



Special Service Area #33

Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce

1414 N Ashland Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60622

(773) 384-2672

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: MURAL @ 1414 N ASHLAND AVE & NEIGHBORHOOD BANNER DESIGN**

Wicker Park Bucktown Special Service Area #33 is seeking qualifications and proposals for a mural to be painted on a high visibility wall at 1414 N Ashland Ave in the WPB neighborhood. Additionally, the central design of the mural will be repurposed on SSA #33 Neighborhood Banners that adorn light posts at the entrances of the Wicker Park Bucktown neighborhood. The mural should be appealing and accessible to a broad public audience and contribute to the Wicker Park Bucktown community's artistic legacy and independent business culture. As a location with high pedestrian traffic and potential for vandalism, proposed murals should be thoughtful in how they engage the site.

### **Project Description**

The Arts Committee of WPB SSA #33 is searching for mural proposals from local artists for the north-facing wall of the Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce Office at 1414 N Ashland Ave. The mural initiative serves multiple objectives of the updated WPB Master Plan's Arts + Culture chapter as noted below.

- Support Chicago artists.
- Incorporate art into corridors and streetscapes.
- Expand creative policies and financial opportunities to support arts in WPB.

**The mural should primarily focus on imagery that reminds viewers of the Wicker Park Bucktown neighborhood, with the central theme of the piece being "Shop Local, Stay Local." The mural should prominently display the written phrase "Shop Local, Stay Local" within the imagery of the piece. The style and font of the phrase "Shop Local, Stay Local" on the mural will also be digitally resized and printed on thirty-four (34) SSA #33 Neighborhood Banners (30" x 72") and the design of the phrase should consider those dimensions as well.** This mural will become a highly visible part of our neighborhood fabric and as the host property, we have agreed to maintain and keep the mural for the foreseeable future. The completed mural will be photographed and included in our WPB mural archive and database and the City of Chicago's Mural Registry. The new artwork will join past murals by other renowned artists such as Hebru Brantley, Czar Prz, Ali Six, Lisa Wronski, and Frank Quintero, as well as numerous public sculptures.

### **Mural Site & Location**

We are currently seeking mural proposals and designs for the **north wall of 1414 N Ashland Ave** (Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce Office), along the Beach Ave sidewalk. Scale is flexible but should

not be above the feasible scope of the allocated budget and stipend and **should not exceed the area designated by the red frame (16' x 12')** in the accompanying rendering. The wall will be equipped with a 16' x 12' wooden frame, attached to the historic brick of the building, so as to avoid degradation of the brick.

The banners that will be adorned with printed versions of the selected mural's key written phrase "Shop local, Stay Local" can be found at the following locations:

1. Ashland, north of Wabansia
2. Ashland, south of Division
3. North Ave, east of Ashland
4. North Ave, just east of Western
5. Milwaukee, south of Western
6. Division, east of Ashland
7. Milwaukee, south of Division but before Haddon
8. Division, east of Western
9. Western, south of Fullerton
10. Western, north of Division
11. Damen, at Webster
12. Damen, north of Schiller
13. 2 banners at the intersection of Damen and Division (on Damen)
14. NE corner of the intersection of Ashland and Milwaukee
15. 6-8 at the intersection of Milwaukee, North and Damen

Please see bottom/end of this RFP for a large rendering and additional site images, along with renderings of the SSA #33 Neighborhood Banners. These photos may be used by the artist to help create their mural design and proposal. Please email [luke@wickerparkbucktown.com](mailto:luke@wickerparkbucktown.com) to request additional information or larger format images if needed.

### **Budget**

Selected mural artist will receive a stipend of **up to \$8,000**, to be approved at the committee's discretion based on scale, labor, and equipment factors. Stipends will be distributed in two installments, the first 80% to be paid upon project initiation and the remaining 20% upon completion of the artwork. The stipend is intended to cover all costs of the project, including materials, equipment rentals, and artist fee. Unforeseeable circumstances aside, murals not completed in an appropriately timely fashion or according to approved proposals may receive reduced payment. Unfinished murals are ineligible for complete payment and artists may possibly be barred from participation in or receiving funding as part of any future SSA #33 arts programs.

### **Artist Requirements**

Artists will be responsible for securing any and all permits and equipment necessary for completion of the artwork. These expenses should be noted in the proposed budget submitted with the application. All necessary labor must be secured by the artist. Murals cannot require structural alterations to the hosting property and should not cause any damage. Selected artists should have reliable experience and demonstrate a sound ability to take on public art projects from initiation through to completion.

**Proposal Details, Deadline, and Requirements**

To be considered, artists should submit the following as a **single PDF** or similar file **no later than 5:00pm on MONDAY, MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>**:

- Brief description of the mural project and plan of execution (approximately 250 words)
- Accurate and legible drawings and/or digital renderings of the proposed work
- An isolated drawing and/or digital rendering of the written phrase “Shop Local, Stay Local”
- Approximate size and scale of the mural with any flexibility considered and noted
- Three to five examples of previous and similar work
- Stipend request (not to exceed \$8,000) and estimated, itemized budget expenditures
- Plan and timeline for project completion
- Any special requests and/or concerns should be articulated in the proposal

Complete proposals should be emailed to [SSA33@wickerparkbucktown.com](mailto:SSA33@wickerparkbucktown.com) with the subject line “1414 N Ashland Ave Mural Proposal.”

*Please contact Luke Scaletta, the SSA #33 Community Engagement Coordinator, at [luke@wickerparkbucktown.com](mailto:luke@wickerparkbucktown.com) with any questions or concerns or to confirm receipt of your proposal.*





Neighborhood Banner Rendering

Dimensions: 30" x 72"

