



U District Mural Program 2021 Call for Artists

Opens: Friday, February 26, 2021

Closes: 11:59pm PT, Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Submittable Application Link: <https://udistrictpartnership.submittable.com/submit/188844/u-district-mural-program-2021-call-for-artists>

What is the U District Mural Program?

The [U District Mural Program](#) is an initiative to build vibrancy in Seattle's University District by installing three new works of public art on highly visible walls in different areas of the neighborhood. The initiative is being led by the U District Partnership (UDP), a non-profit organization dedicated to service, leadership, and advocacy on behalf of the U District community.

Seattle's University District, with its adjacency to the University of Washington, is an ever-evolving mix of long-term residents and new populations. The neighborhood is a blend of established buildings and new construction, unique, iconic businesses and new exciting enterprises. The U District is an art community hub, with historic performance spaces, an iconic community center housing unique arts organizations and an artist collective, cultural centers and galleries, youth art organizations, and the university's prestigious art departments. The district is also in a period of rapid transformation. With a new Light Rail Station opening in 2021, developers and businesses are investing in new apartment towers, office space, and retail businesses.

As the neighborhood's public realm changes, the Mural Program aims to celebrate neighborhood history and character, engage the existing local art community, and add vibrancy to different gateways of the district. The Mural Program is a safe and effective way to enhance the neighborhood's public realm and build a sense of community among everyone who lives, works, and plays in the U District.

Opportunity

The U District Partnership seeks three (3) artists or artist groups/teams to design and install individual murals on three (3) properties in the U District. **The properties and compensation for each mural (based on mural size)** are below. You will be asked to rank which property you would like to be considered for.

LOCATION 1: Artist compensation: \$1,200



NE 43rd & University Way NE
Between Sweet Alchemy and Samir's Mediterranean

Approximate Dimensions:
10' height x 30' length approx.
(includes window as built-in obstacle)

LOCATION 2: Artist compensation: \$1,200



NE 42nd & University Way NE
On the south-facing wall of the Café on the Ave building

Approximate dimensions:
10' height x 30' length approx.

LOCATION 3: Artist compensation: \$2,000



NE 43rd & Roosevelt Way NE
On the south-facing wall of the Jack Straw Cultural Center, below the sound wave

Approximate dimensions:
10' height x 50' length approx.
(includes ground slope)

One artist or group/team will be selected per mural. The compensation listed above for each mural is *total*. Groups or teams will receive the same total compensation and may split the payment as they

choose. The murals will be installed over one or two weekends in May 2021. The U District Partnership program manager, with guidance from a leadership committee comprised of representatives from the U District arts community, will manage the artist(s) submission and selection process.

A budget for materials will be funded through the program.

Installation and Community Paint Days: The UDP program manager will work in collaboration with Urban Artworks and selected artists to coordinate mural installation during community paint days. The community paint days are an important avenue for community engagement in the U District. We will comply with state and local health department guidance for the COVID-19 pandemic and work to ensure all artist and volunteer health and safety throughout the mural installation process.

This Mural Program is made possible thanks to funding from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods [Neighborhood Matching Fund](#) grant program.

Eligibility

- Visual artists, collaborative teams and artist groups are eligible to apply.
- Applicants, including *all* group or team members, *must* reside in King County, WA. Priority will be given to qualified artists or groups with connection to the University District.
- Emerging artists or those without previous mural experience may apply. You will be asked in your Proposal Statement to explain how you would apply your past work and experience to a mural installation.
- Artists of Color or artists from underrepresented groups/communities are encouraged to apply.

Timeline and Process

The application period is Friday, February 26 through Wednesday, March 17, 2021. The application closes at 11:59pm PT on Wednesday, March 17. Late applications will not be accepted.

The U District Mural Program leadership committee will review all complete applications and select up to nine (9) artists to move to the second round of the application process. In the second round, selected artists will be asked to submit design proposals for a mural. Any artist invited to submit a proposal will receive a \$200 honorarium for a completed proposal submission. More information on the proposal round will be provided at a later date to selected artists.

