

Artists Sought for Farmer's Club Mural Project

Project Snapshot-

Location: Farmer's Club building, Seymour, Indiana

Lead Organization: Greater Seymour Chamber of Commerce

Timeline: Completion by Fall 2021

Budget: \$15,000

Call Summary-

The Greater Seymour Chamber of Commerce (hereafter referred to as "the Seymour Chamber") is assembling a pool of artists interested in creating an exterior, painted mural on the side of the historic Farmer's Club building in downtown Seymour, Indiana. The Seymour Chamber owns the Farmer's Club building, which houses their offices and meeting space. Photos of the building, along with updated project and timeline information can be found at www.seymourchamber.com/chamber-mural-page.

The Seymour Chamber has established a Mural Task Force from various segments of the community to help guide this project. The task force is first seeking artist qualification submissions (RFQ). From these submissions, the task force will select 3-5 artists who will be invited to submit design proposals, for which the artists will be compensated. From these proposals, the task force will select an artist, finalize the design concept, formalize a project budget and timeline with the artist and proceed with the project. Artists may submit their qualifications to the task force at the sources identified at the end of this notice anytime within the RFQ timeline which is March 1, 2021 through April 9, 2021. The goal is for all submissions to be reviewed by the task force on or before April 30, 2021. At that time, the 3-5 finalists will be notified, and the parameters of the design proposals will be established.

Budget Description-

Each artist who is invited to submit a design concept for consideration will be offered an amount for compensation at the time of offer. Artist fees for the artist who is selected to complete the project may include compensation for artist's engagement with the community, design work, installation, travel, lodging and meals. The selected artist will be given a paint allowance at Seymour Decorating Center in partnership with PPG Paints. The Seymour Chamber will work with the selected artist to secure scaffolding or a lift for completion of the project.

Project Description-

The Farmers Club building is a historic clubhouse located in downtown Seymour, Indiana. It was built in 1914, and is a 1 1/2-story, Beaux-Arts style brick building with Indiana limestone embellishments. The main entrance features flanking Ionic order columns, round arch transom, and projecting piers.

The Farmer's Club was built to provide a place for local farmers and their families to gather, rest and refresh when they made their trips into town to unload grain at the nearby Blish Mill or do some shopping. The Seymour Farmer's Club was the first of its kind in the country; a distinction marked by the attendance of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, David Franklin Houston, at the dedication ceremony on July 8, 1914.

The Farmer's Club building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and today houses the offices and meeting space for the Greater Seymour Chamber of Commerce. The mural is planned for the north, exterior wall of the Farmer's Club building. This wall is approximately 1350 SF (excluding windows) and will be made ready with a high-quality seal primer coat in advance of the selected artist's start date.

The goals of this project are to:

- Expand public art in Seymour.
- Beautify and enhance the north side of the Farmer's Club building.
- Provide a creative backdrop for the newly dedicated Burkhart Plaza that runs adjacent to the Farmer's Club building to the North.
- Execute a project that demonstrates Seymour's strong community spirit.
- Bring forward the history of the Farmer's Club building and/or the historical importance of agriculture in the Jackson County community in a way that demonstrates growth.

Eligibility-

Mural artists over the age of 18 who are legally able to work onsite in the United States. The Greater Seymour Chamber of Commerce provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type with regard to race, color, religion, age (40 years of age or older), sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.

Submission Requirements-

- Artist biography or resume
- Artwork information sheet
- Social media information
- Technical Experience Statement
- Examples of work (minimum of 5 images, access to digital portfolios preferred)
- Letter of Reference from a business, community organization or government agency with whom the artist has worked.

Selection Process-

- 1) Submissions will be initially reviewed by the staff of the Seymour Chamber to ensure all required elements of the submission are present as outlined above.
- 2) The Mural Task Force will meet to review all qualified submissions and to identify 3-5 artist finalists.
- 3) Artist finalists will be invited to join in a compensation agreement with the Seymour Chamber to create and submit design concepts for the project.

4) From the design concepts submitted, the Mural Task Force will select an artist and extend a commissioning agreement for execution of the mural project.

Selection Criteria-

It is anticipated that the following criteria will be used by the Mural Task Force when identifying artists from the qualified, submitted applicants to create design proposals for consideration and to award the selected artist:

- Artistic Style- Does the artist have a style that merges with the desired outcomes of the project? Does the artist present a style that is innovative and engaging?
- Technical Expertise- Does the artist have experience with projects of similar scope and scale? Does the artist utilize techniques and materials that will produce a finished product that will reasonably last 15 years with minimal maintenance?
- Community Engagement Experience- Does the artist have experience engaging with a diverse cross-section of community stakeholders? Does the artist possess a skillset compatible with listening to stakeholder input and translating that into the design?
- Ease of Process- Does the artist possess the required communication, time management and project management skills required to produce the desired outcomes for the project on time and within budget? Is the artist pleasant to work with?

Timeline-

March 1, 2021: Release Request for Qualifications.
April 9, 2021: Deadline to submit RFQs for this project.
April 30, 2021: Target date to have all RFQ submissions reviewed and invitations sent for design proposal compensation agreements.
June 15, 2021: Target date for submission of design proposals.
July 2021: Target date to award commissioning agreement to selected artist for execution of mural project.
September 30, 2021: Target date for completion of mural project with community unveiling.

Contacts-

Dan Robison
Director- Seymour Chamber of Commerce
812-522-3681
director@seymourchamber.com

All RFQ submissions should be sent to one of the following:

Physical Mail:
Seymour Chamber of Commerce
105 S. Chestnut Street
Seymour, IN 47274

Email:
info@seymourchamber.com

Building photos, as well as project updates and timelines can be found at www.seymourchamber.com/chamber-mural-page.