

Call for Artist Submissions

Housing Equity Mural Project

May 1, 2021

Submissions accepted now for the *Housing Equity Mural Project*, sponsored by the Friends Association for Care & Protection of Children, a Chester County based non-profit organization. Friends Association and the West Chester Borough Public Arts Commission (PAC) invite artists to submit art proposals for a mural to promote housing equity and social justice. Friends Association and PAC are issuing an open call to invite submissions of original mural art to be juried and selected, in whole or in part, for the *Housing Equity Mural Project*.

Background & Theme

To honor its 200th anniversary in 2022, Friends Association will host events and activities to promote social justice, specifically as it applies to housing equity. Friends Association provides emergency housing and prevention services to families experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Chester County. With roots in Quaker tradition, Friends was established when abolitionist women in Philadelphia partnered with the Black community to provide a nurturing home to children who had lost their families due to enslavement. Over the last two centuries, the organization has evolved but has never lost its sense of dignity and respect for each member of society.

One goal for the 200th anniversary year is to establish a permanent artistic representation of our belief that housing is a human right and everyone in our community is deserving of a safe, secure home. While artists' ideas are welcomed, the mural should capture the ideals that are embodied at Friends Association including:

- Social Justice – we believe that housing is a human right and as a community we can and should make ensuring housing for all a priority.
- Family – we keep families together in times of crises and provide services to all families, regardless of their makeup.
- Dignity and Respect – we believe that every person is entitled to fair and equitable treatment on all levels; that each person's life experiences inform their present and that they deserve the most basic of rights – safe housing – through which to heal from those experiences.
- Inclusion – we believe that the people closest to the problem are also closest to the solution and we seek to amplify the voices of communities where we work.

Benefits

The artist whose work is selected will have their artwork displayed on a prominent building in Downtown West Chester. West Chester is the county seat of Chester County, and home to over 20,000 residents. West Chester has over 600 businesses bringing in thousands of workers every day. There are 75 restaurants and 60 retailers, as well as dozens of nearby attractions, all of which make West Chester a premier destination for travelers. The mural artwork may be featured online, in print, and as merchandise by Friends Association, PAC, and other local entities.

The artist whose work is selected will receive a \$1,000 award. Upon completion of the mural, the artist will receive compensation in the amount of \$9,000.00. The cost of wall preparation,

materials, and equipment will be covered by Friends Association, and these budgets will be negotiated at a later date. In addition, Friends Association will feature the artist in its publicity.

