

Open Call: Dexter Mural Project

Deadline to apply: June 19, 2023

The City of Detroit has a vision for neighbors to feel connected to each other, to foster a sense of belonging, and have a collective say for what happens in their neighborhoods. Residents will have the opportunity to share their perspectives and bring their expertise to inform the artwork that will be created in their space, and that will provide inspiration to envision a positive future for themselves, their children, and the built environment.

The commission is being managed by City Walls Detroit in conjunction with Spacelab Detroit & The Planning & Development Department.

Vision Statements

Community Vision Statement

Dexter Avenue echoes of music reverberating through the streets, serving as a testament to its rich musical heritage. Once home to a multitude of talented musicians, this community holds a special place in the hearts of music lovers. Music notes seem to float in the air, intermingling with the sounds of various instruments and the electric energy of live performances. Dexter Avenue has a history steeped in music, known as "a place to be" for the tastemakers of yesteryears.

Within this community, vibrant spaces amplify the local talent and serve as a platform for aspiring musicians. While the allure of popular Detroit attractions like Tigers Baseball and the iconic Detroit Skyline captivate visitors, it is the hidden gems like Russell Woods, Nardin Park, Dexter-Linwood and other neighborhoods off Dexter Avenue that truly embody the soul of the city. For those seeking to explore Dexter Ave, a well-drawn map could guide the way, leading visitors to the heart of the city's cultural and artistic scene. Along with the rich artistry that has been carried this neighborhood, the residents want to uplift the profound importance of black fathers, for they are pillars of strength and guidance within their families and communities. Their presence and influence shape the lives of their children, instilling values, teaching life lessons, and nurturing their dreams.

Along Dexter Avenue, the vibrant murals should reflect the beauty of this neighborhood & draw inspiration with captivating pictures that tell stories of hope and unity. There were so many historically Black-owned businesses in this corridor where knowledge flowed freely, & it offered a sanctuary for intellectual exploration and cultural enrichment. Adorning the walls, a powerful mural should celebrate the youthful vigor and the deep connection between art and culture, boost the voices and talents of the next generation. Amidst the layers of history, this community acknowledges the healing that comes from embracing the flight of prior residents from this area and the joyous return of people who choose to live and build businesses in this neighborhood once more. As new spiritual alliances form, bridges are built, and diverse faiths

find common ground for understanding and collective growth. Dexter Avenue becomes a canvas for expressing the resilience and interconnectedness that define the neighborhood's spirit, showcasing a vibrant tapestry of stories that inspire and uplift all who walk its streets.

City of Detroit Planning & Development Department

Dexter Mural Project Vision Statement

The City of Detroit’s Planning & Development Department envisions a healthy and beautiful Detroit, built on inclusionary growth, economic opportunity, and an atmosphere of trust.

The City of Detroit City Walls program supports this vision by integrating a multifaceted approach to enhancing public space by focusing on an essential urban element: the city wall.

By simultaneously remediating commercial corridor blight and implementing eye-catching, emotion-invoking art, the City Walls program helps local artists express the personality of the neighborhood’s past, present, and future.

This beautification effort is a strategy that will undoubtedly be embedded in the fabric of the community. Reactivating existing buildings along the corridor by way of integrating cultural legacy and heritage through artistic storytelling allows for creativity to shine through thoughtful redevelopment efforts.

Mural Exhibits:

<p>13237 Dexter- Dexter Check Cashing</p> 	<p>12740 Dexter- Dexter Car Wash & Vacuum</p> 
<p>12111 Dexter- Private Owner (Barnes Community Builders Inc)</p> 	<p>11550 Dexter- Food Farm Market</p> 

The Project

Project Location Scope

City Walls Detroit has worked with the Planning & Development Department, Department of Neighborhoods, and Detroit Economic Growth Corporation to identify the 4 walls within the larger context of the corridor.

Project Schedule

- May 29, 2023: CTA Released
- June 13, 2023: Deadline for Questions
- June 19, 2023, 2022: CTA Closes
- Early/Mid July 2023: Selection Panel Meeting(s)
- Mid/Late July 2023: Artist Announced
- Late July 2023: Artist Creation

Artist Scope of Work

Artist/Artist Team Responsibilities:

- The selected artist/artist team will be required to work in collaboration with City of Detroit. Artist/artist teams should be prepared to share their personal practice with the community as this is inherently a group project.
- Artist/artist teams are responsible for:
- Conducting research to better understand the site, the project, the community's history and current culture, along with any other elements deemed helpful to their creative process
- Develop concepts and renderings for the project site
- Present concepts and refinements
- Create a final approved concept and design
- Fulfill the responsibilities within the contracted budget and timeline
- Participate in an unveiling

City Walls Detroit responsibilities:

- Coordinate reviews and permissions regarding artist selection and concept development
- Coordinate marketing, documentation, and public engagement
- Assist in the coordinating applicable permits and right of entry for install

Budget

The overall budget: \$6,000 to \$14,500 per mural depending on square footage

This budget is all-inclusive, including but not limited to artist's fees, artist's assistant costs, artist's studio costs, materials and supplies, installation, specify consultants, and community engagement participation.

Artist Selection Process

Eligibility

We are seeking artists or artist teams who can make a commitment to working in Detroit as necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of this project. Any artist or artist team is encouraged to apply.

Process

This will be an open call. Qualifications, portfolios, and statements will be solicited by City Walls Detroit. City Walls Detroit and the selection panel will review the artist submission and identify one artist/artist team per project to be selected for the project.

There is a total of 4 projects available.

Selection Criteria

Winning artists/artist team will be selected based on the selection panel's evaluation of the following criteria:

- 30pts Experience in creating permanent, durable, outdoor public artwork
- 30pts Ability to accomplish projects of a similar complexity within the budget, timeline, and technical constraints presented, based on examples of prior works
- 10pts Experience in community engaged art process and research
- 10pts Artist Statement
- 10pts Detroit Based Artist
- 10pts Preliminary Sketches

The Selection panel consists of 1 member from each category below:

- Planning & Development Department (West Region)
- Department of Neighborhoods
- City Walls: Bethany Howard
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member

- Community Member

Application

Along with completing the online form, interested artist/artist team should submit:

- A project brief page including the name(s) and contact information
- A CV or resume for each artist (1 page per artist)
- Up to 3 images of past work you consider relevant to this project
- Up to 3 images of preliminary designs for the project
 - Digital images must be JPEG files
 - Each image must be unlocked and downloadable for viewing
 - Upload 1 sheet with the following information per image
 - Image name
 - Title of artwork
 - Location
 - Date of completion
 - Budget, medium, and dimensions
 - Up to 4 sentences of project description
 - 2 references of previous public art clients

Questions can be submitted to citywalls@detroitmi.gov