

## **Open Call: Laskey Recreation Center Mural Project**

**Deadline to apply: April 21, 2020**

City Walls Detroit together with the United Way for Southeastern Michigan is seeking artists (or collaborative teams) to create three new murals on the Lasky Recreation Center. The Lasky Recreation Center is located in District 3 and promotes connections to the local community along with connections to the Conant Street “corridor”. The new layout of the park will establish connections to Knapp Library to the North as well as Frontier Academy along the South of this corridor. This large park will promote healthy living opportunities, safety & relaxation for the families and visitors. It will provide amenities that encourage family fun & provide family centered activities through the inclusion of walking paths, soccer, cricket, and softball fields. Fun activities will include but not be limited to new Reading Gardens, Splash Pad, Playgrounds, Gathering Spaces at the existing Comfort Station, and Open Space for all to enjoy.

This project will be executed in the service of promoting the City of Detroit as a vibrant community. The murals theme is based and derived from a place of civic pride and it strives to have a deep connection with residents. The number one principal of the City Walls program is that the artwork that is created represents the values and identity of the community it is created with and this project is no exception.

The City of Detroit has a vision for neighbors to feel connected to each other, take shared responsibility for their neighborhoods, feel empowered to make a change in their environment, and envision a positive future for themselves, the built environment, and their children.

The commission is being managed by City Walls Detroit in conjunction with the United Way for Southeastern Michigan and their Meet Up and Eat Up program.

In Southeastern Michigan, 17.5 percent of kids struggle to access the nutritious food they need to grow and thrive. Kids face an increased risk of hunger when the school year ends, and they lose access to school meals. Meet Up and Eat Up is a collaborative effort that ensures kids have access to healthy meals during the summer months and is a program that builds authentic community connections with each meal.

### **Goals of the Laskey Recreation Center Mural Project:**

- Give visibility to the Recreation Center as a community hub
- Artwork contains elements of empowerment
- Residents feel connected to the artwork that is created
- Artwork that reflects the values and identity of the community
- Create a safe and welcoming space
- Create a vibrant public space
- Promote the enjoyment of green space

## **VISION STATEMENT from LAKSY REC CENTER**

### **“Heart of Laskey.. The Love that We Show”**

Laskey Recreation center is open! Laskey is a diverse accepting safe space that provides so much more than boxing, archery, basketball, arts and crafts, baseball, soccer, and so much more programming. Laskey offers support for the community and helps to build confidence and character. Featuring generations of membership Laskey exudes kindness, love, and encourages everyone to do more than you expect you can. It is in many ways a home away from home.

We are looking for artists to highlight these values of our identity in this special place with their artwork.

### **Statement from United Way for Southeastern Michigan**

Lasky Recreation Center, a City of Detroit Center located just north of Hamtramck, is in need of renovation to better serve children and families in the neighborhood. It serves as a Meet Up and Eat Up site in the summer but has not drawn participation that matches the number of children that reside in the area. United Way worked with its Meet Up and Eat Up partner, the City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Department to discuss how investment in the Center, in the form of outdoor and indoor renovations, could help reach more children with meals and will improve the community space where the program takes place.

United Way partnered with Center staff to identify areas that would contribute the most to inviting the community to engage in health and wellness. One of the main barriers identified was Lasky's lack of visibility. For example, many stated it was not immediately obvious Lasky was open from the street or where the door is to enter the building. A project plan was created with the team at Lasky and United Way made an investment of its own in the form of a Meet Up and Eat Up beautification project. This included updating the room where Meet Up and Eat Up meals are served to give kids an inviting space to share a meal and exterior inputs such as planting flowers and adding signage to create a more beautiful approach.

The final component of the beautification effort is to install a large-scale public art mural on the exterior wall as a draw for the community and to increase visibility.

### **The Project**

*City Walls Detroit has worked with the Recreation Staff and the United Way to identify the walls within the larger context of the new construction.*

### **Project Location Scope**

See Exhibit A, B, C

## **Project Schedule**

March 24, 2020: CTA Released

April 7, 2020: Deadline for Questions

April 21, 2020: CTA Closes

May 5, 2020: Artist/Artist Teams Announced

May 19, 2020: Final Presentations

June 1, 2020: Art Production

## **Artist Scope of Work**

### **Artist/Artist Team Responsibilities:**

- The selected artist/artist team will be required to work in collaboration with City of Detroit. Artist/artist teams should be prepared to share their personal practice with the community as this is inherently a group project.
- Artist/artist teams are responsible for:
  - Conducting research to better understand the site, the project, the community's history and current culture, along with any other elements deemed helpful to their creative process
  - Develop concepts and renderings of mural for the project site
  - Present concepts and refinements
  - Create a final approved concept and design for the mural
  - For any art component, identify and secure the services of suppliers, fabricators, installers, and other professional as necessary to fulfill the artist's responsibilities in the production and completion of the work
  - Fulfill the responsibilities within the contracted budget and timeline
  - Participate in an unveiling and a community Artists Talk with short Q&A

### **City Walls Detroit responsibilities:**

- Coordinate reviews and permissions in regard to artist selection and concept development
- Coordinate marketing, documentation, and public engagement

## **Budget**

The overall budget:

- Wall A: \$2,500
- Wall B: \$10,000
- Wall C: \$5,000

This budget is all-inclusive, including but not limited to artist's fees, artist's assistant costs, artist's studio costs, materials and supplies, specify consultants, community engagement participation, and installation of all artwork.

## **Artist Selection Process**

### **Eligibility**

We are seeking artists or artist teams who can make a commitment to working in Detroit as necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of this project. Any artist or artist team is encouraged to apply.

### **Process**

This will be an open call. Qualifications, portfolios, and statements will be solicited by City Walls Detroit. City Walls Detroit and its selection panel will review the artist submission and identify one artist/artist team per project to be selected for the project.

### **Selection Criteria**

Winning artists/artist team will be selected based on the selection panel's evaluation of the following criteria:

- 25pts Experience in community engaged art process and research
- 25pts Experience in creating permanent, durable, outdoor public artwork
- 25pts Ability to accomplish projects of a similar complexity within the budget, timeline, and technical constraints presented, based on examples of prior works
- 10pts Artist Statement
- 10pts Detroit Based Artist
- 5pts Preliminary Sketches

Selection panel consists of 1 member from each category below:

- Mayor's Office
- Arts + Culture
- City Walls
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- United Way Representative
- Arts Professional in District 3

## **Application**

### **Submission Requirements:**

- Interested artist/artist team should submit:
- A project brief table of contents page including the names and contact information for the artist/artist team that includes all material that is being submitted (1 page per project)
- A CV or resume for each artist (1 page per artist)
- An artist statement
- Complete the online form
- Up to 3 images of past work you consider relevant to this project
  - o Digital images must be JPEG files and must be no more than 300dpi and no larger than 1024x768 pixel resolution. Each image must be unlocked and downloadable for viewing
  - o Each JPEG image must be titled with the artist's name and image number. Example: SaraSmith001, SaraSmith002.
  - o Upload 1 sheet with the following information per image:
    - o Image name
    - o Title of artwork, location, date of completion, budget, medium, and dimensions
    - o Up to 4 sentences of project description
    - o Include 2 references of previous public art clients
- Up to 2 images of preliminary sketches

### **Submission Instructions**

A link to the Submission form can be found electronically at this web address:  
[cityofdetroit.org/citywalls/Call-artist](http://cityofdetroit.org/citywalls/Call-artist)

Questions can be submitted to [citywalls@detroitmi.gov](mailto:citywalls@detroitmi.gov)



Exhibit A



**Exhibit B**



Exhibit C