

A photograph of the Harry F. Abate Elementary School building, a dark brick structure with the school's name in white lettering. The photo is partially obscured by a diagonal grey overlay.A smaller version of the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area logo, featuring the blue square with the white stylized falls graphic.

**Niagara Falls
National Heritage Area**

Heritage Arts Program

ally@discoverniagara.org

The logo for the Niagara Falls City School District, featuring a white diamond shape with a stylized open book inside.

Niagara Falls City School District
Learning For ALL...Whatever It Takes

Sculptural Art Mural at Abate Elementary

Niagara Falls, NY

Request for Qualifications

Issued: January 8th, 2024

Issued by: Niagara Falls National Heritage Area

Deadline: February 19th, 2024



Project Overview

The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area (NFNHA) is issuing this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the design and creation of a sculptural mural at Abate Elementary, 1625 Lockport Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305. The budget for this project is **\$40,000.00 - \$60,000.00**, to be inclusive of all costs. The target install deadline is **May 31st, 2024**.

The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area preserves, protects, and promotes historic, natural, and cultural resources in an 11-mile expanse that stretches from Niagara Falls State Park in Niagara Falls, NY to Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown, NY. The NFNHA is one of 62 Congressionally designated National Heritage Areas within the National Park Service where natural, cultural and historic resources combine to form a nationally important landscape. The NFNHA tells these nationally-important stories that celebrate the diverse heritage of Niagara Falls.

At the heart of all NFNHA projects is community engagement and collaboration. Over the course of over 30 public art projects over the past five years, the NFNHA has created an inclusive process that prioritizes the input and feedback of community members, particularly in the Highland Community, where the majority of these projects are located. The process employed by the NFNHA offers community input and feedback at each step of the project, from the creation of subject matter and themes, to the selection of the artist, to the proposed designs themselves.

Public art projects foster pride in communities, assist with neighborhood revitalization, and build appreciation for our community, culture, and heritage. The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area has fostered deep relationships within the community, and has proven experience implementing public art projects, including the murals at Main & Depot and along Main Street. The NFNHA will administer this project and work with the community to create a story that reflects the Niagara Falls community.



Photograph courtesy of Alana Adetola Art Photography



Mural Specifics

The sculptural mural will be located in the playground of Abate Elementary. This location is visible from a main throughfare through Niagara Falls, sees a significant amount of foot traffic each day, and has a large population of students, staff, and families who utilize the area on a daily basis.

The wall is approximately 35' x 35', made of brick, and is in relatively good condition. The mural must be installed over top of the brick, and attached through a mounting and bracketing system. Sculptural elements and/or three-dimensional elements are encouraged for consideration.



Mural Dimensions: 35 ft. x 35 ft.



Goals

The NFNHA is seeking a sculptural mural that will celebrate the diversity and vitality of the students of Abate Elementary, as well as the enduring legacy of the surrounding neighborhood. Our goal is to create a dynamic and engaging sculptural mural that incorporates tactile elements, such as the use of ceramics, foam, metal casting, enamel, and more. Specifically, the mural should:

- Create a sculptural public art mural for the playground area at Abate Elementary in the North End of Niagara Falls that celebrates the diversity and vitality of the students and surrounding neighborhood.
- The mural should be relevant to the students, staff, and families who are connected to Abate Elementary, and should reflect stakeholder input in the creation of the mural.
 - The successful artist will be given data from community engagement sessions with students, staff, and other staff holders to assist with this task.
- The mural should reflect the vision of the Niagara Falls City School District: “educating all students for life.”
- The mural should complement the playground area, creating a dynamic, tactile, and engaging play space for students.

Eligibility Criteria

Qualifications for the sculptural mural, located in the Abate Elementary playground, will be reviewed by team members from Abate Elementary and the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area.

Applicants will be judged by the eligibility criteria listed below:

- Complete application submitted by the proposal deadline.
- The submitted application demonstrates evidence of professional competence.
- Eligible artists should have a record of successfully completed permanent and/or temporary public art commissions in public and/or private development.
- Creative approach to the proposed mural concept that is reflective of Abate Elementary’s mission, vision, and the listed project goals.
- Contracted artist is required to be flexible, accountable and work collaboratively with the NFNHA teams.



Proposal Requirements

- 1.) Artist Statement, that outlines your interests, describes your art practice, provides a summary of your professional experience as an artist, and addresses how that experience may qualify you for public art commissions.
- 2.) Current Resume, including public art commission, exhibition, and publication history. Links to online portfolios are encouraged.
- 3.) Images of previous work, including most recent commissions and realized projects. Please submit only successfully completed projects or renderings for projects that are in process.
- 4.) Statement of Intent, that outlines a proposed approach to this project.
- 5.) Project Budget, including artist fee, supplies, travel, insurance, and any other requirements.
- 6.) Proposed Timeline, that includes revisions, preparation of mural space, installation of mural, and any additional work needed.

Deadline and Budget

Applications will be accepted between **January 8th, 2023** and **February 19th, 2024**. Applicants will be notified following the deadline whether or not they have been accepted for the project. **The mural project must be completed by May 31st, 2024.**

The budget for this project is **\$40,000.00 - \$60,000.00**, to be inclusive of all costs. Applicants should detail the use of funds in the budget section of their proposal.



Proposal Submission

Applicants should submit their application materials to Ally Spongr, NFNHA Director of Public Art, at ally@discoverniagara.org by the deadline of **February 19th, 2024**. For additional information, please visit discoverniagara.org.