



Grant Application Guidelines

Application Deadline: Thursday, Mar. 14, 2024

www.racstl.org/stlouismuralproject



REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION
OF ST. LOUIS

ARPA for the Arts – St. Louis Mural Project

Grant Application Guidelines

The Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis (RACSTL) is excited to present public art throughout all wards of St. Louis City. Please note that due to the fast-paced timeline and the distribution of federal ARPA dollars, this process is not a conventional public art process but modeled after a grant application process. RACSTL will work with a selection committee made up of the Alderperson of each ward, a public art specialist, and an ARPA for the Arts representative to select the artworks from the submitted applications.

WHAT?

RACSTL, in partnership with the City of St. Louis, is providing St. Louis Mural Project Grants funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for eligible St. Louis City working artists. The St. Louis Mural Project Grant provides a unique opportunity for local artists and community members to meaningfully participate in creative placemaking and provides an arts and culture experience for St. Louis residents and visitors.

The St. Louis Mural Project Grant is a **one-time grant to working artists** for the purpose of creating a mural that represents one of the fourteen (14) St. Louis City wards. Each ward will be represented by two murals, for a total of twenty-eight (28) murals.

The murals will be dispersed throughout the wards, and artists will be asked to identify a specific ward location for their work. Subject matter is open but must address one of the following (1) incorporate an aspect of community engagement (e.g. the mural could be painted by members of the community, the community could provide input on subject matter, or help plan a community celebration event), OR (2) showcase historical ward significance. **By contract of the Community Development Association (CDA) and the Federal Government, this project is reserved for murals only.**

WHO?

Individual artists who apply must be a current resident of St. Louis City as well as held residency in St. Louis City during March – December 2020.

Artists who have prior experience producing murals or other forms of community art will be more competitive, however all artists are encouraged to apply.

The artist will be the sole recipient of awarded funds for the completion of the mural and must be a City of St. Louis resident.

WHEN?

If you are awarded a St. Louis Mural Project Grant, the murals must be completed by 7/31/2024. Artists will be required to submit monthly reports, which must be complete by 9/30/24). Reporting instructions will be issued once a grant is made.

Once artist eligibility is determined, the application must be completed no later than 3/14/2024. Awards will be made based on selection by Alderpersons as representatives of their communities/wards, by the ARPA for the Arts team, and a public art specialist.

MURAL TYPES

Applicants will need to select a mural size and corresponding budget template to work from. All templates are editable; keep in mind each Alderperson will select two murals for a total of \$92,560.

- Mural Size A, Budget Template A
- Mural Size B, Budget Template B
- Mural Size C, Budget Template C
- Mural Size D, Budget Template D
- Mural Size E, Budget Template E

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible artists must meet the following requirements:

- The artist is 18 years of age or older
- The artist is a current resident of St. Louis City (verifiable documentation is a requirement and **one item** from the following list will need to be uploaded in the application)
- **Proof of Residency Document #1 (Please make sure your current address matches your current ID)**
 - Motor Vehicle or Driver License Renewal Postcard
 - Unexpired Missouri Driver License
 - Nondriver License
 - State-issued Identification Card
 - Current Voter Registration Card
 - Income Tax or Personal Property Tax Receipt
- **Artist must carry General Liability Insurance and Personal Injury Certificate at the time of application to ensure protection of their project and materials.**
- The artist must provide a “Covid-19 proof of negative impact” statement and provide proof of residency in St. Louis City during the time of loss (March - December 2020). In addition, the artists’ current primary residence must be in a St. Louis City Ward. If you are unsure, [please click here](#) to check the City of St. Louis ward map.

HOW MUCH ST. LOUIS MURAL PROJECT GRANT FUNDS CAN I APPLY FOR?

Each ward will have up to \$92,560 for the completion of two (2) murals. Each Alderperson will select two applications for their ward based on the \$92,560 available.

