

Artist Request for Qualification (RFQ) Witter Place Exterior Murals

Community Housing Partners, Incorporated (CHP)

Two Public Art Mural Projects located at 2712 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Introduction

CHP is inviting artists and artist teams to submit their qualifications to design and execute two murals on the exterior of the planned Witter Place Apartments in Alexandria, VA. An artist or artist team may be selected for one or both mural projects. This call is open to artists living and working in Virginia, Maryland, or Washington D.C. Selected finalists will be awarded \$500 to prepare conceptual designs for one or both murals. The artist(s) will be selected by CHP and approved by the City of Alexandria Planning and Zoning Department and the Office of the Arts.

Budget

Mural "A" budget is \$20,000. Mural "B" budget is \$95,000. This includes travel costs, materials, infrastructure and personal liability insurance (coverages requirements to be provided upon selection).

Site and Context

About Witter Place. CHP will be breaking ground in late 2024 on Witter Place Apartments, a 94-unit affordable workforce housing project located at a premium location in the City of Alexandria. Witter Place Apartments is located off Duke Street, which has been identified as one of the City's three high capacity transit corridors with 28,000 vehicles per day and a major bus route.

About CHP. Building on a long-standing tradition of environmental, economic, and social responsibility, CHP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works with private and public partners to develop and preserve award-winning homes and neighborhoods. Together with our partners, we revitalize communities, foster stability for our residents, and promote a healthier planet for future generations.

About the City of Alexandria. Alexandria, Virginia is a small historic seaport city of about 158,000 residents located on the Potomac River, minutes from Washington, D.C. It is best known for its historic Old Town but is also home to federal agencies such as the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, the Defense Department, and the headquarters of the National Science Foundation.

Project Scope

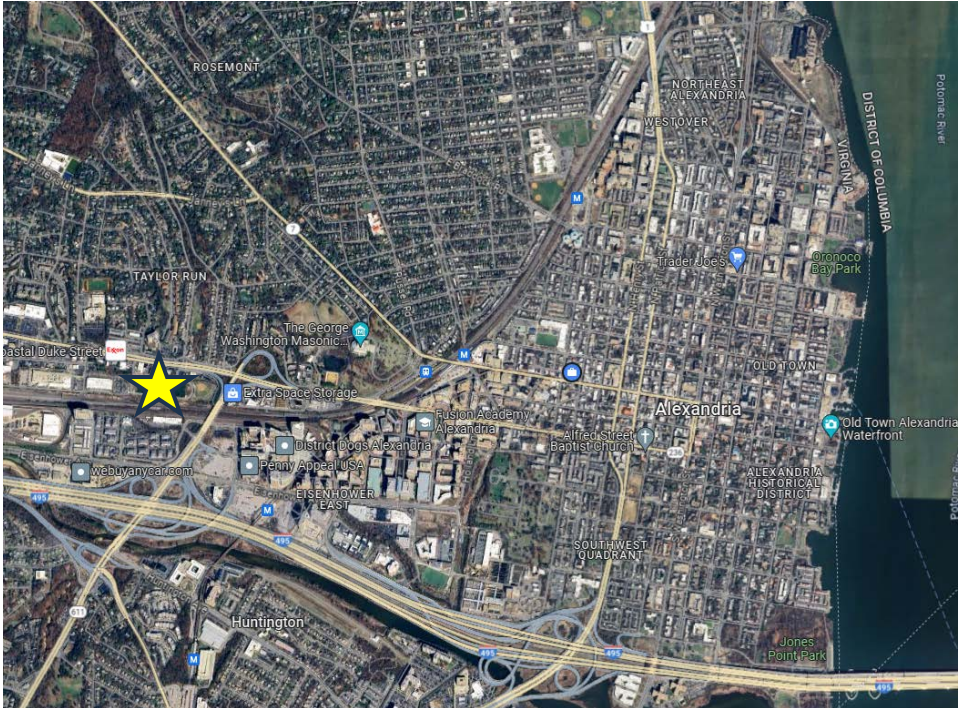
There will be two mural walls. The smaller mural will be located on the east elevation of the façade that fronts Duke Street (referred to as Mural "A") and has a width of 24' and a height of 36' containing 864 square feet. This mural spans vertically 3 stories from the 3rd to the 5th level, with the 3rd level being 1 story above grade at this location. The façade of the building is brick (an extruded clay white face brick with a velour/wire cut texture and square edges) and there are a series of horizontal and vertical reveals/joints as indicated on the Exhibit attached.

The larger mural will be located on the south elevation of the façade that faces Witter Field (referred to as Mural "B") and has a width of 103'-6" and a height of 44'-4" containing 4,588 square feet. This mural spans vertically 4 stories from the 2nd to the 5th level, with the 2nd level being 1 story above grade at this location. The façade of the building is fiber cement panels with aluminum trim at joints.

