



“Highlight the Good” Mural Project at Thanks-Giving Square

Sponsored by The Thanks-Giving Foundation, with support from the Jean Baptiste “Tad” Adoue III Fund at The Dallas Foundation

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Deadline to Submit: Sunday, August 31, 2019

Artist Fees: \$10,000 (including materials, supplies, tools, etc)

Installation Date: November 1, 2019 (latest start date) through November 15, 2019 (latest completion date)

Contact: Kyle Ogden, President and CEO of The Thanks-Giving Foundation
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The Thanks-Giving Foundation (TTGF) is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to artists/artist teams interested in creating an original work of art on one wall at Thanks-Giving Square in downtown Dallas. A temporary art wall will be constructed to cover an existing concrete wall on the western end of Thanks-Giving Square. TTGF is requesting that artists interested in creating work for this space submit their proposal of interest. The selected artist(s) will create work on-site and on the provided wall. At the end of the installation, the art piece will be owned and managed by TTGF. This includes, but is not limited to, full rights to sell, give or share the art piece as determined in the sole discretion of TTGF.

ABOUT THE THANKS-GIVING FOUNDATION AND THANKS-GIVING SQUARE

Overview

We are The Thanks-Giving Foundation, and our founders have imagined and constructed Thanks-Giving Square, the architecturally significant and spiritually important soul of the community, in the heart of downtown Dallas. Anchored in The Square, we (TTGF) make North Texas a better place to live, work and play by educating, inspiring and moving its people towards becoming the City of Thanks-Giving. We are advocates and facilitators of personal transformation by means of individuals embracing gratitude, virtue and goodwill. Those transformed people form our transformed community.

Beliefs and Purpose

We BELIEVE, that by increasing the presence of GRATITUDE in people's daily lives, we can promote understanding and create a common ground for harmony. A harmony that resonates on multiple dimensions including being at harmony with others, with our community, and with ourselves. Gratitude can guide us to that place of harmony.

We BELIEVE that an individual that strives to live a life of VIRTUE will find happiness and contentment in their virtuous journey. Furthermore, virtuous people will necessarily advocate for public and civic virtue within the body politic and will consequently improve the communities in which they live. Living within this framework, citizens will willingly exercise reasoned self-restraint, compassion, and decency, will find political compromise, and will set aside private interest for the good of society.

We BELIEVE that people of differences that reason together in a spirit of GOODWILL will resolve to a reasonable compromise. Goodwill is the basic component of "good people"...those with clean motives, and those who possess a lack of prejudice, cruelty and viciousness. Our neighbors and neighborhoods prosper in the presence of people of goodwill.

Our PURPOSE is to bring together diverse people on the common ground of gratitude.

Thanks-Giving Square

Thanks-Giving Square has been a magnificent and important part of downtown Dallas for over 40 years. The Square was imagined by Peter Stewart and three forward-thinking businessmen. Centered around the virtue of gratitude, the men employed one of the most influential architects/designers of the day, Philip Johnson, and set out to create a monument that would be to gratitude what the Statue of Liberty is to freedom. Johnson designed the sunken garden as a place of escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life, with extensive use of flowing water to muffle city noise and facilitate an atmosphere ripe for contemplation. He then punctuated the site with a bell tower at the western entrance. A beautiful mosaic of Norman Rockwell's famous "Golden Rule" painting, crafted in Italy by world class artists, was added nearby. To the east, a spiraling structure was constructed of an innovative blend of marble and cement, with the Hall of Thanksgiving accessed from the garden level. In the Hall, a display that tells the story of thanksgiving gives way to event and meeting space. On the upper level, and accessed by a bridge spanning the width of the grounds, is the star attraction...the Chapel of Thanksgiving. Inside, passing beneath the etched glass dove provided by English artist John Hutton, one finds the Glory Window...French artisan Gabriel Loire's masterpiece stained glass window that transports the soul from earth upwards to the heavens. In May 2015, The Huffington Post identified the Chapel as having one of the most stunning stained glass windows in the world. The June 2018 issue of Southern Living listed the Chapel of Thanksgiving, along with three others, as the "South's Most Beautiful Chapels".

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Project Description

The Thanks-Giving Foundation (TTGF) will construct a large artist's canvas on the wall at the western end of Thanks-Giving Square, reaching from just east of the "Golden Rule" mosaic to the end of the wall, and being roughly 55' wide by 12' tall. On this wall, we will commission a mural to be painted by local artists. The selection of artists will follow a proposal phase whereby the artist community will be invited to submit ideas to an Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will consist of leaders of The Thanks-Giving Foundation plus a culturally diverse group of artists and creatives. The Selection Committee will provide guidance as needed. Any themes considered will uphold the wholesome values of The Thanks-Giving Foundation, will have an element of diversity and inclusion, and will "Highlight the Good." The project will provide excitement for the community, will reinforce the role of The Thanks-Giving Foundation as an important contributor to the Dallas arts scene, and will drive traffic to the Square, neighboring businesses, and the downtown district. We expect the display to remain at least six months to one year, at which point we will either rotate to another round of artistic interpretations, or possibly de-install the project in favor of new priorities.