The total amount of funding available for the St. Louis Mural Project Grant is \$1,480,953. Applicants can apply for a specific mural size with a corresponding and editable budget template. **The funds will be distributed solely to the individual mural artist directly from RACSTL.**

REQUIRED APPLICATION RESPONSES (not including basic contact information)

- Provide a brief personal bio that includes information about your artistic practice and how you contribute to the community through your artistic practice (300 words maximum)
- Provide a brief description of the proposed mural and address the following:
 - Mural description (visual upload optional)
 - The ward and location of mural
 - Note which of the two murals you are interested in: (1) mural located in ward with community engagement aspect or (2) mural in central location displaying the ward's historical significance (500 words maximum)
- Approximate mural size
- Completed St. Louis Mural Project Grant Budget ([click here for budget template](#))
- Covid Impact Statement (located in grant application)

Please Note: Up to \$92,560 is allocated to each ward for the creation of two murals, so please plan your budget accordingly (i.e. avoid applying for a mural budgeted for \$88,000 because it will not leave enough budget support for the Alderperson to select a second mural.)

REQUIRED DOCUMENT CHECKLIST (PDF documents only)

- Proof of Residency Document #1 to include **one of the following**:
 - Motor Vehicle or Driver License Renewal Postcard
 - Unexpired Missouri Driver License
 - Nondriver License
 - State-issued Identification Card

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

The application portal will open Feb. 1, 2024, and close Mar. 14, 2024. The application will be open for six (6) weeks. Please see the timeline below for important dates.

Once a completed application is submitted, the ARPA for the Arts team will process the application. Then, the ARPA for the Arts team will meet with the Alderpersons and public art specialists to discuss and choose two murals for each ward, totaling twenty-eight murals (28 applicants).

If an application is complete, it will be processed by the ARPA for the Arts team. If there are issues with an application or if it is incomplete, the ARPA for the Arts team will contact the applicant via the Blackbaud Grants Management System as well as send a direct email to the contact email address provided in the application.

NOTIFICATION

Once an application is successfully processed, the applicant will be notified via the Blackbaud Grants Management System as well as a direct email to the contact email address provided in the application.

After an applicant is notified, the ARPA for the Arts team will send an introductory email to the appropriate Alderperson to discuss next steps.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS AGREEMENT

If a St. Louis Mural Project Grant is made, this notification will include a terms and conditions agreement, which the grantee will sign and return before receiving the grant award in full via direct deposit. Direct deposit must be set up prior to the payment date. Grantees will receive instructions on how to do this through the Blackbaud Grants Management System and through email communications.

PAYMENT PROCESSING

Each grant recipient will be asked to sign the terms and conditions agreement before receiving the payment. Grant awards are disbursed in a single payment through automatic deposit to the grantee's designated bank account via RACSTL's BILL.com electronic payments platform. After signing the agreement, grantees will receive a BILL.com email prompting them to set up an account. Once the account is created with the proper banking information, RACSTL will process the award payment.

The St. Louis Mural Project Grant payment is made in one lump sum disbursement for the total award amount.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All awards and grants to individual artists are considered taxable income. Please plan accordingly.

REPORTING

Murals completed by 7/31/2024. Reporting must be completed by 9/30/24. Grantees will receive instructions on reporting once the grant is made, which will include a narrative statement on the experience creating the ward mural.

ST. LOUIS MURAL PROJECT GRANT TIMELINE

Application/Form and Criteria published	2/1/2024
Application/Form Deadline Date	3/14/2024
Staff Analysis of Applications by Ward	3/15/2024 - 3/29/2024
Aldersperson Meetings - Final Proposals Chosen	3/25/2024 - 4/14/2024
Awardees are Notified- Terms & Conditions Agreements signed by Artist	Week of 4/15/2024 - 4/22/2024
Email Introductions (Artist & Alderspersons)	Week of 4/22/2024
ARPA for the Arts Team Check-Ins	May - June 2024
All murals are complete	July 31, 2024
Reporting	September 30, 2024

WHO TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS

Questions about the application, process, or technical issues:

Tracey Morgan
ARPA for the Arts Lead
314-863-5811 ex. 1013
ARPAforthearts@racstl.org