



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 700 BLOCK of MURA STREET PUBLIC ART DESIGN

Background

ReBUILD Metro, Inc. seeks proposals from qualified local artists that specialize in public and placemaking art murals and art in the right of way (ROW) to lead a collaborative community-based planning process for a street art installation and traffic calming project on the 700 block of Mura Street in Johnston Square that will result in a final design. ReBUILD is working with ReBUILD Johnston Square Neighborhood Organization (RJSNO) on Mura Street to redevelop 18 abandoned rowhouses into new, high-quality homes, in addition to supporting and engaging the legacy residents on this block.

ReBUILD works directly with community leaders in East Baltimore to identify common issues that impact the health, welfare, and sustainability of the communities we serve. As we rebuild abandoned properties into new homes, we provide technical and planning support for community-led initiatives that enhance the surrounding communities for new and legacy residents alike. We seek partners who participate with us and residents in both the planning and implementation of projects prioritized by local communities that adhere to the following site criteria, guiding principles, and community outreach protocols.

Site Location

The 700 block of Mura Street is a one-way southbound street between Homewood and Greenmount Ave. The block is approximately 400 feet in length. In addition to asphalt art on the roadway and/or at intersections, there are opportunities for murals on walls of several of the ReBUILD Metro owned properties on the block. The planning process will determine a more refined location based on resident feedback. See Exhibit A for street location and redevelopment plan.

Guiding Principles

The following principles guide the content of our public art and placemaking installations.

- *Beautification*: The project will add color, beauty, and positive imagery to the neighborhood.
- *Community Stewardship*: The project will offer residents both new and old an opportunity to help forge, showcase, and reflect the cultural identity and shared history of the neighborhood, increasing their collective sense of ownership in their growing community.
- *Community Messaging*: The project will empower residents, community members, and partnering organizations to send a community-crafted message to fellow neighbors and visitors that their community is a place of growth, positivity, and sustainability.
- *Traffic Calming*: The project will ensure that vehicles are traveling through this portion of the neighborhood at an appropriate speed to increase safety for pedestrians.

Community Outreach

ReBUILD believes that community engagement is critical during each step of the planning, design, and installation process. We will ask artists with whom we partner to participate in community meetings; to provide surveys to refine aesthetics, themes, and values of the art they are designing; to provide draft options for community review; and to present final concepts to community members for approval.



Once selected, the artist and ReBUILD Johnston Square Neighborhood Organization will finalize and implement a community engagement plan that will involve the following three community planning workshops (each workshop will be incorporated into RJSNO's monthly meetings, which are typically attended by 25-35 community residents).

- Workshop 1: Introduction to the project and initial survey on priority locations, general aesthetic, and type of art.
- Workshop 2: The artist will present an initial rendering to community members and explain how it incorporates the discussed themes, visions, and values.
- Workshop 3: The artist will present the revised rendering to community members to seek/receive full approval.

Application Requirements

If you are interested in partnering with ReBUILD Metro to increase placemaking and public art on the 700 block of Mura Street in East Baltimore, please submit an application packet that includes the following information:

- Artist Contact information (Name, Address, Email, Telephone)
- CV or Resume
- Description of previous public and placemaking art mural and art in the right of way installations, including color digital images of previous relevant work with annotated image descriptions. JPEG format preferred for previous artwork samples. (Please label: Last name, First name; maximum 5 work samples).
- A short description of community engagement tools and methods used on past projects.
- Budget for community engagement workshops and final concept design.

Please submit your application no later than Wednesday, April 30, 2025 to Phaedra Stewart at pstewart@rebuildmetro.com.

Artist Selection

Artists who submit RFPs will be selected by a steering committee that includes representation from ReBUILD Metro, ReBUILD Johnston Square Neighborhood Organization leadership, and at least one legacy resident on the 700 block of Mura Street. Responses will be provided to artists within four (4) weeks of the submission of an RFQ.

Once artists have been selected, ReBUILD will hold an introductory meeting with the selected artist that will include a community tour and introductions to RJSNO leaders.

Contact Information

For more information or questions, please contact Phaedra Stewart at pstewart@rebuildmetro.com.

Exhibit A

