



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

Call for Mural Artist
Isaías González-Soto Library - 280 Porter Ave, Buffalo, NY 14201
Public Art Project

Arts Services Inc. of Western New York (ASI), on behalf of Assemblymember Jon D. Rivera's Office, invites artists in all appropriate mediums (2-dimensional and 3-dimensional) from throughout Western New York to submit proposals for an indoor public art project located inside the Isaías González-Soto Library.

This call is limited to artists living within the 5 counties of Western New York, including Erie, Niagara, Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua.

Project Background and Goals

In October 2018, the Niagara Branch Library was renamed the Isaías González-Soto Branch after the founding father of Buffalo's Puerto Rican community. Born in 1921, Isaías González-Soto served in World War II before coming to Buffalo in 1950. Active in many Hispanic organizations, he was a grocery store owner who was known for assisting newly arrived Puerto Ricans with housing, food, jobs, and legal assistance. He also worked for the City of Buffalo and hosted a decades-long Spanish language radio show.

The Isaías González-Soto Branch is located at 280 Porter Ave on Buffalo's West Side. The Branch will be reopening after two phases of construction resulting in a completely renovated and updated space for all community members to use! The 2nd phase included renovating the balance of the facility, including restrooms, installation of a handicap lift to the lower level stage, restoration of the parking lot, sanitary/storm piping, lighting, new electrical and data outlets, shelving, repair of exterior sidewalk, and more. Phase 1 of the project included a new roof, all new furniture, flooring and much more.

The chosen work should:

ASI is seeking artists to submit proposals for an indoor mural inside the library which correlates with its re-opening for the community and surrounding neighborhood.

It is the artist's discretion whether to create one cohesive mural with the several wall areas provided, or to tell a story through different murals/images on the various walls.

Proposed design should encapsulate the local community, including historical references and contributions to the community; in addition to:



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- Covering the entire wall spaces provided (see photos at the end of this proposal):
 - West Wall - 4ft H x 42ft L
 - South West Soffit - 3ft H x 40ft L
 - South East soffit - 3ft H x 40ft L
 - East Wall - 4ft H x 35ft L
- Have an expected lifespan of 3-5 years.

Budget

A commission of up to \$10,000 is available for the chosen artist to create and install their work. Artists are required to provide all supplies and materials to complete the work, including a scissor lift, if needed. The Library may be able to arrange storage options on site if needed. **Please include any and all requests in artist proposal. Artist should detail what assistance or materials are provided by his/her/themself and what may be required by the Library in their proposal (if applicable).**

Timeline

- **Deadline to Submit:** No later than 5 pm on Weds, October 9
- **October:** Selection of Artist
- **October/Early November:** Public Announcement of Selection
- **October/Early November:** Mural implementation & Planning Meetings; completed and installed work

The timeline will adhere to building status and preparation (if needed) to complete the mural when appropriate. NOTE: the Library is currently under construction and is not open to the public.

Proposals should include:

- A description of the work including materials and dimensions;
- Sketches of the work;
- A budget including artist fees, supplies and materials, and any other costs associated to create the work;
- Links to examples of past work; and
- Contact information (including email, phone, and address).

Proposals should be sent electronically (**in one PDF document**) to info@asiwny.org with the subject line ' Library Proposal', as can questions. The Library is currently under construction and not open and available to the public, however if you would like more information on the space,



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please contact Samantha Purpora, Assistant Deputy Director, Buffalo Libraries, 716-858-7157 or purporas@buffalolib.org

Proposals are due no later than 5 pm on Wednesday October 9, 2024.

A panel of qualified, arts and business professionals (including community members and those associated with the of the Library) will review proposals for their eligibility and appropriateness for the project.

Photos of the Library and Mural Space Below:





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