



CALL FOR ARTISTS

Request for Qualifications - Muralists

CALL ISSUE DATE: October 15, 2025

CALL DEADLINE: Ongoing

The City of Milpitas invites qualified muralists to submit their qualifications to be considered for various mural projects as part of its Mural Program. The program typically produces four murals per year, with at least one mural being painted by a Milpitas resident.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Milpitas is in Silicon Valley, along the eastern foothills between Fremont and San Jose, on what was Muwekma Ohlone land, prior to the arrival of Spanish rancheros. A small agricultural community and crossroads rest stop for travelers, Milpitas' character changed rapidly in the 1950s when a Ford Motor Assembly Plant opened (now the site of the Great Mall). Not only did the auto plant fuel Milpitas' growth through the late 1950s to 1970s, it also helped cement Milpitas' reputation as a socially progressive community after its union workers successfully convinced the City to allow the first planned racially integrated housing development in the country.

Milpitas is now one of the fastest growing cities in California and one of the most ethnically diverse, but its residents remain proud of its welcoming, small-town vibe. Milpitas is a home to advanced manufacturing and technology corporations, including the semiconductor firm KLA-Tencor, cybersecurity firm FireEye, and electronics manufacturer Flex Ltd. Milpitas is in the process of revitalizing its Main Street District and developing the Milpitas Metro district, a neighborhood of modern, high-density housing and retail within walking distance of a transit hub that includes a new BART station.

Additional information about Milpitas diversity is available on the [US Census website](#).

ANTICIPATED PROJECTS:

The Milpitas City Council has a great interest in using mural art to beautify the City. Murals could range in size from very small projects on utility boxes to very large projects coordinated with other public agencies. They could be on City-owned property or in partnership with private property owners. Members of the public are invited to nominate mural sites for consideration. Proposed sites are evaluated by the Arts Commission and recommended for City Council approval.

The Milpitas Arts Commission will review qualifications this fall with the goal of developing an extensive portfolio of prequalified muralists. The Arts Commission has expressed interest in prequalifying muralists of diverse cultural backgrounds, artistic styles and experience levels, to provide potential artists for projects of all sizes and budget levels.

Some projects may request or require artists to involve the public in their project design or painting.

PREQUALIFICATION PROCESS:

City Staff will review applications for completeness. The Arts Commission will begin reviewing applications at its November meeting and will complete the prequalifying muralists list in January. Prequalified artists will remain on the list for three years.

Prequalified muralists may be invited to submit a design idea for a specific mural and receive a stipend. Details will be provided if/when a muralist is short-listed for a specific project.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:

Qualifications shall be submitted electronically via the City form:
bit.ly/milpitas-mural-apply

Submissions will not be accepted through any other method.

YOUR CITY OF MILPITAS CONTACT PERSON:

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