

RFQ: Reimagining Reentry Fellowship



Posting Date: December 21, 2024

Application deadline: Feb 18, 2024 11:59

p.m.

Budget: \$10K Artist fee + \$20K budget

Department: Restorative Justice

Questions:

Mural Arts Philadelphia Restorative Justice

restorativejustice@muralarts.org

cc. juliet.vinegra@muralarts.org

For submissions, [follow this link](#).

1. Introduction

Mural Arts's Restorative Justice program is seeking artists who are returning from incarceration to apply for the Reimagining Reentry Fellowship, generously funded by Art for Justice.

The goal of this fellowship is to support formerly incarcerated artists applying their creative practices to address critical issues of mass incarceration. Artists will create bold new public works to shift the narrative around contemporary criminal justice and incarceration while considering personal, communal, and systemic connections, illuminating the human cost and potential solutions.

The fellow's work will be based on a project or idea from the artist, culminating in a mural relative to their practice with accompanying public programming across Philadelphia. Artists will work with the Restorative Justice Department Project Manager and Director to identify the project scope and implementation strategy, and plan the production and installation of the determined project.

Through the program, artists are able to collaborate with Mural Arts' long-running Guild reentry program and artists incarcerated at SCI Phoenix. Mural Arts will engage its network of artists, past Fellows, and cultural organizations to support and work directly with the Fellow based on need and interest; professional development opportunities will be determined.

The artist chosen will be paid a stipend of \$10,000 and will be allotted \$20,000 to fund the project in addition to other career and education opportunities, as needed.

2. Background

Launched in 2017, the Reimagining Reentry Fellowship has supported artists returning home from incarceration with a launching pad and network of support for their creative practices. Since its inception, Mural Arts' Restorative Justice Department has managed this program, witnessing the progress and success of twelve fellowship alumni.

The fellowship was founded upon the belief that creativity allows us to reimagine our world, and the criminal justice system is no exception. Therefore we believe that individuals directly impacted by our criminal justice system are best positioned to lead conversations and find solutions to the problem of over-incarceration through the lens of public art.

The Fellowship includes practical, educational, career, and artistic skill development and opportunities for each artist. These opportunities are provided through Mural Arts and other partnering cultural organizations across the city. In addition, the fellow will design and create a mural focused on the impact of the justice system in their lives and their art practice.

Reimagining Reentry creates a basis for each artist to grow and expand their career, continuing to refine and develop their budding artistic practice. Mural Arts hopes to learn from the fellows how to continue and progress Restorative Justice work, as well.

The fellowship goals include:

- Support for emerging (visual) artists returning from incarceration who need both technical assistance and support to create a public art work in Philadelphia.
- Provide opportunities for individuals and communities impacted by crime and incarceration to better inform and influence the City of Philadelphia's justice-reform process.
- Expand public awareness of the complexity and far-reaching repercussions of mass incarceration, increase exposure to policies and alternatives, and inspire greater engagement and action among citizens.
- Produce mural/public art projects that add to Philadelphia's collection of public artwork
- Reduce stigma and bias that hinders successful reentry into communities and workplaces.

3. Scope of Work, Budget and Schedule

Scope of Work

Through the year-long fellowship, the chosen artist, Mural Arts staff, and other collaborators will be responsible for the following scope of work:

- Artist Responsibility
 - A project idea and mural concept
 - Engage in regular meetings with the Restorative Justice Project Manager to further develop creative concept and overall plan
 - Share regular updates, opportunities, ideas, and questions with Project Manager as the plan takes shape
 - Participate as a speaker and/or attendee in interviews, workshops, talks, and panels as relative to the fellow's work and mission, including dedicated time with current participants in the Guild, Rec Crew, and SCI Phoenix programs
 - Produce design concepts and mockups for project and mural
 - Work with Mural Arts Design Review team on edits to the concept
 - Contribute to onsite mural installation work
 - Submit invoices and receipts for reimbursement as approved by the Restorative Justice Project Manager
- Mural Arts Responsibility
 - Provide Restorative Justice Project Manager as main support and point of contact
 - Teach and review guidelines for the development and designs of a mural
 - With fellow, design a schedule and plan for the year-long fellowship
 - Host design review and provide input from staff curators and artists through design process

