**Northwest Indian Community Development Center**

**The Spirit of Community Request for Proposals (RFP)**

**Public Mural Project in Bemidji, Minnesota**



**“This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota, through a grant from the Region 2 Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.”**

Northwest Indian Community Development Center has initiated a public mural project as way of promoting our commitment to community from historical to modern eras. The artwork will be located on the east side (Bemidji Avenue) wall of our building in Bemidji. Experienced artists are encouraged to submit their proposal materials, examples of their original artwork and a preliminary concept design of their vision of the NWICDC mural.

**Project Goals**

1. Establish a public indigenous art presence in the city of Bemidji, Minnesota
2. Promote The Spirit of Community inclusion and wellbeing
3. Create a piece of public art that reflects both the historical and modern spirit of community, inclusion and wellbeing. This may include designs depicting life centuries ago, modernity, blended families and artist’s vision
4. Engage and guide Bemidji area high school art students in the process of painting the mural as part of the team
5. Promote NWICDC as an organization dedicated to fostering community collaborations and partnerships
6. Promoting an indigenous perspective of individual and community wellbeing and harmony
7. Select a dedicated and qualified artist or artist team that can demonstrate artistic excellence, produce a mural with understanding of Anishinaabe values, mentor art students, supervise a small group of community members that will assist with the project, and complete this project within the approved schedule and budget through professional representation of NWICDC
8. NWICDC envisions the Grandfather’s 7 Teachings in the top insets of the building and will be part of the overall mural

# Process

1. Submit a proposal that aligns with the established goals of the project
2. Create a mock-up of the artwork concept suitable for display at NWICDC
3. If selected for final review, presentation of concept to RFP Review Committee
4. Artist/Artist Team selected for the commission are responsible for the following:
   1. Create an approved design for the artwork
   2. Collaborate with the Executive Director and organization staff
   3. Collaborate with high school art teachers to select high school artists
   4. Offer art teachers volunteer positions
   5. Fulfill artist responsibilities within the contracted budget and timeline
   6. Participate in community engagement and education activities which can include media interviews, selection and supervision of community volunteers and local high school art students

# Budget

The maximum budget available for the artwork is $15,000 which includes $4000 each for up to two lead artists, a stipend for student artists, paint and supplies.

**Artist Selection Process Eligibility**

We are seeking a lead artists or collaborative artist teams who can make a commitment to working in Bemidji as necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of this project. For the purposes of this RFP, “artist” refers to an individual artist or a team of artists. Please note that we cannot offer additional budgetary resources to individual members. Selected artist(s) must be authorized to work in the U.S. and preference will be given to Native artists.

**Selection Process:**

This will be an open call. Artist proposals will be solicited by Northwest Indian Community Development Center. NWICDC Mural Oversight Committee will review the artist submissions and identify a short list of finalists. Up to five artists/teams will be asked to submit their concept. A vote by NWICDC Mural Oversight Committee will determine the awarded artist.

The Executive Director will award the final commission, in consultation with the Selection Committee. The decision will be based on a review of artist/team qualifications, experience and concepts using the criteria that are listed below. NWICDC is not required to make a selection from the submissions received if, in their judgment, the relevance, quality, or the qualifications of the artists are not appropriate.

# Qualifications and Review Criteria

The evaluation of artist/team qualifications will be based on a review of completed artworks, and/or artworks in progress, the artists’ qualifications shall demonstrate:

1. Experience in creating permanent, durable, outdoor public art works
2. Appreciation of design in a public space
3. Ability to accomplish projects of similar complexity within the budget, timeline, and constraints presented based on examples of prior artwork
4. Experience in community-engaged art processes
5. Ability to create site-specific art work that is responsive to the opportunities and constraints of the site
6. Ability to create art work that engages a wide audience
7. The evaluation of the finalist’s artist/team concept will be based on a review of submitted concepts using the goals outlined for the project as well as the following criteria:
   1. Creativity in addressing the constraints of the site through materials and methods
   2. Creativity in community engagement approach
   3. Success in reflecting the community’s vision and spirit
   4. Feasibility of completing the project within the allotted budget and timeframe

# Application Requirements

The following are required by **Wednesday,** **May 15th, 2024 at 11:59 pm** in digital format (PDF file)

1. Resume, cover letter, narrative discussing your vision of the mural, experience and photo details of previous murals,
2. Narrative and design illustrating the mural concept
3. Include supplemental information such as timeline and approximate dimensions for completion of the proposed mural
4. Budget agreement for the project
5. Community engagement plan
6. Supporting materials including images and reviews of previously completed art works. Examples should describe the size, materials, cost, and location of other artworks. References for earlier projects are encouraged
7. Applications not in compliance with all stated requirements will not be considered for this project

**Policies**

Artists will retain the ownership of design ideas submitted with this application until a selection has been made and a contract signed between the artist and NWICDC. At the time a contract is awarded, the ownership of the design will remain the property of the artist and the artwork produced, in this case the public art mural, will become the property of the building owner. In addition, the artist, will allow NWICDC free use of the artwork with appropriate reference to the artist.

The final selection will be made in accordance with NWICDC’s Mural Art Plan. Financial compensation for completion of the mural will be made in accordance with established project budget between the artist and NWICDC.

Please submit proposals to [joan.kauppi@nwicdc.org](mailto:joan.kauppi@nwicdc.org) on or before

11:59 pm on December 29th, 2023

**Wall Size**

* Approximately 19ft high
* 9 feet on the bottom and 9 feet on the top soffit that hangs over
* Length of wall is approximately 130 feet
* Approximately 2470 square feet
* The wall is being repainted with a lighter beige color
* The insets above the windows are to be included in the design

