



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR MURAL PROJECT IN JOHNSON CITY, TN

The Public Art Committee of Johnson City, TN is seeking qualifications from artists or art teams for the commission of a mural to be located at 116 Buffalo Street in downtown Johnson City.

ELIGIBILITY: This opportunity is open to all professional artists over the age of 18. Applicants must reside within the United States.

BUDGET: Up to three finalists will be selected to develop design concepts for this project. The total project budget for the selected commission is \$18,000. Finalists will be paid a \$500 honorarium for their designs. The selected artist(s) will be paid \$16,500 for the commissioned work. The three finalists will be required to present their proposals to the Selection Committee via Zoom. The selected artist(s) will be responsible for own travel costs, materials, housing, and personal liability insurance when installing the mural. The selected artist(s) will also be responsible for applying an appropriate primer, UV sealant, and anti-graffiti coating to the walls/mural surface. The City of Johnson City will pressure wash the walls and attend to any necessary repairs prior to the installation.

DEADLINE: March 24, 2023 by 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

QUESTIONS: Cheyenne Kumbhare ckumbhare@johnsoncitytn.org 423-975-2706

ABOUT JOHNSON CITY

Johnson City, with an elevation of over 1,500 feet, is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is surrounded by farmland, undulating hills, lush valleys, and many lakes and rivers. Johnson City has an abundance of unspoiled natural beauty and four distinct seasons.

The eighth-largest city in Tennessee, with a population of over 73,000, Johnson City was founded in 1856 as “Johnson’s Depot” and later became a major rail hub for the Southeast. In 1869, it was incorporated by the State of Tennessee as Johnson City, Tennessee. Johnson City is distinguished as a community that embraces art, the environment, commerce, science, community, and education. It is home to a broad based economy and to East Tennessee State University. The City houses a healthy blend of residents, ranging from college students and young families to those of retirement age. Many locate to the area due to its proximity to the mountains and its pleasant climate.

Downtown Johnson City is in the midst of a revitalization period. In recent years, storm water mitigation efforts prompted the development of two new parks – Founders Park and King Commons – and a commitment to the local food movement spurred the installation of a large farmer’s market pavilion. Craft beer breweries have become increasingly popular as many have located in the downtown area. The City’s two remaining train depots were remodeled, and many other downtown buildings are undergoing restoration. Just a few blocks from downtown, a heavily wooded area known as Tannery Knobs has been transformed into a bike park with trails for people of all ages and skill levels. Public art has also contributed to the ongoing revitalization as artistic elements have been incorporated into many of the newly developed areas downtown.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

There are three themes provided for artistic inspiration when developing the mural design: **progress, encouragement, and welcoming.**

The mural site is located in the heart of downtown Johnson City. This historic district continues to undergo revitalization and has experienced tremendous progress since the onset of this movement. Johnson City and the greater region are at a crossroads. We are reflective of our past, evaluating our present, and strategizing for the future. Johnson City is experiencing a renaissance of infrastructure and population growth. The Johnson City Public Art Committee desires this mural to continue to encourage locals and visitors to experience the downtown district and welcome those who are now calling Johnson City their home.

Located on a highly visible wall by both pedestrians and vehicles, this mural will be a catalyst for other arts infrastructure and projects in “Flag Park”. Currently, this area is barren with three flagpoles flying the American Flag, Tennessee State Flag, which was

designed and first flown in Johnson City, and the newly designed Johnson City Flag. Although presently a bleak space, the mural should nurture a culture of hospitality and community. It will serve as a gateway and entrance into the city. It is also right across the street from the city's future Visitor Center, where locals, visitors, and those looking to relocate will enter to learn about Johnson City and Northeast Tennessee.

The mural will be located on the wall of a downtown business that sells motorcycle apparel and accessories. Just steps away from the mural site, a time capsule lies embedded in the plaza area that was placed during the American Revolutionary bicentennial year (1976) and will be opened during the American Revolutionary tricentennial year (2076).

Overall, it is important the mural design reflects the continued progress being made in the downtown district, serves as an encouraging reminder to experience all the city has to offer, and welcomes everyone who gazes upon it.