- o Create connections for fellow with Mural Arts staff, their knowledge, and expertise; and the institution's' network of creatives, educators, and arts administrators
- o Find opportunities for fellow to collaborate with other Mural Arts artists and partners
- o Supply resources and advisory support on financial literacy, arts career development skills, and formal art training depending on the needs of the artist
- o Provide administrative support by processing artist payments and reimbursements, purchasing project supplies, and managing contractors associated with the project
- o Other support as needed
- Art for Justice (Sponsor) Responsibility
 - o Provide funding for fellowship, network of artists connected (also via The Center for Art & Advocacy)
- Contractor Responsibility
 - o Any contractor working with the artist as part of the fellowship will provide hours of expertise and assistance in areas such as financial literacy, graphic design, grant writing, and other areas as needed. Mural Arts is responsible for paying contractors through the \$20,000 allotted budget.

Artist Fee and Budget

The Fellow will be provided with a \$10,000 artist stipend in addition to a \$20,000 project budget managed by the Restorative Justice Project Manager. The stipend will be paid in two installments of \$5,000 each to the artist.

- The \$10,000 artist stipend goes directly to the artist to fund any of their needs as they engage in their year long project.
- The \$20,000 project budget is managed by the Project Manager, who is responsible for all payments related to the mural project, and other fellowship-related costs, including communications materials, mural supplies, assistant artist fees for mural, equipment for installation, career and education classes as needed, consultant support, and other project-related items.

Application Schedule

The following is an estimated schedule for the incoming Fellow. The schedule is subject to change dependent on external factors such as weather, family emergencies, etc.

January 8, 2024: Rolling Applications Open

February 18, 2024: Rolling Applications End

March 1, 2024: Notification of acceptance

4. Artist Selection Process

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the Reimagining Reentry Fellowship, you must be a justice-impacted artist who has returned from incarceration. You must also have a concept for a mural project relative to restorative justice issues and practices to propose. This opportunity is based in the Greater Philadelphia area. All artists are welcome to apply, with knowledge that travel and lodging is not covered within the stipend. The applicant must currently be practicing as an artist and intent on developing their arts career.

Qualifications and Criteria

Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- A clear vision and proposal that connects with Restorative Justice in the city of Philadelphia in a meaningful way.
- Demonstrated visual arts skills shown in a series of examples provided by the artist.
- Be a justice-impacted/formerly incarcerated artist
- Passion and intent to develop a career in the creative industry.

5. How to Apply

Informational Meetings

Informational office hours will be held with the Restorative Justice project manager to review any questions you have about the application process and materials via [Zoom](#) on the following Thursdays: January 11, January 18, February 1, February 8 from 10am-12pm. Please contact restorativejustice@muralarts.org and juliet.vinegra@muralarts.org with any questions and/or your interest in attending office hours.

Submission Requirements and Application Checklist

Applicants must submit:

- Contact information
 - First Name, Last Name
 - Address
 - Phone Number
 - Email
 - Website (if applicable)
 - Social Media Handles (if applicable)
- An artist statement (1-2 paragraphs), including

- Discussion of aspects of your life history that are relevant to your ability to do this work
- Description of your artistic practice
- Discussion of how you hope to grow and what you hope to accomplish in the Fellowship
- Description of other accomplishments such as fellowships, awards, and teaching experience (if relevant)
- Examples of Artwork/Portfolio
 - Within one document, provide 5-10 images of artwork with respective captions
- Availability during the tenure of the fellowship
 - Include if you have prior engagements, projects, or work you are committed to throughout the fellowship

Submission Instructions

Please see the material requirements above. Submit your application by 11:59 p.m. EST by February 18, 2024 [through this link](#).

About Mural Arts Philadelphia

Mural Arts Philadelphia is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change.

For 40 years, Mural Arts has united artists and communities through a collaborative process, rooted in the traditions of mural-making, to create art that transforms public spaces and individual lives. Mural Arts engages communities in nearly 100 public art projects each year, and maintains its growing collection through a restoration initiative. Core Mural Arts programs such as Art Education, Restorative Justice, and Porch Light yield unique, project-based learning opportunities for thousands of youth and adults.

In recent years, Mural Arts has evolved into a multi-disciplinary arts organization exploring the intersection of muralism, public art and contemporary art. In addition, Mural Arts has collaborated with an increasing range of community, civic, cultural and development organizations to realize projects that have expanded the city's public art portfolio in new and exciting ways. Increasingly, Mural Arts has assisted in private organizations in commissioning artworks that engage the communities where they are working.

For more information: <https://www.muralarts.org/>