

# Call for Artist Proposals

## Federal Hill Murals

Submissions Due February 15, 2022



### **Project Description & Goals:**

The Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network seeks to commission a professional visual artist, or artist team, to complete two murals on Federal Hill in Erie, Pennsylvania. In conjunction with local business owners, SSJNN has identified two “blank canvases” on the exterior of buildings located at the West 26th and Peach streets intersection. Artist(s) may respond to this call by proposing to complete one, two, or all of the murals.

### **The Mural Sites:**

1. The Hoffman Building at 2525 Peach Street
2. Ink Assassins Tattoos & Piercing at 2601 Peach Street

Throughout the region’s history, the neighborhood at the intersection of 26th and Peach Streets has been known as “South Erie,” the “South Hill”, “Federal Hill” and “Eagle Village.” Federal Hill was once a thriving commercial district in the city of Erie which has suffered from disinvestment and neglect in recent decades. That is, until recently, when several property and business owners determined this historically independent shopping district was a prime location for eclectic shops, service businesses and residences. After organizing district-wide “shop small” and “shop local” events, SSJNN was asked to assist in the development of the district.

The district is defined as 19th Street on the north to Hill Street (just south of 26th Street) on the south, and from State Street on the east to Myrtle Street on the west. It should be noted that Peach Street is the major thoroughfare through the district. As a key gateway into Downtown Erie, enhancing this district benefits not only Federal Hill business and property owners, but also visitors, employees, and shoppers, heading to Downtown Erie. The placement of these murals will be seen by all who enter the district.

The completion of this project will symbolize the ongoing participation of the SSJNN in the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority’s (ECGRA) *Mission Main Street* grant program. ECGRA’s mission, in part, is “To reinvigorate neighborhoods and main corridors, boost buy-local efforts, and combat blight.” Specifically, the goal of ECGRA’s *Mission Main Street* funding stream is to revitalize “commercial corridors that are home to small businesses, historic structures, and special events.”

### **Project Guidelines:**

- The selected artist(s) will be responsible for the design and completion of the mural(s).
- The mural that is to be completed on the Hoffman building should include text to help identify and welcome visitors to the Federal Hill district.
- The murals should be executed using materials that will stand up to the elements and should have some resistance to premature wear, as they will be subject to the harshest elements of all four seasons, including high heat and extreme cold.
- Artists are required to warrant that artwork is their own original, unique design and to warrant artwork is not infringing on copyrighted materials.
- MURAL WALL DIMENSIONS:

### **The Mural Sites:**

1. The designated wall on the Hoffman Building at 2525 Peach Street measures approximately 28’ tall x 80’ wide
2. The designated wall on the Ink Assassins Tattoos & Piercing building at 2601 Peach Street measures approximately 32’ tall x 60’ wide

## **Design Prompts:**

### **Preference will be given to proposals that include the following visual elements and themes:**

- Representation of the immigrants who were instrumental in the building, and current fabric, of the city of Erie.
- Ethnic diversity as Federal Hill contains many minority owned businesses.
- Visual cues that signify the long-standing, cornerstone businesses of contemporary Federal Hill, including Grasshopper, Europa Delicatessen, and Chicory Hill Herbs.
- Federal Hill Adjectives: Diverse / Eclectic / Resilient / Inclusive / Time-Honored / Enduring

## **Budget:**

The budget for the completion of both Federal Hill murals is up to \$30,000. This sum is inclusive of all costs associated with the project, including artist fees, design, equipment rental, installation, transport, travel, and other project related expenses.

## **Eligibility:**

This request for proposals is open to all artists or artist teams who are at least 18 years of age, with no restriction on geographic location. Artists' qualifications should demonstrate a level of experience and professionalism that is commensurate with the project scope and budget.

## **Timeline:**

**Applications Due:** February 15, 2022

**Artist(s) Notification:** March 1, 2022

**Project Completed By:** October 1, 2022

## **Required Application Materials:**

### **A Word document or PDF dossier containing the following materials:**

Save with filename "FirstnameLastname\_FederalHill" for example: "JaneDoe\_FederalHill"

- Artist Statement (no more than 500 words)
- Artist Biography (no more than 500 words)
- Project Narrative (no more than 1,000 words)
- Project Timeline
- Project Budget
- References (Provide the names, email addresses, and telephone numbers for three professional references.)

### **Imagery:**

- Images of Proposed Project (1-10 images of proposed work. Images may display sketches, 3D renderings, images of maquettes, collages, etc...**Save as JPEGs only. Use filename(s) "FirstnameLastname\_FederalHill1" "FirstnameLastname\_FederalHill2" etc...**)
- Portfolio featuring Past Work (Provide hyperlink to online portfolio)

## **Submission Process:**

You may submit your application materials here [Federal Hill Murals Submission Form](#)

## **Submission Deadline:**

February 15, 2022

**Site Plan Images & Location Data:**

[Federal Hill Historical Imagery \(click here\)](#)

[The Shops on the Hill Website \(click here\)](#)

[Site Images \(click here\)](#)

[Site Map \(click here\)](#)

**SSJNN Mission Statement:**

The SSJ Neighborhood Network, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, provides leadership, advocates for local residents, and partners with the broader community to develop opportunities for both personal growth and neighborhood revitalization.

Please direct any questions to Alison Stinely via e-mail at [ASTinely@SSJNN.org](mailto:ASTinely@SSJNN.org)

To learn more, visit: <https://www.SSJNN.org/>