Marian Anderson Mural - Call to Artists

Project Description:
The City of Danbury seeks to commission an artist or team of artists to create a large-scale mural celebrating the life and legacy of Marian Anderson. The artist(s) must be willing to work with the City Historian and do additional research on Ms. Anderson's achievements on a global and local scale. The City is seeking an installation that represents Ms. Anderson's impact in order to educate and inspire the community. The artist(s) will be asked to cover the existing wall art and replace it with the final artwork. The artist(s) will be chosen by a panel of community representatives and the project investors. The artist(s) will be asked to work on site at 300 Main Street, Danbury, CT on a timeline that will be agreed upon between the artist, City, and property owner. Funding for this installation will be donated by Savings Bank of Danbury and the City of Danbury.

Inspiration for the Project:
Born on February 27, 1897 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Marian Anderson began singing at the age of 6. Through years of classical training, Marian became known as one of the greatest classical singers of the twentieth century. The world-renowned contralto began her professional career touring some of the most prestigious concert halls in Europe. Marian Anderson sang for houses of royalty across the continent. Back in the States where most halls had previously banned Marian from performing due to the color of her skin, many American people grew in their support for the iconic singer. These same halls began opening their doors, inviting her to come back to the U.S. and perform. It was in 1936 when Marian was invited to perform at the White House for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

Marian Anderson challenged racial barriers in the U.S. with the support of her new friend, Eleanor Roosevelt. In the late 1930's, Marian Anderson was invited to sing in Washington but needed a hall that would fit the crowd she was bound to attract. The Daughters of the American Revolution who owned Constitution Hall told Marian that she could not perform as only white artists were allowed to take the stage. Eleanor, a member of the DAR, sent in a resignation letter and wrote about it in the paper. Even so, the DAR did not back down. The outrage led to a bold idea - an open-air concert at the Lincoln Memorial. With coordination from the White House, Marian sang to 75,000 people on Easter Sunday of 1939.

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Marian Anderson's legacy has been honored in a number of ways. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963 by John F. Kennedy, the Congressional Gold Medal in 1977, the Kennedy Center Honors in 1978, the National Medal of Arts in 1986, and received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991. Marian was also inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1973 and her portrait is on a stamp issued by the United States Postal Service on January 27, 2005. Most recently, the Secretary of the Treasury in 2016 announced the redesign of the $5 bill to include events at the Lincoln Memorial featuring Marian Anderson and Martin Luther King Jr.

Marian Anderson is best known to Danburians as a neighbor and friend. Marian lived in our city for over 50 years. She served as a member of the Danbury Music Centre's Board of Directors, who have since named their concert hall in her honor. Her practice studio stands on the grounds of the Danbury Museum and visitors are invited to visit her studio and view an exhibit celebrating Marian Anderson's many accomplishments. The exhibit also showcases many of the costumes Ms. Anderson wore while performing at home and abroad. Though Ms. Anderson passed away in 1993, her legacy has continued to inspire many generations, especially here in Danbury!

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Location:
The mural wall is located at 300 Main Street behind the Kennedy Park fountain.

Eligibility: All professional artists or artist teams may apply. If artists are applying as a team, the team should be listed on the application form, specifying one individual as the primary contact person.

Budget Details: The total budget of the artwork commission is *$10,000*, inclusive of all costs associated with the project, including but not limited to: artist fee and expenses; drawings and specifications; artwork materials and fabrication; storage (if applicable), transportation and installation; related permits, license, insurance; and related significant site modifications.

Project Timeline:
Deadlines for Application - Artists must submit their application via email or mail by August 30, 2021. Semi-finalists will be asked to present concept designs at a mutually agreed upon date and time in September 2021. The selected artist will work with the City and property owner of 300 Main Street on the artwork schedule.

Insurance Requirements: See attached policy. Artist(s) must carry their own insurance. Hiring any additional help will require Workers Compensation.