Location

Location: 2712 Duke Street, Alexandria VA 22314

Site location is proximate to the yellow star.



Exhibits

Link to drawings for download:

<https://michaelwinstanley.sharefile.com/public/share/web-sd140baf39b6f49689a460039a1ac0cd9>

MURAL 'A': 24'-0" x 36'-0"



MURAL 'B': 103'-6" x 44'-4"



Project Goals

Our goals for the two murals are:

- To raise awareness of the lives of families who have lived in affordable housing.
- To connect Witter Place to the larger urban fabric of the Alexandria community.
- The murals should encourage a vision forward with optimism, hope, and progress for not only the residents of Witter Place but for the community at large.

Artist Selection Process and Concept Approval

This call is open to all artists/artist teams living and working in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington D.C.

Interested artists/artist teams will be welcome to submit a letter indicating their project approach, qualifications, and work samples. Application materials and qualifications will be reviewed, and the top 3-5 finalists will have the opportunity to submit concept designs. Selected finalists will be provided with a \$500 stipend to develop a conceptual design.

Eligibility

Applicants shall meet one or more of the following criteria per the City of Alexandria's Public Art Policy:

- Realizes income through the sale, performance, publication or commission of original works of art;
- Has previously exhibited, presented, performed or published original works of art in museums, galleries or other recognized art venues and publications;
- Has formal training or education in a field of art; and
- Has received awards or other forms of recognition from arts juries, arts grant panels, and similar entities for his/her artistic abilities or accomplishments.

Environmental design professionals, such as architects or landscape architects, can be considered artists if they otherwise meet the criteria in this definition.

Selection Process

The following will be considered in the selection process:

- Artist met the eligibility outlined in the RFQ.
- Evidence of ability to create large-scale, distinctive work.
- Demonstrated ability to maintain project timelines and budgets.
- Evidence of ability to handle the logistics of implementing the murals within an active Construction Project & Site.
- Originality and creativity.
- Proposed concept to address the Project Goals, and the implementation and maintenance plan of the murals.

Each Finalist will be paid a \$500 stipend for his/her concept proposal for the murals. These concepts are to be submitted at a 1/4" scale elevation format per the base Elevations attached in the Exhibit. Finalists will present the Concept(s) at the Interviews which will be scheduled shortly after notification of the Finalists.

Deadline

The deadline is June 7th, 2024 and all proposals must be submitted electronically by 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

Materials must be submitted via email to the attention of Joseph Schwenker, joseph.schwenker@chpc2.org a PDF. A confirmation email will be sent to all applicants. If you do not receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of the deadline, please contact Joseph Schwenker via email.

Commented [DR1]: We will not be able to post this on Café. If you would like to use their service, we can put you in touch with them.

Project Timeline (subject to change)

- May 24, 2024 Announcement and distribution of RFQ
- June 7, 2024 Deadline for receipt of qualifications
- June 14, 2024 Finalists notified
- June 20-21 2024 Finalists Interviews with proposed Concepts
- June 25 2024 Artist selected and contract issued
- August 10 2024 Art design finalized and approved
- Early 2026 Work begins (dependent on construction progress)
- Late 2026 Work finalized

Ownership

The artist will retain ownership of any ideas submitted for consideration until a final selection has been made and a contract will be signed between CHP and the selected artist. The copyright will be solely owned by the Artist. Artist will represent being the sole author of the Work and that all services are original by artist and not copied in whole or in part.

Application Submission Process

1. Read Request for Qualification (RFQ) for background, eligibility, and application process.
2. Complete and compile items A-D listed below (contact information, narrative, work samples etc.) to be sent as email attachments.
3. Email all items as attachments otherwise provide a link for attachments exceeding 10mb.
4. We will be in touch if there are any questions about your submission.

Application Assistance: If you need assistance creating documents, have questions or preparing work samples to submit, please contact:

Joseph Schwenker
joseph.schwenker@chpc2.com.

Submissions should be on:

<https://www.callforentry.org/>

Call Event: Witter Place Exterior Murals

Application Inclusions:

A. Applicant info

1. Contact information: name, email, phone, address.
2. Please list above info for additional artist team members

B. Resume Please upload in PDF format for each team member if applicable. Maximum two pages for each team member. If you have a digital portfolio, please include a link to that as well.

C. Work Samples Provide 3 relevant work samples of your artistic practice. Image, video, link or PDF acceptable. Include a description of the process for the work samples.

D. Narrative description of how the Artist will work collaboratively with the construction team to minimize disruption to the overall development schedule.

END OF RFQ