Criteria

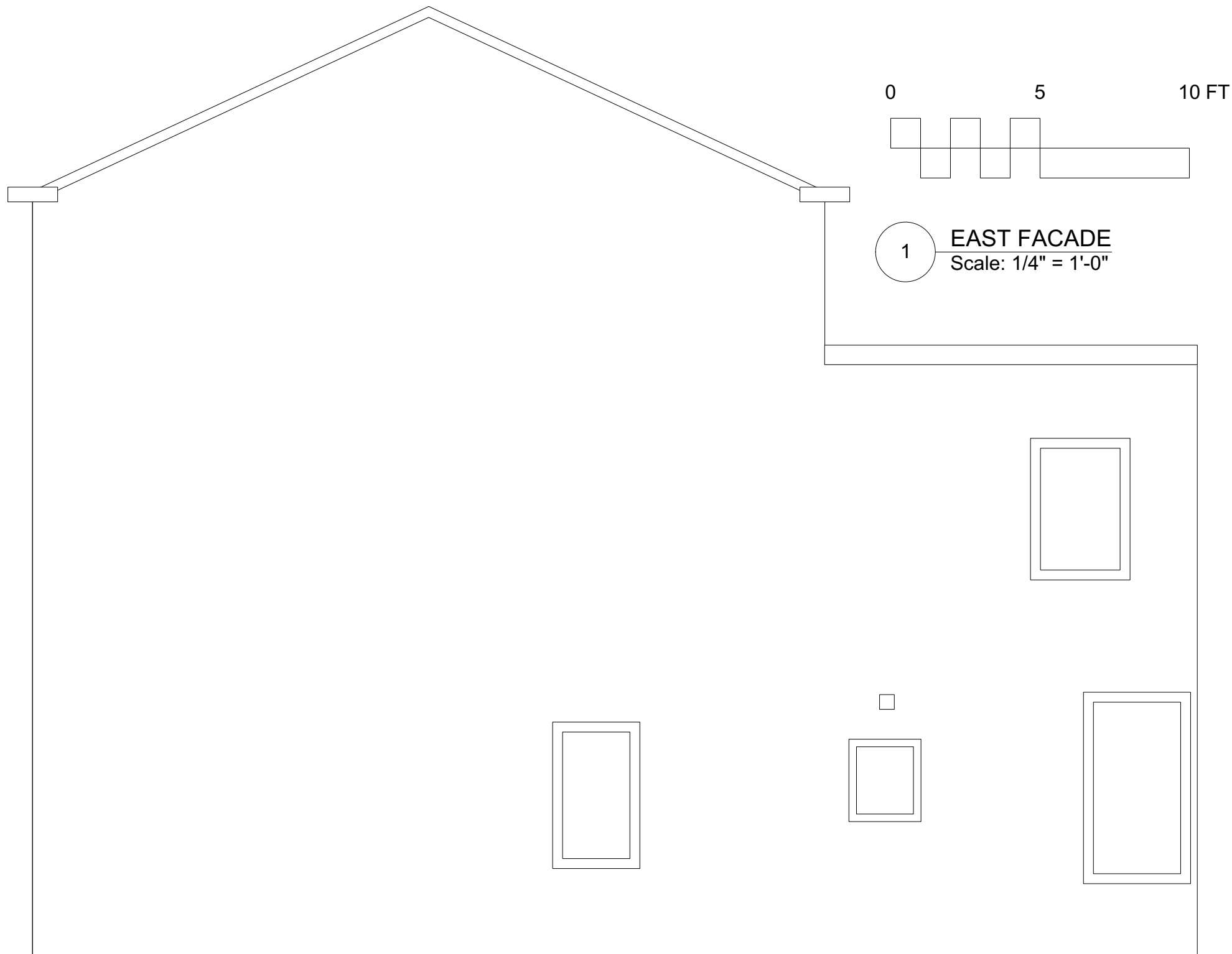
- 1.) Artwork must be original.
- 2.) Artwork must embody the social justice values and ideals of housing equity (see above).
- 3.) Submitting artists must be able and capable of executing the physical painting of this mural at full scale.
- 4.) Artists may submit up to two works of art.
- 5.) Artists must email artwork as follows and with accompanying documentation.
 - a. Digital media in the form of a PDF or JPG, at a maximum of 3 MB.
 - b. Their name, address, email, and phone number to: E.McClure@friendsassoc.org with “Housing Equity Mural” in the subject line.
 - c. An explanation (100 words or less) of their design and how it reflects the theme of housing equity.

