

Request for Qualifications: Downtown Jackson Alley Gallery Mural Project

Downtown Jackson Partners is seeking qualified artists or artist teams for a new mural installation in downtown Jackson, MS. This project aims to enhance the aesthetic appeal of our downtown area and foster community engagement through public art.

Project Overview

The selected artist(s) will be responsible for the design, fabrication, and installation of a large-scale mural (82L x 32H) that will be a focal point of an alleyway located between Capitol and Amite Streets on the wall of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi at 118 N Congress St.

The mural will contribute to the vibrant atmosphere of downtown Jackson through the installation, named “Alley Gallery,” and reflect the history of the Episcopal church in Mississippi—the earliest congregation of the Episcopal church in the state dates to around 1790. Many Episcopal churches have made significant contributions to the state's cultural and architectural history. Recently, at the 198th Annual Council of the Mississippi Diocese, the theme “Telling Our Story,” led to a reflection of the church and its deeply intertwined history with the state:

Here’s an excerpt from Bishop Dorothy Sanders Wells' address: Our story as a diocese is enmeshed in a story of a state—its natives and settlers, changing agriculture and industry, warfare and peace, conflict and struggle through richer times and poorer times, storms and winds— both literal and figurative—through rebuilding and retooling. Our churches have stood since the early 1820s as places of worship and sanctuary, as beacons of God's light in our cities and towns, as places for communities to gather as makeshift hospitals for the injured, as jumping off points for rebuilding. Our worshiping communities, although largely comprised of persons of European descent, have included all races, ethnicities and all kinds of folks who have found our churches to be places of welcome. The hands of enslaved persons helped erect some of our worshiping spaces and our own records reflect the baptism of persons who are part of our story. You can read the full transcript [here](#).

Project goals

- Beautify downtown Jackson, MS.
- Enhance the pedestrian experience.
- Create a landmark piece of public art.
- Help tell one portion of Mississippi’s story by promoting the historical or cultural significance of the Episcopal church in the state.
- Encourage inclusive community engagement and interaction regardless of faith background, race, sexual orientation, etc.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to professional artists or artist teams with experience in executing successful large-scale mural projects. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

Submission requirements

Interested artists/teams are requested to submit the following materials:

1. Narrative: Please provide the following information in a narrative form, not to exceed 3 pages:
 - Letter of Interest (1-page maximum): Briefly describe your artistic approach, relevant experience in public art or large-scale mural projects, your interest in this specific project, and your connection to downtown Jackson or the project theme.

- Demonstrated Ability and Experience (1-page maximum): Please describe your qualifications based on the review criteria for this project.
 - Community Engagement Approach (1-page maximum): Include a section to describe your approach to community engagement, public outreach, and how you envision integrating community input into your work.
2. Current Professional Resume or CV: Highlight previous public art commissions, mural experience, exhibitions, awards, and education.
 3. Portfolio of Work (5-10 images): Include images of past completed public art projects, particularly large-scale murals, with brief descriptions (title, date, location, size, materials, budget, and client/commissioning agency). Digital images are preferred.
 4. Professional References: Provide contact information (name, title, organization, address, telephone, email) for three individuals who can speak to your work and professional practice, especially your ability to meet deadlines and work collaboratively.
 5. Insurance: Indicate if you are able to provide proof of insurance in the form of a Certificate of Insurance prior to beginning work.

Selection process

A selection committee will review all submitted qualifications. The committee will evaluate artists based on:

- Artistic quality and originality.
- Experience creating and installing permanent, durable, outdoor public artwork.
- Demonstrated ability to plan, coordinate, and execute a mural project within a given timeline and budget.
- Ability to work collaboratively with staff, partners, and the community.
- Interest in the project and ability to create a mural that is unique to the site and responsive to community input.

A shortlist of qualified artists will be selected and invited to participate in an interview. Finalists may be asked to develop preliminary design proposals for the site and may be compensated for their time and effort.

Project timeline (Tentative)

- RFQ Release: August 15, 2025
- Submission Deadline: September 30, 2025
- Selection Committee Review: October
- Finalist Notification: October 31, 2025
- Artist Selection and Agreement: November 1, 2025
- Design and Fabrication: November – December
- Installation: December – March
- Completion: April 1, 2025 (as weather permits)

Budget

The budget for mural labor and materials is \$30,000.

Submission instructions

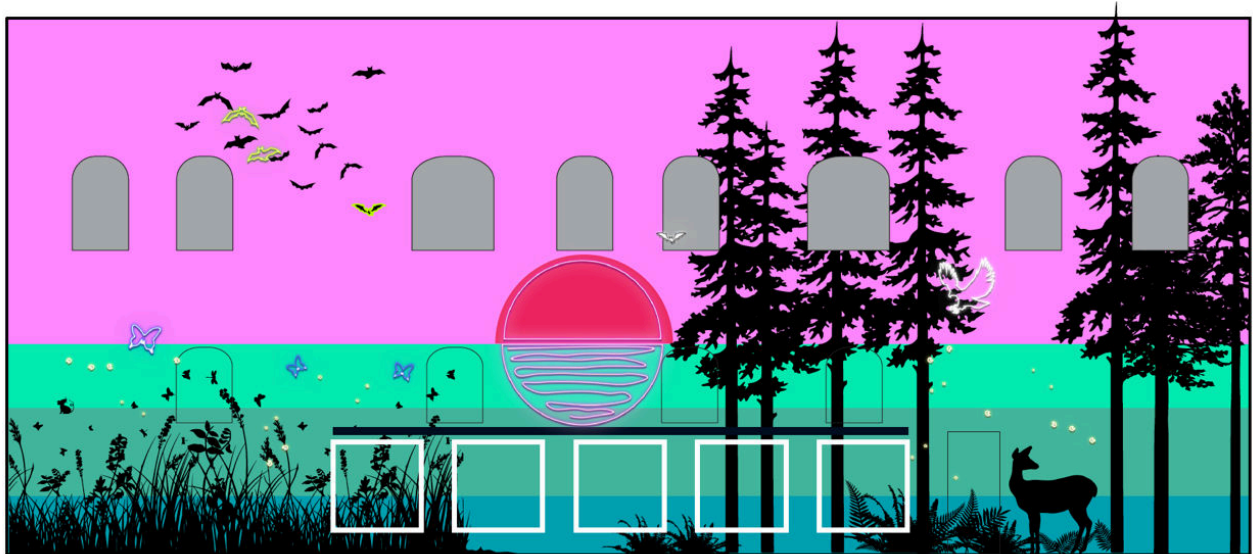
All materials must be submitted electronically as a single PDF file to lbrister@downtown-jackson.com. Incomplete or late submissions may not be considered.

Questions

Please direct any questions regarding this RFQ to Liz Brister, President, Downtown Jackson Partners, lbrister@downtown-jackson.com, 601-353-9800.

Note: It is highly recommended that interested artists visit the mural site prior to submitting their qualifications.

Art installation concept:



82' L x 35' H

Episcopal Diocese Building

PINE BELT

CONCEPTUAL LIGHTING PLAN DRAFT 3

Art installation location next page – cream-colored wall on the left of photo:

