

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Union City Borough Mural Project

Union City Borough is requesting proposals and qualifications from artists for the design and implementation of a mural on the south-facing block wall of 28 South Main Street.

ABOUT UNION CITY BOROUGH

Union City traces its history to a settlement known as Miles Mills, which was established in 1800 when William Miles built a dam on the south branch of French Creek and erected a gristmill and a sawmill. Until 1855, Miles Mills was nothing more than a band of small mills located along this waterway.

The railroad entered the town in 1858 shortly before oil was successfully drilled in Titusville, and it became a rail head for the developing oil industry. The impact was dramatic. By 1862, Miles Mills boasted three refineries and a barrel-making industry, in addition to its saw and planing mills. Residents incorporated themselves as the Borough of Union Mills in 1865.

The diversion of the oil freight business to Corry extinguished the refineries in Union Mills, but what remained proved important to the town's future. Barrel-making bequeathed a wood products industry that was the cornerstone of the town's economy through the 1990's.

Union Mills was renamed Union City in 1871.

Today, Union City is 1.9 square miles, and the population was 3,320 at the time of the 2010 census. US Route 6 and Pennsylvania Route 8 pass through the center of town as Main Street. The south branch of French Creek, a tributary of the Allegheny River, flows east to west through the Borough's core, which is located within Pennsylvania's US Route 6 Heritage Area and the National Register listed Union City Historic District. It is a thriving rural community with a focus on revitalizing

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Borough recently published the Union City Historic Preservation & Streetscape Plan and is beginning implementation of the plan in 2020. As part of the implementation, Union City Borough is planning to transition a vacant lot located on the south side of 28 South Main Street into off-street parking. The site is at the southernmost end of Union City's downtown business district.

Presently, the south-facing wall of 28 South Main Street, which is very visible to all traffic traveling northbound on Route 8 and Route 6, is unappealing. (See attached photograph.) Union City Pride demolished blighted property located next to 28

South Main Street several years ago, and the demolition exposed a cinder block wall that was never intended to be an exterior wall.

The proposed mural (a minimum of 40 ft. x 12 ft. in size) will help beautify the new parking area and address the unappealing visible cinder block wall, as well as create a gateway element signifying to travelers that they have arrived at Union City's downtown.

More than 8,000 vehicles travel through Union City and drive by 28 South Main Street daily.

CONCEPT

The artwork will pay tribute in some way to the culture and heritage of Union City and may reflect the town's manufacturing, milling, agricultural, and recreational traditions, as well as its most celebrated natural resource - French Creek.

TIMELINE (Subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

Submission Deadline: July 31, 2020

Artist Selection: August 14, 2020

Community Engagement (as part of the design process): August 24 - September 27, 2020

Submission of Final Design Concept: October 19, 2020

Execution of Mural: November 2, 2020 - June 30, 2021 (weather permitting)

Note: The mural will be publicly "unveiled" no later than July 16, 2021 as part of Union City Borough's 150th commemoration in 2021.

SITE INFORMATION

The mural (a minimum of 40 ft. x 12 ft. in size) will be located on the south-facing wall of 28 South Main Street, Union City, PA, which is situated at the southernmost end of Union City's central business district and located next to the site of a proposed Borough-owned parking area. See attached photograph.

MAINTENANCE/DURABILITY

All applicants are expected to consider the issues of long-term conservation and maintenance of public art. This project is in the public realm and will be exposed to weather and physical stresses. The artwork should be fabricated of highly durable, low maintenance materials.

FINISHING

Once the mural is completed and approved by the mural project committee and Union City Borough, an anti-graffiti clear coat must be applied.

BUDGET

The final selected artist will be paid a final stipend of \$9,000 to execute the mural. The artist is responsible for all materials, supplies, and equipment related to the execution of the project.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Work Samples (5-10): Visual representations of past artwork that demonstrate qualifications in executing murals similar to this project.

- Physical submissions of artwork will not be accepted.
- Images must be formatted as separate high-resolution jpeg files.

Resume/Vitae: Submit a resume/Vitae that includes relevant work experiences to above mentioned project.

Community Engagement Plan: The selected artist is required to engage the community in the mural design process. Potential engagement methods include, but are not limited to, an online survey, written response/comment cards placed at well-traveled locations within the Borough, a series of public meetings, one-on-one or small group interviews with key stakeholders, a student contest, etc. Provide a plan for how the community will be involved in generating ideas for the design of the mural.

Budget: Provide a detailed description of the total budget to complete the mural. Identify in separate detail the following: artist stipend, all expenses including design, travel, lodging, required meetings, installation, preparation of site*, clean-up, materials and supplies, any equipment needed to install the mural, any necessary permits, taxes and fees; including business license application fee, retaining workers, insurance costs, engineering expenses, documentation, preparing specifications and providing list of all materials necessary for installation of the work.

*The proposed wall for the mural needs to be repaired prior to installation. Per the bid received from a local contractor, the scope of work will include masonry work, the sealing and painting of the entire cinder block wall, and repair of the window frames, soffit, and fascia. The Borough will work in partnership with the property owner to complete these repairs prior to August 17, 2020. The artist's mural budget is not to include the cost of this work, but it should include costs associated with

prepping the wall (if any prep work remains) after these improvements have been finished.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must be professional artists or designers as stated in the resume, eligible to work in the United States, and age 18 or older. Candidates are eligible regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identification, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical ability. You do not need to be a resident of Union City, PA to make a submission.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Please email submissions to secretary@usborough.us by July 31, 2020.

Questions: Contact Cindy Wells, Union City Borough Secretary, at secretary@usborough.us or (814) 438-2331.

