

Spring 2024 Mural Design Call

North Seattle College

Invitation to Submit



Portraits of James Baldwin, writer and civil rights activist, 1924-1987

CALL OVERVIEW

The Art Council at North Seattle College is seeking artists to design a mural that honors the legacy of writer and activist James Baldwin. Designs should center his work and activism, especially as it relates to educational and social justice. The mural will be placed on a wall inside our newly renovated library. It will be painted on plywood and transferred to the wall by students enrolled in ART 204: Mural Art at North Seattle College in the Spring of 2024. To ensure successful implementation of the design we ask that it keep large areas of text, detailed figures, and photorealism to a minimum.

This call will happen in two rounds. For Round One we are not asking for a specific design proposal but **looking to identify artists that would like to be considered for the design phase process**. From the initial pool of artists that express interest, 2-3 will move onto Round Two and will be invited to submit a design to scale created specifically for our campus location. We will choose one artist to move on to the Final Round to finalize the design.

APPLICATION PROCESS SUMMARY

Round One

Interested artists should submit the [online application](#) form which asks for 6 images of past work, a work sample image description list, a CV or list of prior art-related activities, a **statement of interest**, and 1-2 references.

Round Two

If chosen from Round One, the artist will be asked to submit a design to-scale, created specifically for our campus location. The 2-3 artists who are asked to submit a design will be compensated \$500 for their time.

Final Round

From there, one artist will be chosen and asked to fully finalize, grid, color number and prepare the design to be translated, as well as commit to 2-3 speaking engagements with the campus. An additional \$4000 will be awarded to the artist chosen for the final design.

ELIGIBILITY

- Artists who identify as Black and Queer are especially encouraged to apply and will be given the greatest consideration. All artists who identify with the work and spirit of James Baldwin and are allies in the work of furthering educational justice for our BIPOC and LGBTQIA students are encouraged to apply.

- Artists should have demonstrated experience in exhibitions and/or public art.
- Emerging, mid-career, and established artists are welcome to apply.
- Prior mural experience is not required.

TIMELINE

- January 15th: Round One - online submission deadline.
- February 1st: Notification of advancement to Round Two.
- March 1st: Round Two - site-specific design submissions due.
- March 5th: Winning design artist notified of selection.
- March 24th: Finalized design, paint color numbers, grid due.

ROUND ONE: SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Artists interested in being considered for this opportunity should submit the following application materials to our online submission form by January 15th at Midnight. **You can access the online form by clicking [HERE](#).**

6 Images of past work that represent your practice & approach to making art.

Choose your best work to submit. We are most interested in recent work that will give us the clearest picture of your art practice now. If older work is the most relevant to this call, that is also acceptable. It is OK if your images are from different bodies of work. We are looking for a general understanding of your design sensibilities with these images. If you link to a portfolio, please know that we will pick 6 images at random for the jurors and it may not be the works you would choose.

- File Format: .jpg, .jpeg, .pdf accepted.*
- Image Size: 72 ppi and 1980 pixels on the longest side.*
- File Name: Please label files **firstname_lastname_01.jpg***

Work Sample Description

Upload one file that includes the information for all your submitted work sample images.

Please include Title, Medium, Size (height x width), and Date. You may also provide a brief written description for each image to provide more context for the work.

CV/Resume

If you do not have a current CV/Resume we will also accept a more informal list of exhibitions, art fairs, activities, and community events you've participated in that you think may be relevant to this call.

Statement of Interest (150-300 words)

Why are you interested in this specific opportunity? In what ways do you connect to James Baldwin the person, the writer, the activist, and to his writings? We are looking to create more inclusive representation on campus through our mural program. Clear and concise statements are appreciated. Help us see why you are an ideal candidate for this opportunity!

1-2 References that can speak to your professional practice.

We are looking for individuals that can speak to your commitment to your artistic practice, meeting deadlines and being a responsive collaborator. They do not need to be affiliated with any arts organization.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ROUND ONE:

- Quality and strength of artist's past work demonstrated in the submitted materials
- Artist's past work shows potential to transfer well to an outdoor public mural on a college campus.
- Commitment to center and celebrate the legacy of James Baldwin, and to celebrate our students through the spirit of his work.

- Willingness and availability to communicate with faculty, campus community members and students, and meet the deadlines of the project.

ROUND TWO

Two to three finalists will be asked to submit a design specific to the site and location in the newly renovated library building on the NSC campus. We request that the design avoids, or keeps to a minimum, large amounts of text, detailed figures and photo realism. Design must be rendered to-scale or will not be considered. \$500 compensation will be provided for the design process.

A successful proposal in this round will include image(s) of your proposed piece composited onto provided photos of the space or an image that otherwise shows how the design would look in the setting. Proposed design must be drawn/rendered to scale. Include any relevant information (color palette, sketches, etc.). Please also provide a detail image that shows the intended texture/finish of the artwork. Design must represent how it will look when it is hand-painted by brush (i.e. if your design includes any high detail or photo-realism you will need to demonstrate how it would look in a simplified and flattened color palette. We will be hand painting with brush and rollers, not using spray paint.)

