

## **Request for Qualifications: Railroad Avenue Mural**

**Issued by:** Oregon City Arts Commission

**Release date:** August 4, 2026

**RFQ Submission deadline:** September 12, 2026 (5:00PM PT)

### **Project and process overview**

The Oregon City Arts Commission (OCAC) invites professional artists and professional artist teams from across the Pacific Northwest to submit qualifications for an exciting large-scale mural commission in the heart of downtown Oregon City, OR. This piece will be a contemporary and/or abstract style, so we are looking for artists who have experience in this style of art.

OCAC has designed a two-phase selection process to be both rigorous and fair to artists.

In Phase 1 (the RFQ), artists and teams submit their list of qualifications and portfolio samples. OCAC will then review all submissions and select two to three finalists based on the number of received. **[DEADLINE: September 12, 2026 (5:00PM PT)]**

In Phase 2 (the RFP), finalists will each be paid a one-time \$300 design stipend to develop a site-specific concept for the Railroad Avenue wall. OCAC will review the paid concept proposals, select a winning design, and route it to the Oregon City Commission for final approval. **[DEADLINE: Will be announced with finalist are announced – likely October 2026]**

This approach ensures that artists are compensated for their creative labor during the proposal stage, and that OCAC and the community have the opportunity to evaluate real, site-specific concepts before making a final selection.

### **About the commission**

Driven by our initiative "Art for Every Heart," the OCAC is dedicated to championing creativity in all its forms. The commission works to foster a thriving arts ecosystem that supports local talent, promotes economic prosperity and connects the community to Oregon City's evolving cultural landscape.

### **Project scope and goals**

The selected artist will be responsible for the design, fabrication and installation of the artwork. The commission is seeking proposals that address the following goals:

- **Goal 1:** Create a complementary mural in a contemporary or abstract design that has the theme of ***Celebrating Oregon's Natural Bounty***.
- **Goal 2:** Provide an engaging visual experience for pedestrians and local traffic, utilizing the interesting wall shape in a creative way.
- **Goal 3:** Use durable, weather-resistant, and anti-graffiti materials requiring minimal long-term maintenance.

### Site details

- **Location:** Railroad Avenue, at the northern end by 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Oregon City.
- **Dimensions/Space:** Triangular section of the wall from the telephone pole to the northern-most end of the wall, measuring 74'10" wide and 6'7" at the tallest point



### Timeline

The RFQ is expected to launch in August 2026, with a six-week submission window. Finalists will be notified shortly after and invited to participate in the RFP phase, beginning in October 2026.

The RFP submission window will be one month from notification of the finalists, with the expectation that the selected artist will be chosen by late fall 2026. We will then enter the public process phase, with approvals by the Oregon City Commission and required permitting and paperwork completed.

The goal is to have the mural work underway by May 2027 and completed by June 2027 before the rainy season arrives.

### Budget parameters

The total project budget is \$20,000. This amount must cover all costs associated with the project, including but not limited to:

- Artist fees and design time

- Materials, supplies and equipment rental
- Insurance and permits (if applicable)
- Surface prep and cleaning
- Survey (if required)
- Fabrication, transportation and installation
- Travel and lodging

### **Eligibility**

This RFP is open to professional artists residing in the Pacific Northwest. Artists with experience in community-engaged public art are encouraged to apply. Artists with transferable skills, such as large-scale interior painting or commercial sign painting, are highly encouraged to apply.

### **Site Conditions**

The selected artist will be responsible for pressure-washing the concrete wall, applying the appropriate concrete primer, base coat, and final weather-resistant/anti-graffiti topcoat, to be included in the project budget.

### **Submission requirements**

For this RFQ (Phase 1), we are asking artists to submit:

- **Letter of interest (1 page maximum):** Outline your approach to the project, your connection to Oregon City or the region, and how your work aligns with the Commission's goals.
- **Professional resume or CV (2 pages maximum):** Highlight relevant public art experience, exhibitions or performances. Teams should include a resume for each member.
- **Work samples:** Up to 10 images or links to video/audio files of past work that demonstrates your ability to complete a project of this scale. Include an image list detailing the title, year, medium, budget and location for each piece. Each file/link should be a unique piece of art and not multiple images of the same piece.

***Do not submit design concepts or budgets at this stage. Only Phase 1 RFQ materials are being accepted currently***

For the RFP, we will be asking artists to submit the following materials:

- **Concept proposal:** A written description of your proposed artwork, including intended materials, methods and a rough sketch, rendering or written narrative of the design.
- **Itemized budget & timeline:** A preliminary breakdown of how the project funds will be allocated, and your proposed timeline for the project.
- **List of materials:** A proposed list of materials you will use to prepare, paint, and seal the project wall.

### **Selection criteria**

A selection panel comprising OCAC board members and other community members will review all RFQs based on the following criteria:

- **Artistic excellence:** Quality, originality and strength of past work
- **Relevant experience:** Experience with site-specific large-scale art
- **Feasibility:** Ability to execute within the budget and timeframe
- **Project Alignment:** How well the design reflects the community context and theme

### Contact information

All submissions and questions regarding this RFP must be directed to:

Ann Griffin  
City of Oregon City, Economic Development Department  
625 Center St.  
Oregon City, OR 97045

Email: [agriffin@orccity.org](mailto:agriffin@orccity.org)  
Phone: 503-974-5517

### Terms and conditions

- **Copyright and ownership:** The selected artist will retain the copyright to the original artwork. Upon final completion and final payment, the physical artwork (if applicable) becomes the property of Oregon City. The artist agrees to grant the city and the Oregon City Arts Commission an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free license to photograph, reproduce and distribute images of the artwork for noncommercial civic, educational and promotional purposes, including on the OCAC website and in printed collateral.
  - *Note: The artist that is selected will be required to sign a covenant with the City outlining this.*
- **Originality and AI use:** All submitted proposals and final artworks must be the original creation of the artist or artist team. The use of generative artificial intelligence tools is strictly prohibited in the creation of the final, physical artwork to ensure the piece is fully copyrightable and does not infringe on existing intellectual property. If AI tools are used to assist in drafting the initial concept renderings, the artist must explicitly disclose this in the proposal.
- **Media release:** By submitting a proposal, the artist grants the OCAC permission to use submitted images, renderings and biographical information for the purposes of the selection process, public engagement and official announcements.
- **Right of refusal:** The OCAC reserves the right to reject any or all applications, to reissue the RFP or to withhold the award of a commission if no submitted proposals meet the project's goals or standards.

- **Contractual agreement:** The selected artist will be required to enter into a formal contract with Oregon City prior to the commencement of any work or the disbursement of any funds.