

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Union City Pride, Inc. Mural Project

Union City Pride, Inc. (UCPI) is requesting proposals and qualifications from artists for the design and implementation of three murals located at the north gateway to the Main Street commercial district.

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 its historic downtown.

PROJECT SUMMARY

In 2021, Union City developed the Downtown (North) Gateway Design Plan with consulting firm Bostwick Design Partnership. The purpose of the plan was to create compelling and inspiring improvement concepts that would establish a northern entrance into Union City's commercial district and spark community support for future development. Implementation of the resulting design plan was divided into phases.

The initial phase of the plan called for the long-vacant, pre-1940 Union City Dinor, located at 2 W. High Street at the north gateway to Union City's downtown, to be demolished. The building was evaluated by Bostwick Design Partnership architectural firm and the borough's third-party code enforcement administrator Building Inspection Underwriters in April 2019 and determined to be structurally deficient. In 2022, the building was removed and an outdoor courtyard installed in its place with funding provided, in part, by the PA DCED Blight Remediation Grant Program. The next phase of the Downtown (North) Gateway Project, which

began in 2023, involves the replacement of the municipal concrete staircase leading from High Street to the municipal parking lot located between the old diner site and the Salvation Army building, improvements to the borough-owned Industrial Park, and design and installation of three "welcoming" murals.

In support of this next project phase, Union City Pride, Inc. requests proposals from individual artists or teams of artists to design, fabricate, and install murals at 7 W. High Street (20 ft. wide x 16 ft. high), 42 N. Main Street (34 ft. wide x 10 ft. high), and 43 N. Main Street (25 ft. wide x 12 ft. high), which are situated at the northernmost end of Union City's central business district. The buildings are a two-story apartment building, the old three-story Congdon Hotel, and the northernmost building that comprises the Ace Hardware buildings, respectively.

Because the design of the murals will require community input, the UCPI will select an artist(s) using this Request for Proposal (RFP) that asks applicants to provide an overview of qualifications, a plan for engaging the public in the design and/or installation processes, the preferred method of fabricating and installing murals, an estimated project budget, and work samples. An artist, or team of artists, will be selected based on their past experience with murals, as well as the quality of their artwork and strategy for engaging the community.

The proposed murals will 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 daily.

CONCEPT

Located at the north gateway to Union City's downtown, the artwork will "welcome" both residents and visitors to the downtown and 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

Submission Deadline: August 9, 2023

Artist Selection: August 25, 2023

Community Engagement (as part of the design process): September - November 17, 2023

Submission of Final Design Concept: December 19, 2023

Execution of Murals: April - August 31, 2024 (weather permitting)

SITE INFORMATION

Mural #1 will be located on the west-facing wall of 7 W. High Street (20 ft. wide x 16 ft. high), which is a two-story apartment building. The wall is built of textured block that is painted. It overlooks the Borough-owned Industrial Park, a small triangular park abutting the railroad tracks.

Mural #2 will be located on the north-facing wall of 42 N. Main Street (34 ft. wide x 10 ft. high), which is the old three-story Congdon Hotel. The mount surface is painted brick; the mural will replace a ghost sign reading "Hotel Congdon."

Mural #3 will be located on the north-facing wall of 43 N. Main Street (25 ft. wide x 12 ft. high), which is the northernmost building that comprises the multi-building footprint of Ace Hardware. The wall surface is a textured faux brick application.

All three mural sites are located at the northernmost end of Union City's central business district at the intersection of Route 8 (Main Street), Route 6, and High Street. See attached photographs.

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 artworks should be fabricated of highly durable, low maintenance materials.

FINISHING

Once the murals are completed and approved by the mural project committee and Union City Pride, Inc., an anti-graffiti clear coat must be applied.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Work Samples (5-10): Visual representations of past artwork that demonstrate qualifications in executing murals like 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(s) 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 murals.

Budget: Provide a detailed description of the total budget to complete the project. Identify in separate detail the following: artist(s) fees, all expenses including design, travel, lodging, required meetings, surface preparation*, installation, 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. Please organize the budget into the following four sections: Design Costs (for all three artworks), Fabrication and Installation of Mural #1, Fabrication and Installation of Mural #2, and Fabrication and Installation of Mural #3.

*Regarding the conditions of the three walls/surfaces, the UCPI has solicited estimates and proposed scopes of work from a local contractor for the work needed to prepare the walls for

mural installation. The Borough will work in partnership with the property owners to complete these repairs prior to April 2024. 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 August 9, 2023.

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

Union City Pride, Inc. North Gateway Mural Project - Photographs



Union City, north gateway, facing south. Intersection of Routes 8 and 6. Two of the three mural walls are visible in this image. (Mural #3 (left) / Mural #2 (right))

Ace Hardware owned building, southeast corner. (Mural #3 (left) / Mural #2 (right))



Congdon Hotel, west side of Main Street just south of the gateway intersection. (Mural #2)



Privately owned apartment building located next to Industrial Park. (Mural #1)

Additional views of the buildings and intersection from the perspective of a pedestrian walking south along Route 8.



Google Earth view of the intersections of Routes 8 and 6. Route 8 running north/south, and Route 6/High Street running east/west.

All three mural sites are marked with a yellow line. All three will be visible to vehicles traveling south on Route 8 and entering Union City's commercial district.