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ROUND TWO:

- Design must be drawn to-scale and only those designs that consider the actual proportions and surrounding environment of the wall will be considered.
- Design/submitted materials must demonstrate knowledge in the unique consideration of murals and public spaces.
- Design must promise a unique and engaging artwork that is appropriate in concept, materials and scale for this project.
- Artist should keep in mind that a class of college students new to mural painting will be completing this mural within the 3 hour class sessions of an 11-week quarter. Please note that students will be painting with brushes and rollers. We will not use airbrush or spray cans. Mural designs with complex gradients or blends will need to be altered. Designs that heavily rely on photorealism or ornate details will not be considered.
- Design should use color and bold imagery to be enjoyed from various viewing distances

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Artist Compensation

\$4,000 + \$500. The amount covers all design fees, a detailed list of supplies and materials needed including a to-scale gridded image for students to work from, 2-3 speaking appearances on campus or virtual, artist compensation, travel expenses and any applicable taxes. (Artists who are chosen as finalists and asked to submit a to-scale design that is not chosen will receive \$500 for their time.) Please note: the chosen artist is NOT responsible for the labor, time or materials in the actual painting of the mural. Painting will be done by students of North Seattle College enrolled in a college-level Mural Art course.

Artist Responsibilities

Once chosen, the artist will provide North Seattle College faculty member Kelda Martensen with a finalized design to-scale for the wall and provide color numbers from Sherwin Williams. Artists will provide a detailed supply list needed for the mural and a gridded version of their design, which the students will use to transfer the image with utmost accuracy. Students, under the direction of experienced faculty with expertise in mural execution, will complete the actual transfer of the design, and painting of the wall throughout an 11-week class. The chosen artist will have the opportunity to speak with these students to express their vision for the mural but will not paint alongside the students except for the one or two days they visit the class. There is no time allotted to collaborate with students in the design stages of the mural. We

ask the design be presented in its final iteration. This class has run for [five](#) previous years and each time the mural comes to life exactly (or exceeds!) how the artist envisioned it. We take great care in translating the vision of the artist onto our campus walls. It has always been an amazing collaboration, and we are so looking forward to this upcoming mural.

Design Specifics

The wall is an interior, upper concrete stretch of the newly renovated library building and will be painted on plywood first, then installed. The wall measures 8 x 60 feet. The design should take the entire space into account. The chosen design will successfully integrate a strong understanding of design, color, and composition. The design should center and celebrate our Black and Queer community members present on campus, as well as convey the greater spirit of James Baldwin's scholarship, especially as it relates to educational and social justice. Photos and measurements of the wall are available at <http://northseattlecollegemurals.tumblr.com>

approximately 8 x 60 feet



ARTIST SUPPORT

We are happy to offer support around your proposal in English. Please email kelda.martensen@seattlecolleges.edu with your questions or to set up a phone call or zoom appointment.

For more resources on applying to this call, including photos and a schematic drawing of the site, and prior mural projects visit <http://northseattlecollegemurals.tumblr.com>.

For more resources relating to our campus, visit <https://northseattle.edu/>

For more resources relating to our city and natural environment, visit <http://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives>

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We would like to acknowledge
that we are on the ancestral lands
and traditional territories of the
Puget Sound Coast Salish People

Translation and graphic credit of Seattle Public Schools Native Education Homepage

North Seattle College is taking action on this acknowledgment by building a partnership with the Urban Native Education Alliance and the Clear Sky Leadership, building a pathway for Indigenous and Native Youth from high school to North

Seattle College and establishing an Endowed Scholarship for Indigenous Students. We have far to go and actively seek collaboration with our tribal elders and leaders, as well as emerging and established indigenous artists.

QUOTES/INSPIRATION FROM JAMES BALDWIN

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." -No Name in the Street

"Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others doing it." - Notes of a Native Son

"The paradox of education is precisely this—that as one begins to become conscious one begins to examine the society in which he is being educated." -A Talk to Teachers

"Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within." -The Fire Next Time

"Anyone who has struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor." -Nobody Knows My Name

"I love America more than any other country in the world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually,"
- Notes of a Native Son.

"You write in order to change the world ... if you alter, even by a millimeter, the way people look at reality, then you can change it."

"The place in which I'll fit will not exist until I make it."

"This is the only real concern of the artist, to recreate out of the disorder of life that order which is art." – from "Autobiographical Notes,"
Notes of a Native Son

"Everybody's journey is individual. If you fall in love with a boy, you fall in love with a boy. The fact that many Americans consider it a disease says more about them than it does about homosexuality." – Conversations with James Baldwin

"Neither love nor terror makes one blind: indifference makes one blind." – If Beale Street Could Talk

"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."

Who we are at North Seattle College



North Seattle College is a public institution of higher learning. We value sustainability, challenging public discourse, and intellectual rigor in multiple disciplines.

NSC is situated north of Seattle's downtown, west of I-5 in the Northgate neighborhood. The campus is built on wetlands

fed by Licton Springs, and on unceded [Coast Salish territory](#). In addition to celebrating the biodiversity that comes with our natural setting, our campus is proud of the fact that our students come from all over the world. North Seattle College is a learning institution that respects the diversity of cultures, languages, nationalities, religions and voices, as well as our natural environment. NSC is a place where students experience new beginnings: new languages, ideas and places to call home; new cultures, voices and identities; new job skills and career paths, all in an open and accepting environment. At North Seattle College, students are equipped with a strong foundation to further their personal development. To read more about our dynamic campus, please visit www.northseattle.edu.

North Seattle College Art Collections Mission Statement:

Based in the rich cultural and natural histories of the campus, our mission is to enrich our campus culture through art acquisitions that honor our natural environment and celebrate diverse perspectives.

Selected Primary Goals:

- Create an aesthetically stimulating environment for North employees, students, and visitors
 - Encourage, elevate, inspire, and educate through the visual arts
 - Use the North Seattle College Art Collections to enhance the college's core themes – Advancing Student Success, Excelling in Teaching and Learning, and Building a Sustainable Community
- (<https://northseattle.edu/about-north/mission-accreditation>)

Our campus mission:

North Seattle College is committed to changing lives through education.

We achieve our mission by:

- Offering comprehensive educational opportunities;
- Creating a highly supportive learning environment, and
- Engaging in effective and enduring partnerships.