

Open Call to Artists: Bagley Arts Alley Murals

Art Inventory

(3) Murals

City of Detroit: Transforming Neighborhood Alleys with Art

Deadline to apply: Monday, February 24, 2025, at 11:59 PM

Project Overview

Space Lab Development, Inc. (SpaceLab Detroit) is excited to issue an Open Call to Artists on behalf of The City of Detroit's City Walls and Arts, Culture and Entrepreneurship (ACE) divisions for the **Bagley Arts Alley Murals**. These 3 murals are part of a larger Arts Alley Initiative, a groundbreaking program to transform neighborhood alleys into vibrant spaces through murals and art installations. This project aims to celebrate local culture, foster community pride, and showcase the exceptional talents of both experienced and emerging artists.

Project Vision Statement

The Bagley Arts Alley is part of a larger Arts Alley Initiative: a transformative project that envisions vibrant, safe, and inclusive community gathering spaces in the heart of Detroit's neighborhoods. As part of Mayor Duggan's Blight to Beauty Initiative, this effort harnesses the power of art and design to address long-standing challenges amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic—challenges such as limited access to safe, green spaces, deteriorating infrastructure, and insufficient support for the creative workforce.

Through the Arts Alley Initiative and the Bagley Arts Alley project, artists, residents, and community leaders have collaborated to reimagine residential and commercial alleys, transforming them with innovative landscaping, stormwater management, and pedestrian-friendly amenities. Now, artists will create captivating public art in these spaces to reflect Detroit's rich history, culture, and resilience, creating hubs of beauty and imagination while fostering pride and connection among neighbors.

By uniting local artists, residents, and the city's creative resources, the Arts Alley Initiative is more than an investment in physical infrastructure—it is a celebration of Detroit's spirit, an opportunity to amplify voices through art, and a catalyst for building stronger, more beautiful neighborhoods for all.

Alley Location and Theme

1. **Bagley Arts Alley:** 2631 Bagley Detroit, MI 48216

Running along the northeast side of the Roberto Clemente Recreation Center, the Bagley Arts Alley is planned as a community staple to host events and be a gathering space for all residents across District 6. The art in the alley will reflect the diverse array of historic neighborhoods surrounding it, fusing the many worlds that comprise Southwest Detroit. In addition, the artistic vision will complement the generous, fighting spirit of Roberto Clemente, the Puerto Rican Hall of Fame baseball star who was killed in the crash of a plane he had chartered to take emergency relief goods for the survivors of a massive earthquake in Nicaragua. Clemente's passion for community is captured in one of his quotes: "Any time you have an opportunity to make a difference in this world and you don't, then you are wasting your time on Earth."

Project Timeline

- **Call Release Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Deadline for Questions:** February 19, 2025. Send questions to info@spacelabdetroit.com
- **Proposal Submission Deadline:** February 24, 2025
- **Artists Notified:** March 3, 2025
- **Artist Agreements & Onboarding Documents Due:** March 10, 2025
- **Community Engagement Begins:** March 17, 2025
- **Mural Painting Begins:** April 3, 2025
- **Painting/Installation Completion Deadline:** May 31, 2025

What We're Looking For

We encourage submissions from:

- **Experienced and emerging artists** specializing in murals or public art installations.
- Individual artists and collaborative artist teams.



- Artists 18 years or older, available to work within the project timeline.
- Artists with a connection to Southwest Detroit or Michigan are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Bagley Alley Mural Project seeks art that:

- Reflects Southwest Detroit's rich cultural, social, and historical narratives.
- Enhances the visual appeal of the neighborhood and strengthens community pride.
- Demonstrates innovation and is suitable for outdoor public spaces.

Artists will work on tall, concrete walls. Artists must prep all surfaces before painting or installation begins and secure lift equipment for the project.

Open Call

Artists interested in applying should send an Artist Packet to SpaceLab Detroit at info@spacelabdetroit.com with the following information:

- Name, address, email address, and phone number
- Three (3) examples of past work that would prove relevant to this project. Digital images must be high-resolution JPEG files. Each image must be unlocked and downloadable for viewing. Each JPEG image must be titled with the artist's name and image number. (Example: SaraSmith001, SaraSmith002).
- Resume or CV that includes art and community engagement experience
- Two (2) references from previous public art clients or teachers
- An Artist/Team Statement (max. 800 words) that lists all materials needed and answers the following questions:
 - What interests you about the project?
 - What are your preliminary ideas for the project?
 - How do you envision working in collaboration with the community?
 - What is your experience working on complex projects with desires and constraints dictated by the site owners?
 - How would your project benefit the community?
 - Do you have any connection to city employees that would constitute a conflict of interest?
 - Are you available to complete the artwork by the required completion deadline?
 - Are you comfortable working on lift equipment to complete the mural?



Stakeholder Selection Process

The judging panel, which will be comprised of members of the community, will use the following point system:

Points

- 10** Artist Statement
- 10** Detroit Based Artist
- 10** Experience with Community Engagement
- 20** Project Proposal/Preliminary Ideas or Sketch
- 25** Experience Creating Permanent, Durable, Outdoor Public Artwork
- 25** Ability to accomplish projects of similar complexity within the budget, timeline and technical constraints presented (based on examples of prior works)

100 Points Total

Compensation

Artists will receive:

- **50% of their fee upon selection and completion of required documents.**
- **50% upon project completion.**

Selected artists will be notified by **March 3, 2025**, and must submit onboarding documents by **March 10, 2025**.

Submission Process

- Email your completed proposal to info@spacelabdetroit.com with the subject line: "**Bagley Arts Alley Mural Proposal - [Your Name].**"
- All proposals must be submitted by **February 24, 2025, at 11:59 PM**. Late submissions will not be considered.



Selection Process

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

1. Creativity, quality, and originality of work.
2. Relevance to Southwest Detroit's culture and community values.
3. Artist's experience or demonstrated potential.

Additional Details

- Artists will be provided with site dimensions and specifications upon selection.
- Final designs must be approved by the City of Detroit before implementation.
- Artists are responsible for creating durable, weather-resistant work suitable for outdoor conditions.

Questions?

For inquiries, email info@spacelabdetroit.com. All questions must be submitted by **February 19, 2025**.

Join us in creating a lasting artistic legacy for this Southwest Detroit Neighborhood! We look forward to your submissions!