

Request for Proposals

Midway Murals 2.0: A Hamline University-Hamline Midway Neighborhood Collaboration

The Midway Public Art Working Group has teamed up with Hamline University on an exciting new public art project. The north wall at 742 Snelling Avenue North, a Hamline University-owned building, is the site of a mural project for 2017. The wall, which measures approximately 12 feet by 13 feet, will be home to a mural that can be installed and removed, allowing for new murals to be created at the site in future years; once the mural is removed, the leaders of the project will seek a more permanent home for it elsewhere. This project currently seeks proposals from emerging artists who live or go to school in St. Paul, and who are committed to creating a project that bridges the themes of art, education, and the Hamline Midway neighborhood. In particular, this project aims to build stronger connections between Hamline University – its students, staff, faculty, and administration – and those who live, work, and go to school in the larger Hamline Midway neighborhood. Finalists will be selected from this first round of proposals, at which point they will have to submit more detailed proposals, including a timeline for completing their work and more details on the mural design or how the design will be created.

Proposal Requirements: Submissions can be typed, hand-written or video-recorded, in any language, and should be no more than 500 words or 2 minutes if done by video. Please submit a link to your portfolio or at least 3 samples of your visual work and address the following questions:

- What is your connection to Hamline University, the Hamline Midway neighborhood, or St. Paul?
- What is your idea for this mural? This idea does not require a design at this stage of the process, but can include one or an idea for a design if you have one. Most important, we are interested in your approach to this project and why it interests you.
- How do you plan to build connections between Hamline University and the Hamline Midway neighborhood through this mural? This can include outreach or events involving people in these communities, but this is not required. How the artist builds or addresses these connections is up to the artist.
- What support, if any, would you need from professional artists, neighbors, students, professors, or others to complete this project? The Midway Public Art Working group will provide a liaison to the artist, as needed, to help with community outreach and to help in connecting the applicant to mural professionals for advice on mural design and creation. Detailing a need for support of this kind will not hurt your chances of becoming a finalist.

Eligibility Criteria: Artists who define themselves as “pre-emerging” or “emerging” and who live or go to school in St. Paul. We are looking for someone who is at the early stages of building a body of work, has not exhibited in major art venues, and brings skill and dedication to their work and growth as an artist. The artist does not need to have experience making murals. For artists who have never worked on a mural before, we are providing an additional \$500 that can be used for professional mentorship and support in using proper materials and executing a design.

Due Date: The due date for the first round of proposals is March 17. Finalists will then be selected within 2 weeks and asked to submit more detailed proposals, which will be due by the end of April, with a winner chosen by the end of May. The mural must be completed by the end of September, so for students interested in applying, please note that it may require work over the summer.

Materials and Mural Installation: The mural can be done in paint or digital media. The base of the mural will be a sturdy material covered by a thin layer of aluminum on the surface (such as dibond), which is well suited for being used outdoors. We will provide the artist with hands-on support on how to create a mural on aluminum, if you are unfamiliar with it. The artist will not be responsible for attaching the mural to the wall; this will be done by Hamline University's Facilities department.

Grant amount: The winner will receive \$2,500 to be used for labor and any paint or other materials to create the mural. The aluminum surface will be provided. Another \$500 will be available to artists to be used for mentorship and assistance from professional artists.

Selection Panel: The group selecting finalists and the winner for this project is made up of 8 people, including faculty, staff, and students from Hamline University, 4 Hamline Midway residents, and 3 members of the Midway Public Art Working Group.

Submit applications and any questions via email to hamlinemural@gmail.com