



Albany County Public Library Foundation

Library Mural/Public Art Installation Project

The Albany County Public Library Foundation and Albany County Public Library are interested in working with a local, Albany County artist to develop a new mural or public art installation for the Children's Area. The purpose of the work will be to beautify the Children's Area and to bring the library community together in celebration of the arrival of the Maurice Sendak Memorial Exhibition. However, the mural will be displayed beyond the temporary exhibit so designs from interested applicants need not be directly tied to Maurice Sendak.

Maurice Sendak Memorial Exhibition: The Maurice Sendak Memorial Exhibition "50 Years, 50 Works, 50 Reasons" was created in memory of the late children's author and illustrator Maurice Sendak. Sendak is best known for his book "Where the Wild Things Are." He is also known for his book "Chicken Soup with Rice" and his illustrations for the "Little Bear" series. Additionally, he designed opera sets. More information about Sendak can be found here: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/09/books/maurice-sendak-childrens-author-dies-at-83.html?_r=0.

The memorial exhibition will be at the public library from May 27 to July 9. The exhibit will have a focus on "Where the Wild Things Are," but will also show at least 50 of Sendak's original works. More information about the exhibit can be found here: <http://sendakexhibition.com/about/>.

Current Mural Background: The current mural in the Children's Area is dated because of several of the book characters used in the mural. Using popular children's characters that will eventually become less well know is an issue the library would like to avoid. The current mural was painted in 2007.



Current mural in the Children's Area.

The Children's Area is used by families and daycare groups. We desire this space to be interactive, cozy and expressive to encourage a playful and imaginary environment.

New Mural Information: The new mural will be used as a way to attract interest and increase excitement within the library. Sendak's work was imaginative and mythical so this may be a good path for the new mural or installation. The library has a large folio of Sendak's work that could be used by artists to brainstorm ideas. Primarily, the library would like to see a piece that would make the Children's Area more interesting, and one that would be relevant to audiences for years to come. In addition, because the mural will be in the Children's Area the mural must be durable and appropriate for all ages.

The ACPL Foundation is interested in the project being interactive in some way with the community. We are open to suggestions from artists on the best way to accomplish this. Preference will be given to artists interested in speaking engagements, hands on programming and exploring additional spaces in the Children's Area that could be incorporated as part of the installation. Collaborations are encouraged.

Mural Dimensions: The mural wall is 13' wide by 6'2.5" high. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the space prior to submitting a response to experience its true dimensions. The library is located at 310 S. 8th Street, Laramie, Wyoming and is open 10 am to 8 pm Tuesday – Thursday, 1 to 5 pm Friday, Saturday and Monday. The library is closed on Sunday.

Timeline: Proposals (resume, cover letter and samples of work) are due January 13, 2017 with committee review January 17. Semi-finalists will be notified by January 20 and will receive \$150 each for concept development and design. Semi-finalist concept proposals are due February 17 with artist presentations to the selection committee on February 24. A finalist will be notified on February 27 with installation completed by April 28, 2017.

Budget: Artist(s) stipend and material budget is dependent on the size and scope of the final design. Payment will be made by the ACPL Foundation.

To apply: Send a letter of interest of no more than one page in length that addresses your interest in the project; a current resume; no more than 10 images of previous work (digital images are preferred); an image list with artist name, title, date medium, size; an estimated budget for your concept design; at least three professional references; and your contact details. You may opt to include up to three examples of support materials such as reviews, news articles and other related information.

Drop off or mail all qualification materials on a jump drive by 4 pm on January 13, 2017 to:

Caitlin White, Executive Director
Albany County Public Library Foundation
310 S. 8th Street,
Laramie, WY 82070

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Project Manager, Trey Sherwood at 307-760-3355 or downtownlaramie@gmail.com

This call is co-sponsored by the Laramie Mural Project and Laramie Main Street Alliance.