

Invitation for Artists

Black Lives Matter Mural - Transforming Tollefson Plaza

Budget: \$20,000, all-inclusive

Deadline: July 7, 2021, 11:59 pm

Overview

The City of Tacoma's Human Rights Commission, in partnership with the Tacoma Arts Commission and Tacoma Art Museum, are looking for an artist or team to create a mural in Tollefson Plaza. The mural should express solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement while celebrating the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history. We encourage artists to draw from Tacoma's history and imagined futures. The artist or artist team should have a clear idea of how they will engage the community and/or other Tacoma artists at any stage of the project from research, conceptualization, mural design, installation, or anything the artist(s) dreams up.

Background

The deaths of Manny Ellis, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor sparked a local and global outcry to protect Black lives, end police brutality and tackle institutionalized racism in all forms and professions. As a result, the Human Rights Commission's Racial Justice and Equity Committee proposed creating a mural to signify that the City of Tacoma supports Black lives and the Black Lives Matter movement. In partnership with the Tacoma Arts Commission and Tacoma Art Museum, a Black Lives Matter mural will be installed in Tollefson Plaza by September 2021.

The Black Lives Matter movement, like the civil rights movements before it, has effectively articulated the injustices that exist nationally and locally at the intersections of race, class, and gender including mass incarceration, police brutality, poverty, unaffordable housing, income disparity, homophobia, gender inequality, poor access to healthcare, and educational outcomes. This mural will encourage Tacoma residents to recognize the plight suffered by people of color to obtain equality while at the same time continuing to challenge us to persevere in unity toward racial justice.

Eligibility

- Invitational
- Artists may apply individually or as a team. If applying as a team, only the lead artist needs to have received an invitation.
- Open to Artists 18+ currently living or working in Tacoma, WA, who are best able to respond to the black experience.

- Artists cannot be employees of the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Art Museum, or members of the Tacoma Arts Commission or the Human Rights Commission.

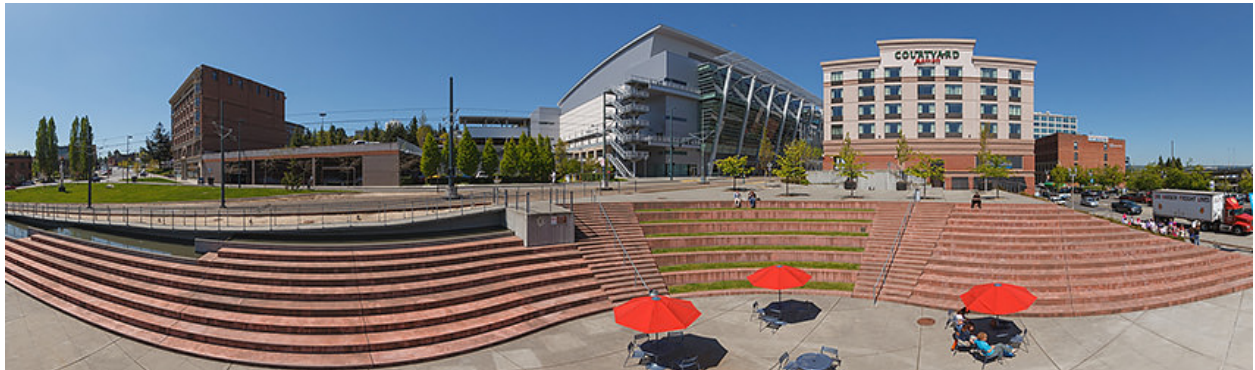
Timeline (all dates subject to change)

- June 9, 2021 - Opportunity available
- July 7, 2021, 11:59 pm - Applications due
- By July 16, 2021 - Finalists Selected
- Week of July 19 - Finalists Interviews* if needed
- July 31, 2021 - TAM Block Party in Tollefson Plaza* possible engagement opportunity
- August 2021 - Mural Design
- September-October 2021 - Mural Install
- September 16, 2021, 6 pm - Artist Talk and reception at TAM

Location

Tollefson Plaza is located in the heart of Downtown Tacoma, at the intersection of South 17th and Pacific Avenue (official address: 1548 Commerce St, Tacoma). It is a highly visible City-owned space that is used throughout the year for festivals, events, etc. The artist(s) should focus on painting the stair risers (the vertical element between the stairs), and the work should be appropriate for all ages. The mural will be maintained by the City of Tacoma for a minimum of 5 years. The artwork will exist in context with many other artworks. It is along the Prairie Line Trail, a mile-long park filled with art and history that tells the story of Tacoma and celebrates its diversity:

<http://www.prairieline-trail.org/>.



Tollefson Plaza

Selection Criteria

Representatives from the City of Tacoma's Human Rights Commission, the Tacoma Arts Commission, and the Tacoma Art Museum will evaluate artists using a rubric that assesses the following:

- Artistic quality as exhibited in past work.
- Ability to effectively engage community and/or youth, specifically Tacoma's Black community.
- Ability to paint a large scale mural.
- Ability to create a mural that reflects the theme Black Lives Matter.

Submission Process: Submit the following items via Submittable:

<https://tacomaarts.submittable.com/submit/44187f8d-ff8c-4722-bcf2-87f6c1f8b342/black-lives-matter-tollefson-plaza>

1. Basic Information: Series of yes/no questions

2. Narrative Questions:

- Why are you interested in this project? (200 words or less)
- How have you successfully engaged the community in a past project? (200 words or less)
- Anything else you want to tell us? (optional, 200 words or less)

3. Work Samples with Descriptions: Submit up to 10 digital images of past work with short descriptions.