



2495 Main Street #401, Buffalo NY 14214 | 716-833-3004 | www.asiwny.org

Call for Artist/Designer/Muralist
THE ESSEX ARTS CENTER
Public Art Project

Arts Services Inc. of Western New York (ASI), on behalf of **Assemblymember Jon D. Rivera's Office**, in partnership with the **Ashford Hollow Foundation**, invites experienced mural artists to submit proposals for a large-scale outdoor public mural at **The Essex Arts Center**, located at **30 Essex Street** on Buffalo's West Side.

This project will transform **five garage doors** on the building's historic courtyard façade into a cohesive visual work that reflects the site's artistic legacy and Buffalo's evolving cultural identity.

This call prioritizes artists living within the 5 counties of Western New York, including Erie, Niagara, Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua. This call is open to **experienced mural artists**. Artists may apply as individuals or collaborative teams.

Project Background and Goals

The Essex Arts Center has served as a cornerstone of Buffalo's creative community for decades, providing space and support for influential artists and organizations such as Hallwalls, CEPA, BICA, and artists including Cindy Sherman, Robert Longo, Duayne Hatchett, and many others.

The Ashford Hollow Foundation, with over 50 years of commitment to arts and culture, seeks a mural that honors this legacy while reflecting the ongoing transformation of Buffalo — from its industrial past to its present role as a center of imagination, experimentation, and cultural production.

This mural will serve as a highly visible public artwork that engages both the local West Side neighborhood and the broader Buffalo community, reinforcing The Essex Arts Center as a living site of artistic exchange.

ASI is seeking artists to submit proposals for an **outdoor mural** that responds to the theme: **Transformation in Motion**.

Artists are encouraged to interpret this theme through abstract, figurative, or hybrid approaches, exploring ideas of:

- Change and evolution
- Resilience and renewal

- Movement, imagination, and creative momentum

The final design should be cohesive across all five garage doors and visually engaging from both close proximity and at a distance.

The proposed design should include:

- A mural design that spans **five adjacent garage doors** on the courtyard façade (artists may choose to treat the surface as one unified composition or segmented panels that read together);
- A clear conceptual response to the theme *Transformation in Motion*;
- Consideration of the site's history, architecture, and artistic legacy;
- An expected lifespan of **3–5 years**, consistent with outdoor mural standards.

Site Specifications & Measurements

Artists should plan for the following details and dimensions:

- A large-scale outdoor mural spanning five adjacent garage doors within The Essex Arts Center courtyard.
- Space consists of five individual metal roll-up doors with vertical concrete dividers between each door.
- Height: 9 feet
- Total Length: 96 feet (across all five doors + concrete dividers)

Budget

A **commission of \$15,000** is available for the selected artist or artist team.

The commission includes:

- Artist fees
- Materials and supplies
- Fabrication and installation costs

Artists are responsible for providing all necessary equipment and materials required to complete the work. Any requests for site support, access needs, or additional assistance should be clearly outlined in the proposal. The Essex Arts Center will be able to provide storage and water access for the artist(s) if needed. **Please include any and all requests in the artist proposal. Artists should detail what assistance or materials are provided by his/her/themself and what may be required by The Arts Center in their proposal (if applicable).**

Timeline

- **Call Opens:** Monday, January 5, 2026
- **Deadline to Submit:** Friday, February 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM
- **Panel Review & Selection Meetings:** March 2026
- **Public Announcement of Selection:** April 2026
- **Project Implementation & Installation:** Spring / Early Summer 2026
- **Project Completion:** Summer 2026

The timeline will adhere to weather conditions and site-specific considerations.

Proposal Requirements & Submission Process

Proposals must be submitted electronically through an online Jotform, which will collect basic contact information and proposal details. Within the Jotform, applicants will be prompted to upload a single PDF document that includes the following:

- A written description of the proposed work, including materials and approximate Dimensions
- Concept sketches or visual references
- A detailed budget outlining artist fees, supplies, materials, and any additional project-related costs
- Links to examples of past work

Applicants will also be asked to provide contact information (including name, email address, phone number, and mailing address) directly within the Jotform.

Questions & Site Visits

- Questions about the call for work, application requirements, deadlines, or submission process can be directed to Arts Services Inc. (ASI) at info@asiwny.org.
- Artists interested in visiting the site or learning more about the physical space may contact Nila Griffis Lampman at nila.griffis@gmail.com or by phone at (716) 667-2808. The site is located in a public space and can be viewed at any time.

A panel of qualified arts professionals, community members, and project partners will review proposals for artistic excellence, relevance to the theme, feasibility, and appropriateness for the site.

Photos of the Site of Installation (see below):

