

**City of St. Petersburg, Florida**  
**City Hall Art**  
**Call to Artists – Request for Qualifications**

Artists are invited to submit applications for a piece of interior art for the City of St. Petersburg's City Hall. The location of the art will be in the main entry up the stairs to the left landing where a WPA-era mural once hung that was torn down in 1966. This call is open to all artists and students internationally.

**The Project Committee seeks art that will respect the history of the events surrounding the tearing down of the original mural and that will celebrate a city of opportunity for all. It should be noted that the individual, Joe Waller, who tore down the mural because he felt it was racist, spent many months in jail for tearing the mural down. He was vice-chairman at the time of the state's Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). This is a historically significant event in the history of the City of St. Petersburg.**

**The subject of the vacant space has come up before City Council several times in years past with no resolution on what to do with the space each time. It is a sensitive issue and, therefore, the City Hall Mural Project Committee of the Public Arts Commission would like to solicit proposals for art to be located where the torn-down mural once was.**

**The art must respect the event(s) that caused the still vacant space where the mural once hung while honoring and celebrating the advances in civil rights and inclusivity in the city today. The original murals, of which one survives and is in its original location, were by George Snow Hill and were commissioned in 1940.**

**The committee strongly encourages schools and school-age children to apply in addition to professional artists who meet the criteria.**

Budget - \$50,000

Deadline – October 3, 2016

About the Site – St. Petersburg City Hall was built in 1939 with New Deal Federal funds. There were two murals by artist George Snow Hill prominently placed in the grant staircase of City Hall. One of these murals was the controversial mural that

was torn down. There are a considerable number of articles and references in books that can be found on the internet for further background on the site and the historical events surrounding the mural. The newly commissioned art will occupy the site where the controversial mural was located which was on the left stair landing on the grand staircase on the first floor of City Hall.

Opportunities for Art – Exact measurements will be given to up to five finalists to further develop their ideas into a site-specific proposal.

### Selection Process

Selection: Applications will be reviewed by staff for eligibility and completeness. Eligible applications will be reviewed by the Project Committee which consists of three members of the Public Arts Commission and six community members.

Finalists will be asked to prepare a site-specific proposal. The finalists will be selected and paid a design honorarium of \$1500 and the committee will select one of those.

### Eligibility

The following criteria are based on the requirements established by the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. Professional artists must meet at least two of these criteria to have their submission presented to the Project Committee. **In the event that an artist does not meet two of the following criteria they may choose a mentor that meets two of the requirements to apply.** Please contact the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs if you would like assistance in the qualification process or have any questions. Please email directly to: [India.Williams@StPete.org](mailto:India.Williams@StPete.org)

1. The artist has completed other public commissions.
2. The artist has received awards, grants or fellowships within the past five years.
3. The artist's works are included in major private, corporate or museum collections.
4. The artist has exhibited in museum or gallery (solo or group) exhibitions.

## **Collaborating Artists**

If more than one artist will be designating artwork, all artists must submit digital images and resumes under the application of the lead artist. The lead artist will be responsible for the contract. If the artist will work with technical collaborators as part of the fabrication process, artist should indicate such in the letter of interest.

## **Mentors**

Mentors will be expected to guide the artist through the process of establishing a professional piece of long lasting art with respect to contract process, bidding process, materials, timeline and project budget. If a mentor is needed contact the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs via email to: [India.Williams@StPete.org](mailto:India.Williams@StPete.org)

Applications must include the following to be complete:

All required materials except images **MUST** be on letter-size paper. No card stock please. All materials should be clipped, not bound, together. No spiral binding or ringed notebooks.

- a. One copy of a current professional resume with emphasis on public art experience. If resume is longer than four pages, ensure that public art experience is included in the first four pages.
- b. One set of up to ten (10) images submitted on a CD in jpg format. Each image must be no larger than 1 mg, 6"x6", at 300dpi.

Each image should be named with artist's last name and the number of the image (Ex. Johnson\_1, Johnson\_2). Save all jpgs in a folder labeled with artist full name. No "tif" formats.

Additional images in other formats such as print, that could amplify the committee's understanding of the artist's capability to address the site may be enclosed but are not guaranteed to be reviewed by the Committee.

If the work **REQUIRES** video or other technology to be reviewed, contact the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs for special instructions at: [India.Williams@StPete.org](mailto:India.Williams@StPete.org)

- c. ID Sheet. Image identification sheet that includes the artist's name, and for each digital slide the corresponding number, title of the work, medium, dimensions, year of completion, budget. Brief (one sentence or phrase) additional comments that would help the Committee understand the image or the project may also be included. Thumbnail pictures are encouraged but not required.
  
- d. Letter of interest (one copy). The letter should explain the artistic approach to the mural and any concept development work as it relates to the mural. Past experience that relates to the requirements of this project; any thoughts or concepts for the project; and what the artist's role will be in fabrication and installation are also encouraged. Artists are not asked to prepare a detailed proposal or mock up at this time.

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE October 3, 2016 (Postmark Deadline or, if hand delivered, it must be received at City Hall by 4PM.**

Mail applications to:

City of St. Petersburg  
Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs     or  
PO Box 2842  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731

Deliver applications to:

City of St. Petersburg  
Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs  
175 Fifth St. N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701