Second round design proposals will be reviewed by the leadership committee. Three (3) final artists or teams will be selected, one per mural. From there, the UDP program manager will work with finalists to develop artists contracts and review and approve final designs.

The timeline for the process is below.

- Call for Artists Opens - Friday, February 26, 2021
- Call for Artists Closes - Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 11:59pm PT
- Second Round Notifications Sent to Artists - Friday, March 26, 2021

- Second Round Proposals Due - Sunday, April 11, 2021, 11:59pm PT
- Final Artist Selection and Notification - Friday, April 16, 2021
- Artist Contracting and Coordination - April 16-30, 2021
- Mural Installation and Community Paint Days - Late May 2021

How to Apply

Applicants must submit the following materials via [this online application on Submittable](#):

1. **Profile:** Applicant contact information
2. **Optional Demographic Information:** The application includes questions asking applicants to identify demographic information. This information is optional (but not anonymous) and will help us determine how well we are doing in reaching artists from all communities in King County. This information will not be shared publicly or with our jury.
3. **Proposal Statement:** A written statement (up to 500 words) that includes the following:
 - An overview of your art practice and your interest in the U District Mural Program. Please be *explicit* about medium and method you would use to create the mural.
 - Any specific connection you have to the U District (past or present). This may include residency, work experience, educational experience, or any other personal experience or significance to the neighborhood.
 - A description of how your submitted work samples represent how you would approach the development and installation of a mural. If you are an emerging artist or if your samples are not representatives of past murals created, please explain how you would translate your existing experience and work to a large-scale mural.
 - In the case of collaborative teams or artist groups, be specific about your objectives for exhibiting together.
 - Your experience working with volunteers or community members to create public works of art; or, how you would approach a community paint day for a mural installation.
4. **Samples of Work:** Five (5) total work samples.
 - Submit your samples as digital images of work that best illustrate your qualifications to exhibit. If applying as a collaborative team or group, include an example of each member's work. Upload JPGs only. Image files must be high-resolution and uploaded in JPG format, each image should be less than 2 MB in size.
 - Work sample descriptions: List the title, date of completion, medium, and dimensions (H" x W" x D") or duration, along with descriptive text (up to 75 words) for each work sample. If your work was created as a group or collaborative effort, please indicate this and your specific contribution to the piece. We encourage you to fill-in the optional photo credit field as well.
 - Submissions in excess of five (5) work samples will not be reviewed.

5. Resume:

- Two (2) page maximum artist résumé as a PDF. Text (.txt) files will also be accepted. Team and group applicants must submit a cover sheet listing all members and include contact information and a résumé for each. Please upload multiple résumés as one continuous document. Files must be less than 2MB in size.
- Some suggested items to include in your artist résumé include:
 - Contact information: At the top of each page, include your name, address, phone number, email address and web URL.
 - Professional experience:
 - Exhibitions: List the title of the exhibition, the exhibition venue, and the city/state where the exhibition was presented. Please indicate if it was a solo, two-person, or group exhibition.
 - Experience: You may also consider listing experience that is relevant to your art practice such as teaching, lectures and artist residencies.
 - Honors and awards: List awards, grants, fellowships or other recognitions of merit.
 - Bibliography: List books, magazines, newspapers, and catalogues that reference your work.
 - Education: Academic degrees earned, certifications, trade schools, or any other type of training that indicates educational experience.

Support for Applicants

Please contact Katy Ricchiuto, UDP Program Manager, with questions about the U District Mural Program and application:

Katy Ricchiuto
katy@udistrictpartnership.org
206-547-4417

Virtual Information Sessions:

The U District Partnership will host two (2) virtual Q&A sessions on the mural program and application for interested artists. The sessions will be 60 minutes each and will have the same format. Attendance at a session is not required to apply for the program. Information and Zoom links are listed below and on our web page.

Information Session #1: Thursday, March 4, 12:00-1:00pm PT

- Zoom video link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84016026707>
- Zoom phone number: (253) 215-8782

- Zoom meeting ID: 840 1602 6707

Information Session #2: Thursday, March 11, 5:30-6:30pm PT

- Zoom video link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89628958096>
- Zoom phone number: (253) 215-8782
- Zoom meeting ID: 896 2895 8096