Application Procedure:

a. **Statement of Interest**: Explain why you (or your team) are interested in creating a Marian Anderson mural. Explain why you would be a good candidate and how your experience informs how you will respond to the themes and goals of the project. (1000 characters max).
b. **Artist Resume or Portfolio:** Teams should include information and/or images of existing artwork from all artists applying.
c. **Concept Proposal (draft form is acceptable):**
    i. Written description of the proposed artwork
    ii. Concept renderings/drawings of the proposed artwork
d. **Submission:** Send the following in an email to t.obrien@danbury-ct.gov with the subject line “Marian Anderson Mural” or mail the completed application to: Taylor O’Brien - Mayor’s Office 155 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT 06811
    a. Name of primary contact
    b. Address (City, State)
    c. Phone Number
    d. Email Address
    e. Statement of Interest
    f. Artist Resume/CV
    g. Concept Proposal
e. **Deadline for Application**: August 30, 2021

Final Selection:

Concept Proposal Presentation. Each semi-finalist artist or artist team will have the opportunity to present their concept proposal to the Selection Panel (on an agreed upon date/time). The presentation should include the following:

- Concept renderings/drawings of the proposed artwork including dimensions, materials, colors, and finishes
- Verbal description of the proposal
- Artwork budget
- Artwork schedule including final design through installation
- A summary of long-term maintenance requirements for the proposed artwork.

Following the concept proposal presentations, the Artist Selection Committee will select the final artist or artist team for the project. The selected artists or artist teams will work closely with the project team to advance the concept through design development and final shop drawings in preparation for fabrication. Final artwork design must be approved before authorization to fabricate is granted.

All applicants submitting concept proposals must agree to the following:

- The artist or artist team shall retain intellectual property rights to the artwork commissioned for the *City of Danbury.*
- Proposed artwork must be original and unique to the City of Danbury Marian Anderson Mural Project.

Evaluation Criteria:

The following criteria will be used for concept proposal scoring and final artist selection:

1. Artwork reflects authenticity, originality, evokes response or inquiry
2. Relevance: Artwork is appropriate for the site, architecture, occupants, environment, and acknowledge Marian Anderson's career and musical legacy, as well as her advancement of civil liberties for African-Americans in the United States.
3. Feasibility: Detailed Project Budget indicating the artwork can be fully implemented
4. Feasibility: Detailed Project Schedule indicating the artwork can be fully implemented
5. Durability and Permanence: The artwork is materially and structurally sound. Artwork is resistant to theft, vandalism, and is low maintenance.

ATTACHMENTS

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The CONTRACTOR shall not commence work under this contract until it has obtained all insurance required under this article and such insurance has been approved by the CITY, nor shall the CONTRACTOR allow any subcontractor to commence work on its subcontract until all similar insurance required of the subcontractor has been so obtained and approved. Certificates of insurance shall be filed with the CITY and shall be subject to the approval of the CITY for adequacy of protection before the execution of this contract. All policies relating to this shall be so written that the CITY shall be notified of cancellation or change at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of such cancellation or change. Certificates from the insurance carrier shall be filed in triplicate with the CITY and shall state the limits of liability and the expiration date for each policy and type of coverage. The CITY OF DANBURY shall be named as an additional insured. Renewal certificates covering the renewal of all policies expiring during the life of this contract shall be filed with the CITY not less than ten (10) days before the expiration of such policies.

For individual artist or multiple artists:

Comprehensive General Liability Insurance

The CONTRACTOR shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract such Comprehensive General Liability Insurance as will protect the CONTRACTOR, the CITY, and any subcontractor performing work covered by this contract, from any claims for damages for personal injury, including accidental or wrongful death, as well as claims for property damages, which may arise from operations under this contract whether such operations be by itself or by any subcontractor or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them and the amounts of insurance shall be in the following minimum limits:

Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability	$1,000,000 (combined) each occurrence

The CONTRACTOR agrees that in the event that one or more claims are paid under the policies containing an aggregate coverage limit it shall immediately notify the CITY thereof and at the same time shall seek either to reinstate the limits of said policy or policies or alternatively to seek to obtain a new policy providing for full coverage in accordance with the limits established within. Said replacement coverage shall be obtained within twenty-four (24) hours and the CITY shall be notified thereof.

For businesses or art organizations:

Workers' Compensation Insurance and Employer's Liability

The CONTRACTOR shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract, Workers' Compensation Insurance for all of its employees, employed at the site and in case any work is sublet, the CONTRACTOR shall require the subcontractor similarly to provide Workers' Compensation Insurance for all employees of the latter unless such employees are covered by the protection afforded by the CONTRACTOR.

Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability - Statutory Limits