



## Request for Proposals (RFP) for Public Art Mural in Market Center Historic District

### The Project

The Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC) seeks to engage an artist to create and execute work to be installed over eight existing panels located on the Greyhound Bus Garage building on Centre Street near the corner of Park Avenue, directly across from the Mount Vernon Marketplace.

Known as the Maryland Historical Society for 176 years, the organization underwent a rebrand and name change in September of 2020. The purpose of this project is twofold: to beautify this section of our campus and to increase the Maryland Center for History and Culture's visibility in the neighborhood. We intend for the murals to provide a visual representation of our state's rich history and culture, inspired by our collection and the people of Maryland while highlighting aspects of the museum/library's core values: community, authenticity, dialogue, and discovery.

### Deadline

The application deadline is Friday, October 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM. Proposals may be submitted via email to [mosterbeal@mdhistory.org](mailto:mosterbeal@mdhistory.org). The proposal documents should be in a single, consolidated PDF file.

### The Award

A commission of \$10,000 will be paid to the selected artist to realize their proposed concept. An initial payment of \$6,000 will be made following approval of concept and execution of a contract with the artist and the remaining \$4,000 will be paid upon completion and installation of the work in early 2022.

### Proposal Requirements

Proposals from multiple artists who intend to collaborate are welcome. Interested artists are asked to submit the following:

- **Artist's statement** of no more than 350 words in length, describing your work and interest in this project.
- **Resume.**
- **Work Samples** of a selection of your previous work. Samples include documents, photos, plans and video (up to 15 minutes total). Support materials such as reviews, news articles, web links or other similar information may also be included.
- **Draft budget** including projected types and costs of materials.
  - We expect for this artwork to last at least five years, therefore we ask for the artist's materials to include exterior grade paint and exterior grade panels. Note: installation hardware and associated costs will be provided by the Maryland Center for History and Culture.
  - Panel measurements are provided below.

## Selection Criteria

1. Proposals will be evaluated and 3-5 finalists will be selected based on the following criteria:
  - Demonstrated experience with outdoor murals and/or public artwork.
  - Creative approaches to exploring a visual representation of Maryland's history and culture.
2. Finalists will be invited to interview with MCHC staff and asked to provide a draft sketch or story board of their proposed design. Below is a list of design elements we would like to see reflected in this draft:
  - Acknowledgement of Maryland history and culture. While we are located in Baltimore City, we would also like the artwork to reference the state of Maryland.
  - An awareness of the institution's mission, vision and core values, which can be read on our [website](#).
  - Inspiration from our vast museum and library collections. Interested artists are welcome to visit the Museum in-person Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM. Contact Martha Oster-Beal at [mosterbeal@mdhistory.org](mailto:mosterbeal@mdhistory.org) for free admission. Additionally, a small sampling of our collection can be viewed through the digital collections portal on our [website](#). If selected, the artist will be able to explore items of interest in more detail with the assistance of our collections staff.
  - Reference to our brand colors and/or logo on at least one of the panels. Brand guidelines will be shared, but do not need to be fully adhered to.

Design elements to avoid:

- Abstract representations that require lengthy interpretation.
- Typical or cliché representations of Baltimore, like crabs and Natural Bohemian beer, for example. We want to represent a more inclusive array of Maryland history and culture.

## Timeline

- Application deadline: Friday, October 1, 2021 by 5:00 PM
- Finalist interviews: mid-October, 2021
- Artist selected: November, 2021
- Artworks installed: February/March 2022, dependent on weather

## About the Maryland Center for History and Culture

The Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC) collects, preserves, and interprets the history, art, and culture of Maryland. Originally founded as the Maryland Historical Society in 1844, MCHC inspires critical thinking, creativity, and community by exploring multiple perspectives and sharing national stories through the lens of Maryland. As the oldest operating nonprofit cultural institution in the state, MCHC houses a collection of 7 million books, documents, manuscripts, and photographs, and 350,000 objects in its museum and library located in Baltimore. MCHC also serves as a leading center of Maryland history education.

The Maryland Center for History and Culture is an equal opportunity employer that seeks to educate people of all ages about the American experience through the rich history of Maryland using their collections and to preserve important objects and archival materials from prehistoric Maryland to the present day. We do not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or any other status protected by law and strongly encourage all qualified professionals to apply.

### Contact Information

For questions or technical support, please contact Martha Oster-Beal, Community Engagement Manager at [mosterbeal@mdhistory.org](mailto:mosterbeal@mdhistory.org).

### Specs/Measurements







