



**CALL TO ARTISTS: Request for Proposals**  
**East Capitol Urban Farm Mural**  
**Project Budget: \$15,000.00**  
**Deadline for Submissions: August 3, 2015**

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA) in partnership with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) and the DC Housing Authority (DCHA) is seeking proposals from artists or artist teams residing in Ward 7 of Washington, DC, for an eco-inspired mural to be created on the site of a new urban farm coming to the Capitol View neighborhood in fall 2015. The selected artist will receive \$15,000.00, which includes design, materials and installation. The selected artist will also be required to work with young apprentices (ages 14 – 23) as well as involve the community in the completion of the mural.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

As part of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP)—a national effort spearheaded by the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, and Department of the Interior to restore urban waters and revitalize the communities that surround them—a team of federal, city and local nonprofit representatives began meeting to identify ways to address environmental and public health issues in the Anacostia watershed, Washington, DC. Anacostia has suffered from polluted stormwater runoff and PCB contamination. Survey research indicated that most anglers were unaware of fishing advisories and as many as 17,000 people were eating fish from the river—many due to hunger.

Partners began exploring how best to address this problem and connected with the University of the District of Columbia Center for Sustainable Development to explore the idea of an urban farm and aquaponics facility. A three-year lease agreement was signed in February 2015 by the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) granting UDC the use of a site across the street from the Capitol Heights Metro Station. The three-acre site will be turned into an urban farming and aquaponics facility to achieve the following goals:

- Promote urban agriculture;
- Improve food access and nutrition through community-centered farmers markets;
- Provide job skills and entrepreneurship training in farming and stormwater management best practice construction and maintenance;
- Unite stormwater management best practices with urban farming;
- Implement a nature playscape for neighborhood youth to play outdoors;
- Create opportunities for environmentally focused public art.

In February 2015, the project was selected by the District of Columbia Building Industry Association's (DCBIA) Community Improvement Day, which will leverage a membership of contractors, architects, engineers and other industry professionals to provide complete site design and build out with extensive community involvement.

**PROJECT DETAILS:**

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) was invited to make meaningful contributions to the East Capitol Urban Farm through public art. Artists residing in Ward 7 are invited to submit proposals for existing walls located within the farm site (see pages 6-7 for images and dimensions of walls). The scope of the project includes design, implementation, working with young apprentices and community involvement. Applicants should keep in mind the following guidelines:

- Proposal designs should be **environmentally themed** (see page 8 for examples of some green-themed murals).
- The scope of the project includes multiple walls, which should be **addressed cohesively**.
- Selected artist will be required to work with young apprentices (ages 14-23) by introducing and refining each student's artistic skills. DCCAH will work with local schools and community groups to assist with selecting the young apprentices. Young apprentices will receive compensation for their time, but payments will not be the responsibility of the selected artist.
- DCBIA team members will be assisting with preparing the walls for the paint application.
- The selected artist will be required to incorporate community involvement in the creation of the mural on DCBIA's Community Improvement Day on September 26, 2015.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

This opportunity is open to professional artists over the age of 18 residing in Ward 7 of Washington, DC. Should the applicant consist of a team of artists, all team members must reside in Ward 7.

**BUDGET:**

The total project budget will be \$15,000.00, which includes artist fees and costs associated with design, fabrication, transportation to the site, insurance, permits, installation, materials, protective coating, and time working with young people and the community (stipend to young apprentices will not be the responsibility of the artist).

**TIMELINE:**

July 2, 2015	Announcement of RFP
August 3, 2015, 5:00 pm EST	Deadline for receipt of application materials
Week of August 10, 2015	Review proposals and select award recipient
late August - September 2015	Project execution
September 26, 2015	Project near completion at DCBIA Community Improvement Day
by October 3, 2015	Finishing touches/ protective coating applied

**Selection Process:**

DCCAH will convene a Selection Committee representing diverse interests and expertise to review proposals and qualifications of the applicants that respond to this call. The committee will use the following criteria in selecting an award recipient for the project. Candidates should address these criteria in their letter of interest:

- Artistic excellence and innovation as evidenced by past work.
- Appropriateness of proposed work for an urban farm site.
- Experience working with the community in some capacity.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the unique consideration of exterior murals.
- Ability to create unique and engaging artwork appropriate in concept, materials and scale.
- Availability to complete the work within the given timeline.

## QUESTIONS:

Please feel free to contact the following **DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities** staff members with questions:

**Elizabeth Carriger**, Public Art Coordinator, [elizabeth.carriger@dc.gov](mailto:elizabeth.carriger@dc.gov), 202-724-5613

**Tonya Jordan**, Public Art Manager, [tonya.jordan@dc.gov](mailto:tonya.jordan@dc.gov), 202-724-5613

## PROJECT PARTNERS:



The **DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH)** provides grant funds, programs and educational activities that encourage diverse artistic expressions and learning opportunities, so that all District of Columbia residents and visitors can experience the rich culture of our city. For more information on DCCAH visit: [www.dcarts.dc.gov](http://www.dcarts.dc.gov). As a program of DCCAH, the **DC Creates Public Art** program provides high quality art installations and administrative support services for the public so they can benefit from an enhanced visual environment. The program purchases, commissions and installs public art throughout the District of Columbia to cultivate dynamic, vibrant and nurturing communities through the use of art and design. For more information on *DC Creates Public Art* visit: <http://dcarts.dc.gov/service/public-art-collections>.