Desired Outcomes

Goal 1: We seek to bring a new group of visitors to Thanks-Giving Square.

Goal 2: We seek to reshape the image of Thanks-Giving Square from an idle green space to a vibrant, alive destination for those seeking thought provoking engagement.

Goal 3: We seek to awaken the younger element of the community to the tremendous resource for good that is Thanks-Giving Square. The intent of this project is to transform space and engage the public through a new place-based work. Artists are asked to propose projects that will be fully unveiled on or before November 15, 2019. The installation will be on display to the public for six to twelve months or more as determined at the sole discretion of TTGF. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to work in a space of community importance, high visibility and to engage the city and neighborhood in your work.

THEME

The theme for the project is "Highlight the Good," which emphasizes benefits that result from the diverse cultural makeup of our community. We expect to select a positive piece that celebrates the best in humankind. The artist is expected to interpret and express the theme in the art. It is important to consider that the new piece to be created will live alongside a large (~8' x 8') depiction of Norman Rockwell's "Golden Rule" painting, one of the most important artistic statements on diversity ever expressed.

The selected artist will be expected to work collaboratively with TTGF to approve the final design of the public artwork. The artist will be responsible for designing and creating the work. TTGF will be responsible for constructing and installing the art surface. The selection panel will be open to a wide range of ideas, but there are several fundamental aims of the project that the selected artist/artist teams should keep in mind while designing artwork for the site. These include the importance of:

- Conformance to the values of TTGF; nothing crude or vulgar will be permitted
- Profound expression of the theme
- Artistic and aesthetic merit of the work
- Likelihood to generate public interest and thus traffic to view the piece
- Artwork must be appropriate and responsive to the pedestrian-oriented streetscape environment
- Low degree of maintenance of the work

BUDGET

The budget available for artwork (inclusive of artist fee, project design, all materials and supplies, drawings, and documentation) is \$10,000. TTGF will provide and install the art wall surface. Upon artist selection, TTGF will fund \$2,500, with the remaining \$7,500 to be funded upon the timely completion of the project. TTGF may, at its sole discretion, reduce the artist fee (but not below the \$2,500 initially funded) if the artist fails to complete the project by the agreed upon completion date.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Eligible artists must be 18 years or older and reside within 20 miles of Dallas. Please note: the selected artist/artist team must be available to begin design work immediately (Summer 2019).

DIMENSIONS AND PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Art Wall Surface

The art wall will consist of an approximately 55' Wide x 12' High paintable surface (surface of exterior wood or concrete material TBD). The wall is only viewable from a single side once installed. The artist/artist teams may propose a single piece or a series of pieces to cover the allotted space.

Paint and Other Materials

Please note that the wall will be installed outdoors. The paint selected must be a premium non-fading product able to weather the elements and direct sunlight for twelve months. The piece must be covered by an anti-graffiti coating to protect the art. Proposed paint and coating type, brand and source must be included with the RFP, and is subject to approval by TTGF.

PUBLICITY SUPPORT

TTGF will promote the artist on its social media, media releases, and public efforts. Selected artists are expected to be cooperative in publicity and media opportunities.

RFP REQUIREMENTS

All RFP submissions must include;

- Drawing(s) or painting(s) of the proposed art piece
- Specifications, descriptions and sourcing of primers, paints and coating to be used
- Proposed production timeline
- Certificate of insurance

ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must possess the following qualifications and qualities:

- Artists must reside within 20 miles of Dallas city limits.
- It is preferred but not required that the artist/artist team represent ethnic/cultural diversity.
- Ability to work collaboratively with other design professionals, stakeholders and staff.
- Experience working with durable materials specific to the outdoor environment.
- Ability to understand a locale's sense of place, and design in a context-sensitive manner.
- Have demonstrated successful creative, innovative and effective approach in comparable projects.
- Possess a proven mastery or skill in at least one artistic medium.
- Insurance coverage sufficient to protect TTGF and all other constituents in TTGF's sole discretion.