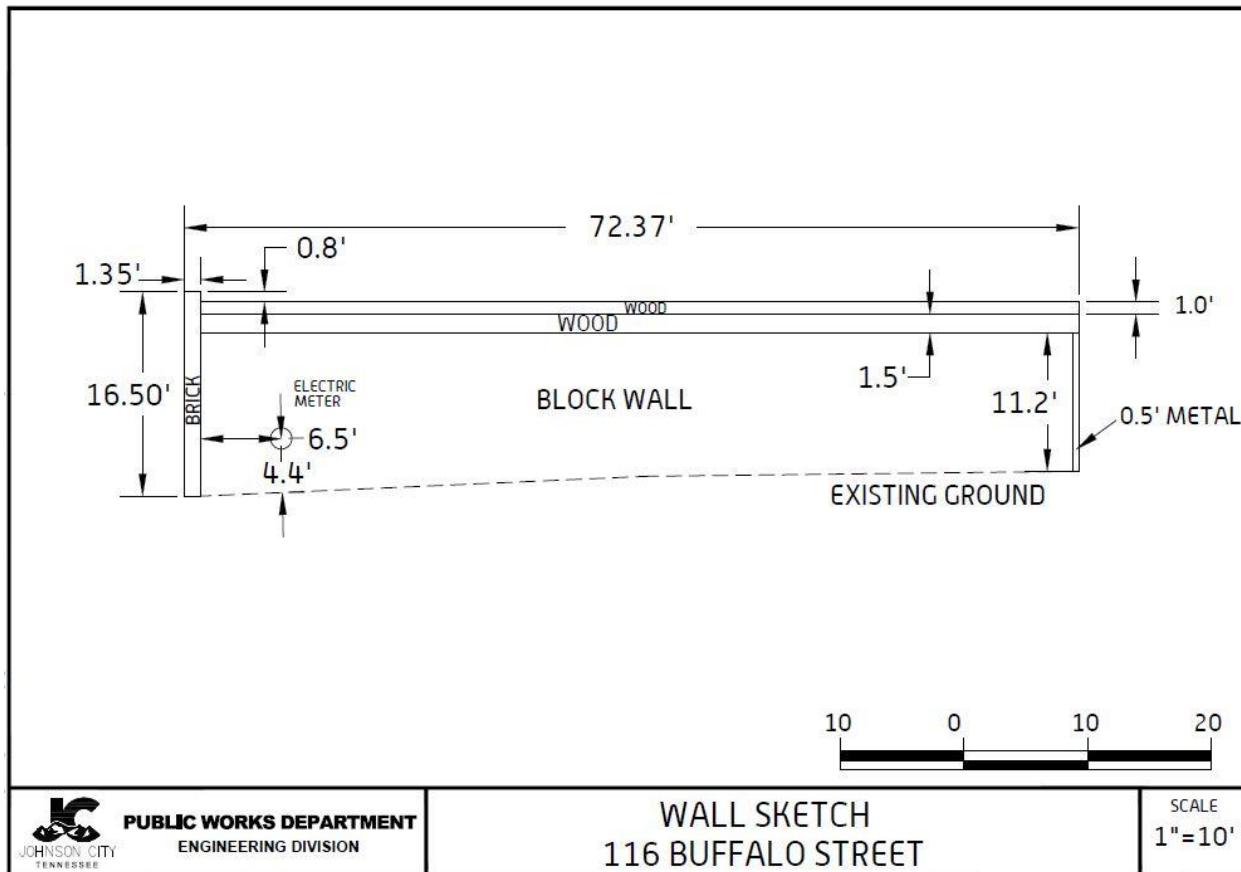
MURAL SITE



(Lower Wall Only)



(Lower Wall Only)



The mural site is located on the side wall of a downtown business. It faces a small plaza adjacent to Buffalo Street that includes several flagpoles and a landscaping bed. Tall pine trees run along the perimeter of the plaza area. There is a high volume of vehicular traffic at the mural site, though there is also frequent foot traffic in this area as it is located in the heart of downtown Johnson City. Plans are underway for the redevelopment of the plaza within the next couple of years.

The wall is approximately 72' x 15'. A narrow portion of wood paneling totaling 2.5' in height runs across the full width of the wall at the top of the building, and the mural should cover this section. It should also cover the brick trim that rises 0.8' above the wall on the left side. The grassy area directly in front of the mural site is somewhat uneven terrain.

SELECTION CRITERIA

A Public Art Selection Committee will review the qualifications of applicant artists and make recommendations to the Johnson City Public Art Committee. The Selection Committee includes artists, arts advocates, curators, administrators, project partners, and other arts and community development specialists. Their selections will be based on the following criteria:

- **Artistic excellence as demonstrated in 10 digital images of the artist(s) previous work**
- **Evidence of working in the mural field on large masonry surfaces**
- **Experience working on collaborative community projects**
- **Experience working on large scale projects**
- **Willingness to meet all contractual guidelines**
- **The use of content appropriate for all audiences**

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The selected artist must supply all required insurance documents and submit a general contract form prior to beginning work. The City of Johnson City will provide an Insurance Checklist detailing each required insurance item, including but not limited to a \$1 million/occurrence general liability policy and additional insured endorsements for the City of Johnson City for both ongoing and completed operations.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submit a digital portfolio:

- **Cover letter/letter of intent**
- **Resume**
- **10 digital images of previous artwork**
- **Contact information for 3 professional references**

Please note: Art teams must submit qualifications under the name of one lead artist. In the cover letter, the lead artist must indicate that they plan to work as part of a team and must list the names of the artist(s) within their team. Art teams shall submit at least 10 images of previous artwork, but they may submit up to 10 images for each team member if desired.

Submit a digital portfolio at <https://jcpublicart.com/buffalo-street-mural-project/>

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

- **Deadline for submissions: March 24, 2023 by 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)**
- **Notification of three finalists: April 5, 2023**
- **Final design submission/presentation: July 21, 2023**
- **Final artist selection: July 28, 2023**

Please note: Installation of the mural will be scheduled in consultation with the selected artist. The preferred installation period is summer or fall of 2023.