The **College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC)** offers research-based academic and community outreach programs that improve the quality of life and economic opportunity of people and communities in the District of Columbia, the nation and the world. For more information on CAUSES visit: [http://www.udc.edu/college\\_urban\\_agriculture\\_and\\_environmental\\_studies/welcome](http://www.udc.edu/college_urban_agriculture_and_environmental_studies/welcome)



The **Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP)** is a coalition of 14 federal agencies to address environmental and economic challenges in cities across the country ([urbanwaters.gov](http://urbanwaters.gov)). The partnership reconnects urban communities, particularly those that are economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts. For more information on UWFP visit: <http://www.urbanwaters.gov/>.



The **District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA)** is the professional association representing both the commercial and residential real estate industries in the nation's capital. Its membership of nearly 500 companies and organizations comprises several thousand real estate professionals. Association members are engaged in all aspects of real estate development and include developers, general contractors, architects and engineers, lenders, attorneys, brokers, title companies, utility companies, community development organizations and other industry members. For more information on DCBIA visit: <http://www.dcbia.org/>



The **District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA)** provides quality affordable housing, fosters sustainable communities and cultivates opportunities for residents to improve their lives. For more information on DCHA visit: <http://www.dchousing.org/>.

## OTHER PARTNERS:

- U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- American Forests
- Groundworks Anacostia
- District Department of the Environment (DDOE)
- DC Office of Planning (OP)

**Submission Requirements:**

Please submit the following materials through **SlideRoom** (instructions provided below).

1. Completed **Application Form** (see attached form on page 5). If you prefer to type the form, please include full legal name(s) (and other professional name as applicable), mailing address, daytime phone, evening phone, email address, Website (optional).
2. Current **CV/Resume**, two page maximum.
3. A **Letter of Interest** briefly expressing interest in the project as well as a description of approach to the project and the proposed design. The letter should not exceed one page.
4. 5 to 10 **digital images of previous work**. Please submit high quality jpgs (do not use gifs, tiffs or other formats). Please do not embed images into PowerPoint or PDF documents. (submit in Media section of SlideRoom)
5. Up to 2 **Design Proposals** for the site submitted in jpg or PDF format. (submit in Media section of SlideRoom).
6. **Image List** corresponding to submitted images. For images of previous work include title, year, medium, dimensions. If image is a proposal drawing, please indicate this on the list and include a brief description.
7. List of at least three **Professional References**. Please include name, address, phone number and email address for each individual.

**Deadline for Submission:** Application materials must be received by **Monday, August 3, 2015, 5:00 pm EST.**

**How to Apply:** Applications must be submitted online through **SlideRoom**. Please follow the link <http://dcarts.slideroom.com> and select "**East Capitol Urban Farm Mural**" to upload all requisite application materials. In order to access the application portal, all applicants will first be prompted to create a SlideRoom account, at no cost. Once logged into the newly created account, applicants will be able to submit all materials outlined above. SlideRoom will allow applicants to save incomplete applications and return to them for completion until 5:00 PM EST on the Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 deadline. Any incomplete submissions as of Monday, August 3, 2015, 5:00 pm EST will be disqualified.

Should you have any issues with the SlideRoom portal, please contact us so that we may assist you or make alternative arrangements for submission.



**APPLICATION FORM**  
**DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities**  
***East Capitol Urban Farm Mural Project***

Please complete this form and include with application materials.

Applicant's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Mobile (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Web site (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE:** Submissions must be received by **5:00 PM EST on Monday, August 3, 2015.**

**QUESTIONS:**

Please feel free to contact the following **DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities** staff members with questions:

**Elizabeth Carriger**, Public Art Coordinator, [elizabeth.carriger@dc.gov](mailto:elizabeth.carriger@dc.gov), 202-724-5613

**Tonya Jordan**, Public Art Manager, [tonya.jordan@dc.gov](mailto:tonya.jordan@dc.gov), 202-724-5613

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST:**

- \_\_\_ Application Form
- \_\_\_ CV/Resume
- \_\_\_ Letter of Interest
- \_\_\_ 5 to 10 Images of Previous Work
- \_\_\_ Up to 2 Design Concept Proposals
- \_\_\_ Image List
- \_\_\_ At least 3 Professional References

## MURAL WALLS



**Wall 1** (lower wall) – dimensions: 57' long x 12' tall at highest point



**Wall 2** – dimensions: 97' long x 12' tall at highest point

**MURAL WALLS**  
(continue)



**Wall 3** – dimensions: 44' long x 4' 4" tall



**Wall 4** – dimensions: 42' long x 4' 4" tall

ENVIRONMENTALLY THEMED MURAL EXAMPLES



Murals  
Philadelphia, PA

