

Open Call: DTE Corktown Substation Mural Project

February 14, 2023

Deadline to apply: March 19, 2023

City Walls Detroit together with DTE, is seeking artists (or collaborative teams) to create a new mural at the Corktown Substation.

This project will be executed in the service of promoting the City of Detroit as a vibrant community. The mural's 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 1xRun.

Community Vision Statement

The Corktown Community and City Walls Detroit have collaborated to discover common themes and inspiration for the upcoming mural. According to the Detroit Historical Society, Corktown is the oldest existing neighborhood in The City of Detroit and was a welcoming point for waves of immigrants who have generations of families that are still making their mark on history in the community today! In this regard, Corktown could have been lost due to Urban Renewal, but there were people in the past that lived here and were rooted to stay and resisted losing Corktown - -this strength and people power speaks to the resilience, optimism, and evolution of this community.

Corktown is a place and experience that is full of legacy and warmth which lends to the community's history in thriving businesses and service in the community. Collectively, the residents aspire to respect the rich Corktown history and architecture, all while cultivating the present, and embracing the future while acknowledging all the residents who set the foundation for Corktown to become the tight-knit and eclectic community that it is today.

Everyday there is something new and yet we all must balance what was, with what is, and what will be. At this inflection point we ask how can we both honor our past as we welcome the future? The DTE Mural project seeks to highlight the tightknit Corktown Community bonds. Residents of the oldest neighborhood in Detroit share a familiarity with each other, with baseball, with parades, with the Maltese American Benevolent, Gaelic League Irish American Club, and the energy that has not only persevered but has stayed vibrant throughout all the ups and downs that come from being 188 years old.

While creating your submission please consider how your artwork will strengthen the cultural fabric of Corktown? How can the mural both honor the past and welcome the future? How can

it convey both new and familiar? How can it capture the energy and add to the juice of the neighborhood that is experiencing unprecedented growth?

Community Meeting based Inspiration for the DTE Hotel Mural Project:

- Diversity, Families, Warmth, Passion, Perseverance
- Worker Centric Neighborhood, Blue Collar Community
- Historical Past, Vibrant Present, & Exciting Future in Corktown
- Business Diversity & Legacies
- Corktown Architecture, History of Urban Renewal
- Resilience, Strength, Optimism, Eclectic
- Corktown as a Place & Experience, Tight Knit Community
- Old Tigers Stadium
- Corktown Survival
- Hope & New Life, Acknowledge people who live here, survive, and thrive here
- Innovation
- Service to the Disadvantaged
- Welcoming point for waves of immigrants
- Strength – People Power, lifting each other up and supporting one another
- Acknowledging the battle to save parts of Corktown

Vision Statement - DTE Corktown Mural/10th St passage

DTE's new Corktown substation located at 1548 Porter St. will serve over 6200 Detroit customers with increased electric capacity and reliability in the near future. In the design phase of the project, the City of Detroit and DTE worked together to accommodate a pedestrian pathway that would allow access between Labrosse and Porter, creating a safe pathway for residents and visitors alike to connect to the West Riverfront. In this design process DTE also agreed to forgo the standard fenced substation and provide smooth concrete walls, ready for enhancement.

DTE, along with the City of Detroit, envision the east wall along the pathway to be a welcoming stretch with a mural that reflects the vibrance of the Corktown community. It's hoped that the artwork will increase the visibility of the pathway and entice visitors to use it – reflecting movement and connection. The remaining walls along Labrosse to South, Porter to the North, and the west side would have minimal design - something that meshes with the walkway art but more subdued. The entire facility will have painted surfaces with the exceptions of gates, lighting, equipment etc..

Goals of the DTE Corktown Substation Mural Project:

- Give visibility to the walkway
- 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 connection to the Riverfront

The Project

Project Location Scope

See Exhibit A

Project Schedule

- February 14, 2023: CTA Released
- March 1, 2023: Deadline for Questions
- March 19, 2023: CTA Closes
- April 19, 2023: Artist/Artist Teams Announced
- May 2023: 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 team member working on the property, fill out a Release and Waiver of Liability form

1xRun responsibilities:

- Manages process after artist is selected, including community engagement participation, and payments to artist
- Collects Release and Waiver of Liability form (Exhibit B) and submits to DTE
- For any art component, 1xRun will 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.
- 1xRun and artist will fulfill the responsibilities within the contracted budget and timeline
- 1xRun and artist Participate in an unveiling and a community Artists Talk with short Q&A

City Walls Detroit responsibilities:

- Coordinate reviews and permissions regarding artist selection and concept development
- Coordinate marketing, documentation, and public engagement

Budget

The overall Artist budget: \$75,000

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

1xRun will be the agent management payment to artist.

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:

- 15pts Experience in community engaged art process and research
- 25pts Experience in creating permanent, durable, outdoor public artwork
- 35pts 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
- 5pts Detroit Based Artist
- 10pts Preliminary Sketches

Selection panel consists of 1 member from each category below:

- DON Representative
- City Walls
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- DTE Representative
- Arts Professional: 1xRun

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)
- Complete the online form
- Up to 3 images of past work you consider relevant to this project
- 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

Questions can be submitted to citywalls@detroitmi.gov

EXHIBIT A SUBSTATION WALLS

No paint shall cover non-cement surfaces including but not limited to doors, gates, lighting, and signage.



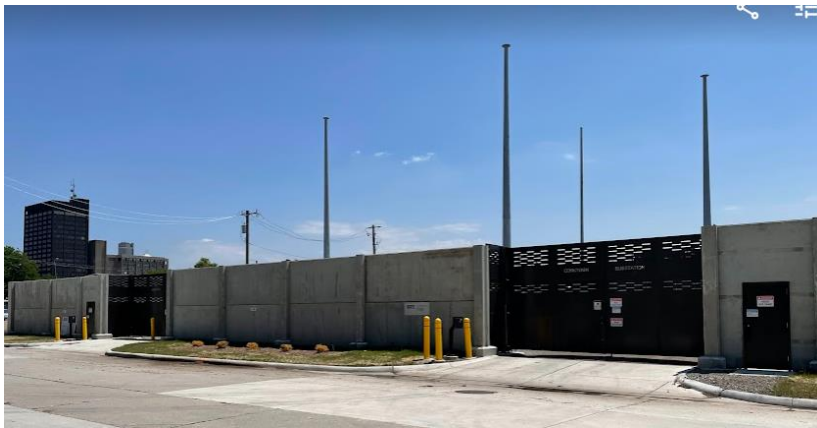
East facing wall, including 10th St
Pathway

~259' x 12'



West facing wall

~259' x 12'



North wall on Labrosse St

~188' x 12' (no paint on gates, doors, signs etc)



South wall on Porter St

~188 x 12'