



Request for Proposals: Mural Project – Downtown Burlington, Iowa

Project: 750 sq. ft. Retaining Wall Mural 400 Block of Jefferson Street

Location: 400 Block Jefferson Street, Downtown Burlington, Iowa

Artist Fee: \$3000 Downtown Partners, Inc. will supply the paint and all permits

Deadline for Submission: 11:59 PM, June 15, 2026

Overview

Downtown Burlington, Iowa, is seeking proposals from artists to create a mural on a new retaining wall located in the heart of downtown. This wall is part of a streetscape enhancement project and is visible from the street. While the wall will not be a space for direct interaction, the mural is intended to serve as a subtle, beautiful backdrop that enhances the downtown environment.

The selected mural design should reflect themes of **nature, prairie grass, and the legacy of Aldo Leopold**, an important figure in conservation whose influence has strong roots in Burlington.

Project Description

- **Wall Size:** Approximately 750 square feet (final dimensions to be confirmed)
Rough width and height still needed
- **Location Context:** The retaining wall sits between side street parking and the sidewalk in front of downtown buildings. It is primarily a visual backdrop; pedestrian access directly in front of the wall is limited. Tables and seating will be added above the mural on the sidewalk in the future.
- **Design Intent:** We are seeking a design that is subtle yet visually engaging, incorporating natural elements that reflect the local prairie landscape and nods to Aldo Leopold's conservation legacy. The mural should complement the downtown aesthetic while elevating the streetscape.

Artist Eligibility & Selection

- Open to all artists. Priority consideration will be given to those with a connection to Burlington, Iowa and/or an understanding or interpretation of Aldo Leopold's work and

philosophy.

- **Selection Panel:** Composed of representatives from Downtown Partners, the Downtown Design Committee, Local Artists, City of Burlington Parks & Rec and the Des Moines County Conservation Board.

Submission Requirements

Please submit the following via email to Amy Moyner at amoyner@greaterburlington.com with the subject line: “**400 Block Mural Proposal**”

1. **Design Concept:** A description of your proposed mural, including how it reflects the themes of nature, prairie grass, and Aldo Leopold.
2. **Portfolio:** Up to 5 images of previous work representative of your style. You may also include links to your portfolio, resume, or website (optional).
3. **Artist Statement:** A brief statement outlining your artistic approach and experience.

Timeline

- **Submission Deadline:** June 15, 2026, 11:59 PM
- **Artist Selection:** July 1, 2006
- **Project Start:** Summer 2026
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- **Expected Completion Date:** October 2026

Compensation

The selected artist will receive a stipend of \$3000 for the completion of the mural, including all materials and installation. Downtown Partners, Inc. will be responsible for paint, permits

Contact

For questions or additional information, contact:

Amy Moyner

amoyner@greaterburlington.com

319-752-6365

Wall for Mural in 2 sections:





Quick Concept: Prairie Grass/Pollinators

