



City of Hamilton
BUTLER COUNTY OHIO



CALL TO ARTISTS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

STREETSPARK PROGRAM BACKGROUND AND MISSION

StreetSpark, a public art program in partnership with the Fitton Center for Creative Arts and the City of Hamilton, was founded to further the creative identity in Hamilton, Ohio through exciting murals and public art projects. The program creates engagement by producing high quality art, providing opportunities for local artists and enhancing the visual appeal of the city. Since the summer of 2016, twenty murals and seventeen utility boxes have been painted in a variety of styles. Each year artists are invited to apply and the winning designs are chosen by a selection committee of local arts professionals, partners and community members.

PROJECT OVERVIEW & GUIDELINES

StreetSpark is looking for an artist to design and paint a mural on the Hamilton Living Water Ministry, Inc. building in Summer 2025. Artists should have experience in mural design, mural execution and team management. Applications will involve a two-phase design process beginning with a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that will expand to a Request for Proposals (RFP) at a later date for selected finalists. The selected designer will paint the mural and will be involved with supply ordering and project planning. The StreetSpark program will manage wall preparation, equipment rental, make supply purchases and hire a team of supporting artists to assist the lead artist.

SITE INFORMATION

- Hamilton Living Water Ministry offers year-round academic and enrichment programs for youth in grades K-12 and adult services and educational programs. Free meals are available and all programs are in English and Spanish.
- Hamilton Living Water Ministry is located in Hamilton, Ohio at 510 S. 8th Street in the Jefferson neighborhood.
- Jefferson, also called 4th Ward, was at one time a highly industrial neighborhood and enclave for Italian immigrants to the city. It is now home to many small bustling family-owned businesses and is the city's most ethnically diverse neighborhood.

- Living Water Ministry is looking for a welcoming mural that adds beauty to the area and showcases their mission to make a positive impact on the lives of at-risk youth and families in Hamilton’s inner city.
- Read more about their mission here: <https://hamilton-living-water-ministry.org/>
- Key concepts for design: Community, connection, culture, opportunity, encouragement, inspiration
- Due to funding guidelines, no directly religious or political content may be used.
- Estimated time to complete this mural: 20 days (~ 4 weeks) with 4 artists

SITE IMAGE:

- Mural area shown in red
- Mural Area Dimensions: ~75’ W x 24’ H
- Dumpster will be moved



TIMELINE*

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Released	December 2, 2024
RFQ Deadline	January 5, 2025 (by 12pm midnight)
Semi-finalist artists notified for design creation	Week of January 13, 2025
Designs due from semi-finalists	February 12, 2025 (by 5pm)
Final design selected and artists notified	March 3, 2025
Mural created in Hamilton	Summer 2025

*Please note, by submitting application materials, the artist understands the time sensitive constraints of the above specified commission and agrees to adhere to the timetable above.

STIPENDS

- A stipend of \$500 will be paid to three selected semi-final artists to develop design proposals. (Stipends will be awarded after designs are received in February 2025.)
- In addition, a stipend of \$1,000 will be paid to the final selected artist. (Stipend will be awarded after final design is approved/received.)
- The awarded designer will receive additional pay for mural creation during Summer 2025. Estimated time of 20 (7-hour) work days, stipend will be based on \$30/hour.

ELIGIBILITY

- Artists and designers, Age 18+
- Artists of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate in the RFQ process
- Artists should have experience in mural design, creation and team management

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS FOR RFQ

- Required Items (10 points each)
 - ARTWORK EXAMPLES: Five high-quality JPEG or PNG images (Mural examples preferred, no 3D/sculptural artwork please)
 - CURRENT RESUME/CV
 - ARTIST LETTER OF INTENT: 200 words. Describe your design approach including style and content and explain how your work will add value to this space.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Designs will be chosen by a Selection Committee comprised of artists, visual art professionals, community members and program partners who live within a 35-mile radius of Hamilton.
- The StreetSpark Selection Committee will review RFQ applicants and select three semi-final artists for artwork proposal development. Selected artists will submit a final design using instructions/forms provided by StreetSpark.
- After reviewing designs, the Selection Committee will select one artist to create the mural for the Living Waters site.
- The artist will contract directly with StreetSpark/Fitton Center for Creative Arts who will oversee all aspects of the artwork from concept design development to final artwork installation.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to score RFQ applicants:

- ART & DESIGN EXPERIENCE (experience in art field, relevant training/education, etc. demonstrated through artist's CV/resume)
- QUALITY OF ARTWORK (5 high quality, professional photographs of the artist's work)
- LETTER OF INTENT (200 word written description about design intent)

AGREEMENTS

The artists preparing artwork proposals must agree to the following:

- The artist shall retain intellectual property rights.
- At its sole discretion, StreetSpark/Fitton Center shall have the right to retain the proposal materials (i.e. sketches, drawings, illustrations, design images). Full credit will be given to the artist if materials are disseminated by print or digital means.
- Proposals must be original and unique to this project.
- Submitting artists will contract directly with StreetSpark/Fitton Center to act as the lead artist and paint their mural design during the summer of 2025.
- A team of painters will be chosen by the StreetSpark Program to assist in mural creation. Painters may apply using a separate application, available in February 2025.
- The StreetSpark Program will manage the program budget, wall preparation and repairs, equipment selection/installation, supply purchasing, hiring of artists and other necessary administrative tasks.

APPLICATIONS AND DEADLINES

Applications can be found at www.publicartist.org. Artists must create a free account to apply to this opportunity.

RFQ Deadline by 12pm (midnight) on January 5, 2025.

QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES

Questions and inquiries should be directed to:

Jennifer Acus-Smith

StreetSpark Program Manager

streetsparkart@gmail.com