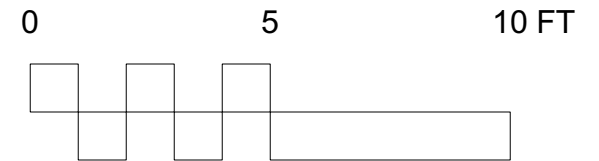
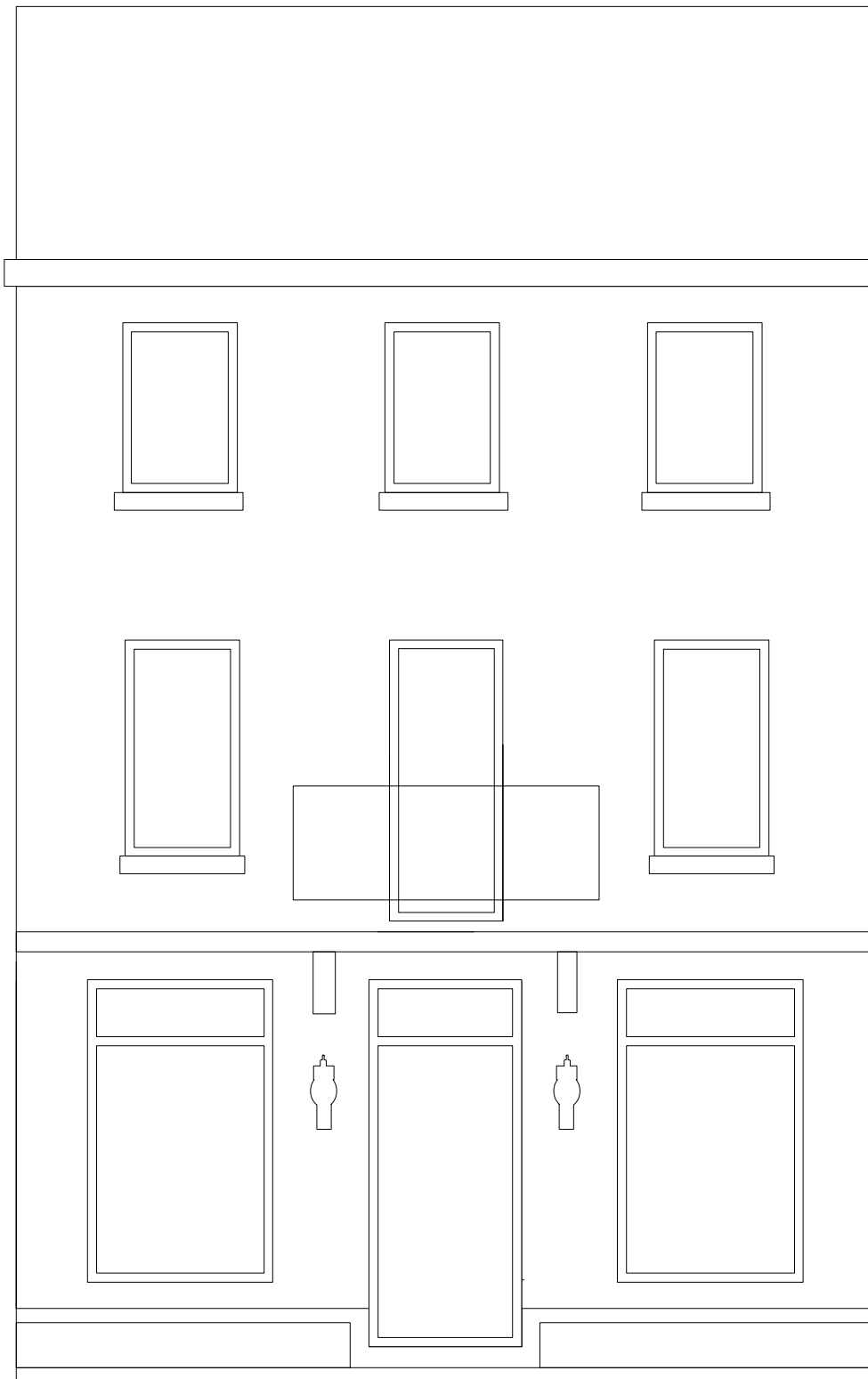
Timeline

The call for submissions opens Saturday, May 1, 2021 and ends Thursday, July 1, 2021. The winning artist will be notified if their work is selected by Sunday, August 1, 2021.

Please Note

- 1.) Submission of art will establish an agreement by the artist that selected artwork may be published and promoted by Friends Association, PAC, and the Borough of West Chester. Promotions are not limited to that which are detailed within this document. Further legally binding agreements may be necessary.
- 2.) Selected art may be used in whole or in part.
- 3.) Please send submissions and direct questions to Emily McClure:
E.McClure@friendsassoc.org
- 4.) The intended installation date of the *Housing Equity Mural Project* is spring 2022.
- 5.) We value diversity and inclusivity and encourage applications from BIPOC artists. We encourage applications from people who have experienced poverty or homelessness and people who have had contact with the juvenile legal, criminal legal or child welfare systems.
- 6.) The following drawings and photos show the intended wall where the mural is to be installed (East Façade). We encourage artists to consider having their designs, or some elements within, wrap onto the Chestnut Street Façade.





1 **CHESTNUT ST FACADE**
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"






Friends
ASSOCIATION
For Care & Protection of Children
**Working to End
FAMILY
HOMELESSNESS**

113
WEST CHESTNUT STREET