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Eight, \$1,000 stipends offered

Deadline nears for artists to submit concept for railroad murals

Time is running out for artists to present their ideas to transform the railroad retaining walls along the Green Line corridor from dull, blank concrete into canvases – and earn \$1,000 in the process.

The Village of Oak Park is seeking eight artists to paint separate murals that promote creative expression and provide an enriching visual experience for residents and visitors alike. The long-range goal of the program, officials say, is to intersperse colorful public art where possible along the entire length of the railroad from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard.

In this first phase, each of the eight selected artists will receive \$500 for materials prior to beginning the project and another \$500 upon completion. The murals will range in size from about six-feet-by-eight feet to six-feet-by-eleven feet.

Artists from throughout the area – not just Oak Park – are invited to participate. The winning concepts will be selected by a panel of judges from the local arts community.

Interested artists must submit an application, available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. and the Village web site www.oak-park.us – just click on the community mural button. Each application must include a rendering of the proposed design.

Deadline to apply is 5 p.m., Tues., April 20. Selected artists will be notified by Wed., May 5. The goal is to have the murals on the walls in June.

Concepts will be selected on artistic merit, appropriateness for a public way and originality. Paint is the only medium that may be used and should be of a quality to withstand weather conditions for a reasonable amount of time.

Citizens or businesses interested in sponsoring a mural are urged to call 708.358.5770 or e-mail village@oak-park.us.

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