

Call for Artist Entries: Interior Mural at the historic Post Office at 113 E 8th St, Georgetown, TX

CITY POST CHOPHOUSE invites artist design entries for a unique mural project at the historic Post Office located at 113 E. 8th St. in beautiful downtown Georgetown, Texas. The selected artist will design and install the mural on an interior plaster wall of the building in the original Postmaster's office, now the City Post market.

CALL OPENS: August 15, 2022

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 16, 2022

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project is inspired by post office murals originally commissioned by the U.S. Government as part of the New Deal in the 1930s. While the post office in Georgetown was not one of the 69 Federal buildings in Texas to receive artist installations, City Post would like to pay homage to the roots of the building during this period in American history with an original mural that honors that legacy and enhances the present use of the building. The wall chosen for the mural provides an opportunity for the public to view the installation and learn more about this facet of history.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Each artist may submit up to three (3) unique designs for consideration. Please send submissions to: citypostchop@gmail.com

Be sure to include:

- Contact information
 - Full Name, address, telephone number, e-mail address
- Concept statement for the proposed design
- Image(s) of the proposed design
 - Artist may submit up to five (5) images to communicate their proposed design(s)
- Previous relevant experience with murals and/or other large-format art installations

ELIGIBILITY: This opportunity is open to all professional artists over the age of 18 who live/work in Central Texas.

BUDGET: The artist selected to install the mural, will be paid an artist stipend of \$3,500 which includes the cost of materials and equipment necessary to install the mural. The selected artist will be responsible for their own travel costs, housing, and personal liability insurance.

INSTALLATION DATE: The mural is expected to be completed by November 15, 2022.

APPLICATION: Applications will be accepted at citypostchop@gmail.com from August 15 - September 16, 2022. No application fee is required.

SELECTION: From the entries submitted by the deadline, the City Post selection committee will create a short list of candidates with whom we will hold discussions. From that list, one artist will be awarded a commission for the mural design and installation. Artists will be notified of the final selection by October 7, 2022.

QUESTIONS: Contact Administrative Manager Kristina Wagner Moore directly at kristina@citypostchop.house.

- NOTE: Applications/submissions should be sent to citypostchop@gmail.com

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AREA & THE BUILDING:

Established in 1848 as the Williamson County seat, Georgetown is located on the Chisholm Trail, used from 1867 to 1884 by Texas cowboys as the major route out of Texas for livestock. Georgetown hosted livestock trading on the Square beginning in the 1860s; today, Market Days on the Square continues the tradition of the open-air public market, albeit without livestock!

At the turn of the century, a livery stable was located on the site. The property was sold in 1914 to the US Government. In 1931, the cornerstone of the current building was laid to house the County Post Office, IRS and Agricultural offices. It was designed by US Government engineers, using Texas pink granite, along with Georgia & Missouri marble.

Nearly 60 years later, the building and property was sold by the Federal Government, opening as Georgetown City Hall in the early 1990s. After nearly 30 years under City ownership, the City of Georgetown put the property up for bid, and City Post Chophouse, including its Oyster Bar and Ada Talbot Hall events venue, subsequently opened in 2021.

The building is currently on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing property in the Williamson County Courthouse Historic District.



MURAL “CANVAS”: The expected wall dimensions to be painted are approximately 14.5’ wide x 7.5’ high, less a 3’ door opening on the left-hand side. The wall has both an original chair rail at waist height, and an original picture rail approximately 1.5’ below the ceiling. It is envisioned that these elements provide a “frame” for the mural, though the artist may propose incorporating one or more of these elements into their design. The total height of the wall is 12’. See the photo for additional detail. The chair rail and picture rail are wood, while the wall material is painted plaster. Artists may arrange to tour the space during normal business hours at their expense.

INSPIRATION: Artists should consider the events, culture and people in 1930s America – particularly in Central Texas – along with the general history of Georgetown as the Williamson County seat. Artists should also consider the history and lineage of the property itself, as well as individuals and groups who have impacted its story. New Deal murals included scenes of Texas history, folklore, heroes, common people, wildlife and landscapes. Artists may want to refer to the books "The Texas Post Office Murals - Art for the People" by Philip Parisi and "Images of America: Georgetown" by Donna Scarbrough Josey for additional inspiration.

ARTISTIC STYLE: The artistic style should be unique, simple, direct, and representational of the historical mural programs of the 1930s.

SELECTION CRITERIA: The selected design will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Quality of artistic composition
- The creativity of design in addressing the history of the site and artistic style
- Artistic ability as demonstrated in submitted examples/portfolio of work
- Level of confidence in the artist's ability to complete the installation, including evidence of experience creating large-format mural art and/or art in public spaces
- Willingness and ability to meet contractual guidelines and deadlines
- Ability to fulfill submission guidelines as listed above