. Statement of Interest
  - a. A statement of interest outlining the applicant's interest in the project and prior relevant experience. The statement should briefly summary your artistic focus and professional career to date, especially as it relates to the program goals.
2. Resume/CV
  - a. If applying as a team, please include the team/studio resume. If a team/studio resume is not available, please combine the individual resumes of each team member into one document.
3. Work Samples
  - a. Upload between 5-10 images of relevant previous work.
4. Professional References
  - a. Include the names and contact information for 2 professional references

### **Online Application Submission**

Applicants must submit applications via the Iowa Arts Council's SlideRoom, an online application portal. Applications will not be accepted in any other format. Late, incomplete or ineligible applications will not be accepted. Applicants can access the current online application requirements at [iowaartscouncil.slideroom.com](http://iowaartscouncil.slideroom.com). Applicants must create a login to view the full application requirements for the program. Applicants can visit [help.liaisonedu.com](http://help.liaisonedu.com) for assistance related to the online submission.

### **Review and Selection Process**

All RFQ applications will be reviewed by staff for completeness and eligibility. IAC staff may contact applicants if additional information is required. The list of qualified artists will be presented to a selection committee formed by the IAC. The selection committee will recommend one or more finalists to the IEDA. The IEDA will make the final determination of the selected artist or artist team. The IAC reserves the right to withhold the award of a commission and re-release the RFQ, as needed.

### **Application Deadline**

The deadline to submit an online application is 11:59 p.m. on September 26, 2025.

**Questions**

Contact Jon Berg, Creative Community Development and Infrastructure Programs Manager, at [jon.berg@iowaeda.com](mailto:jon.berg@iowaeda.com) with questions.