

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Downtown Elyria

Submissions Deadline is **February 10th, 2026**

Elyria Community Partnership (ECP), in collaboration with the City of Elyria and Elyria City Council, is seeking a professional artist or artist team to lead the creation of a **single City Hall mural spanning the Court Street-facing wall and the adjacent parking lot wall** in Downtown Elyria.

This project will be developed in collaboration with a community focus group (which includes youth and stakeholders), offering a unique opportunity to reflect Elyria's character, lived experiences, and shared vision for the future. The selected artist will create an inspiring, site-specific work of art that celebrates Elyria's identity while contributing to the city's continued revitalization.

The mural is a key initiative within the Downtown Elyria Vibrancy Action Plan and will serve as a highly visible and lasting landmark. Positioned near Ely Square—one of the most active and well-traveled areas downtown—the mural will play an important role in enhancing the sense of place for residents, workers, and visitors alike.

The total project budget is **\$18,000**, with flexibility up to **\$20,000** based on the artist's experience, proposed scope, and installation approach. This budget is all-inclusive and includes design development, community engagement, materials, equipment rentals (including lift costs), and installation.

The mural site measures approximately **32 feet tall by 33 feet wide**; full wall coverage is not required, and designs that thoughtfully incorporate negative space and a more fluid approach are encouraged. The selected artist(s) should be available to begin design development on **March 3, 2026**, with installation completed by **July 16, 2026**.



Project Eligibility

This call is open to any artist at any stage of their artistic career with experience in successfully creating a mural with a focus group. ECP strongly encourages submissions from artists residing in the city of Elyria and Lorain County.

Stakeholder Priorities

The following themes reflect ideas and perspectives currently being explored by stakeholders. These are meant to serve as inspiration rather than limitations. Artists are not required to have prior experience in these areas; however, if your past work aligns with any of the themes below, we welcome you to share relevant examples as part of your submission.

- Detailed Realism /Interactive (Feels Real)
- Cultural Heritage
- Mixed Media Collage
- Nature Inspired
- Bold Abstract

Application Requirement and Submission

Artists should submit their application materials (see below) to mroberts@elyriatogether.org with the subject title “Elyria City Hall Mural” by **February 10, 2026**.

Application Materials

All applications must be emailed in PDF format with a file size no greater than 15MB. The application contents should highlight projects where the artist/artist team worked with youth groups and include the following:

- Name of Artist/Artist Team Members with contact information (email, phone, and mailing address)
- Website and Social Media Handles
- Artist/Artist Team Members’ Biography
- Artist/Artist Team Statement of Interest (500 words or less)
- Resume/CV (if a team, one for each member)
- No more than 10 examples of previous work of similar scale with notes that could include title, media, dimensions, location, brief description, date of work, and project partners if applicable.
- Optional: Professional References from past projects

Selection Process

Artist/team will be selected from this call as a pool of eligible artists/teams and will be selected by the focus group and ECP. The process may include an in-person interview with finalists. Artists/teams will be reviewed on the criteria of the integrity of past work of similar scale and demonstrated experience working with youth groups.

Project Timeline

January 8th, 2026: Call to Artist Released

February 10th, 2026: at Noon: Applications Due

February 24th, 2026: Artist Selected

March 3- 31st, 2026: Artwork Development

(Includes 1 in-person focus group and 1 virtual meeting for revisions)

April 6th – 20th, 2026: Final Editing Stage

April 23rd -27th, 2026: Design Review Application Submitted

May 12th, 2026: Planning Commission Approval *(anticipated)*

June 1st -July 15th, 2026: Installation Period

July 16th, 2026: Celebration & Media Day

Project Contact

If you need assistance with your application, Monet Roberts, Executive Director, Elyria Community Partnership, mroberts@elyriatogether.org.

Elyria Community Partnership

Elyria Community Partnership is a nonprofit organization developed to revitalize the city of Elyria including downtown and its neighborhoods, respecting the history of the city and improving the quality of life for residents. The organization seek to ensure that Elyria is a thriving, racially equitable, vibrant, economically growing community with quality and affordable housing and a vibrant downtown.