Selection will be based on:

- Description of the project you would like to undertake, including how the project represents and interprets the theme;
- The quality of your work, as demonstrated by your visual materials;
- Suitability for the proposed piece to be exhibited alongside the "Golden Rule" Mosaic;

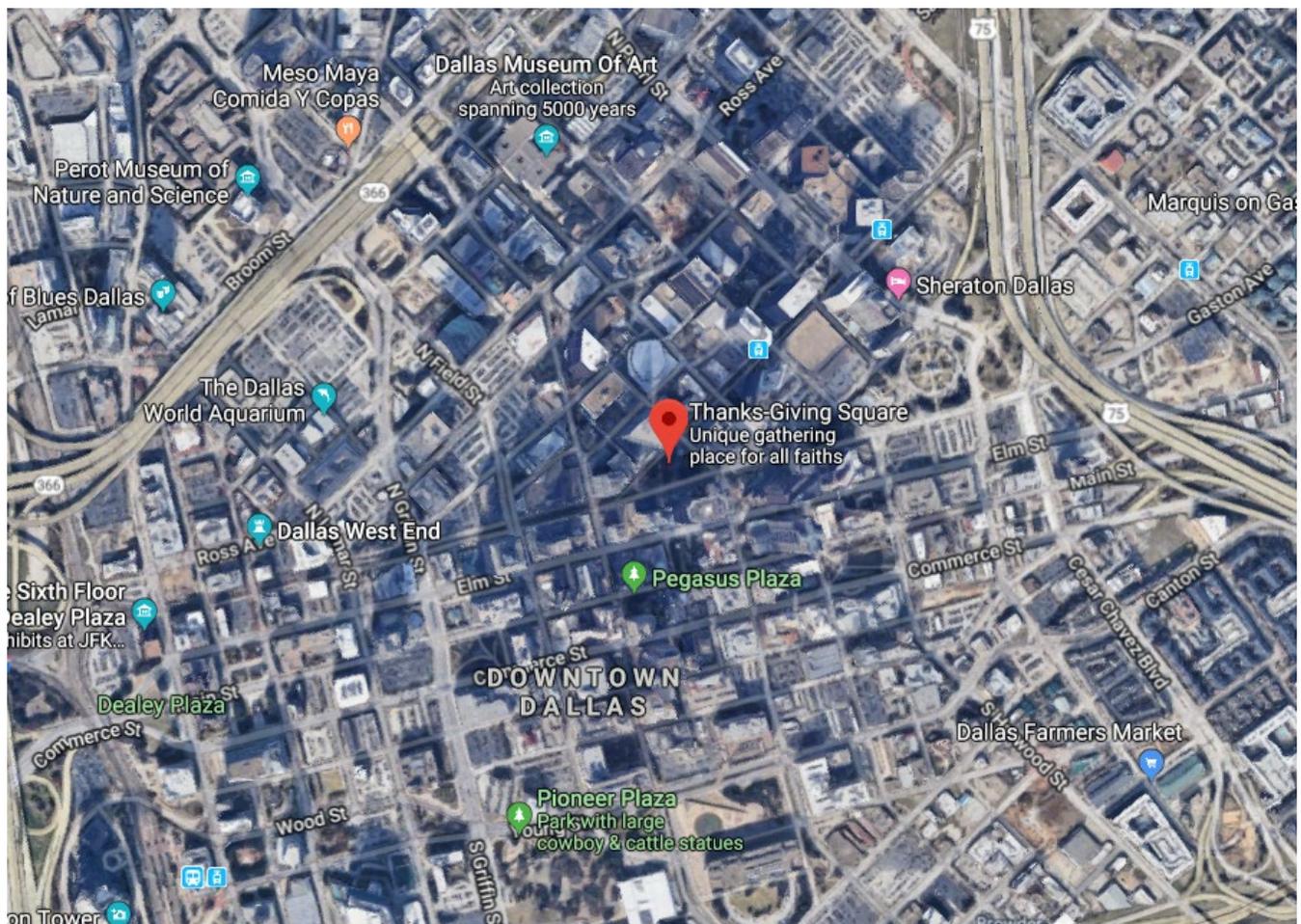
- Past successful creative, innovative and effective projects;
- The relativity between your project, the site and the chosen category; and
- Your ability to meet the requirements and timing of the proposed project with the budget allocated (\$10,000).

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel for this project will consist of an oversight committee constituted by TTGF for the purpose of overseeing this project. The selection panel will review the submissions and select the artists for commission. The artists will work closely with the committee to finalize design. Once approved, the artists will proceed with creating the art.

*New works commissioned by The Thanks-Giving Foundation require that The Thank-Giving Foundation be listed as the commissioning organization. TTGF reserves the right to append certain identification, marketing and sponsor information to the art piece.

MAP AND IMAGE OF PROPOSED MURAL SITE





Additional site reference photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9eb1p8du81az3ed/AABNaoZuHgAnK1e8Dc1wREHba?dl=0>