



Request for Qualifications (RFQ) - Mural Art for the Historic Pierce's Corner Building, Suwanee, Georgia.

PURPOSE

The City of Suwanee Public Arts Commission (PAC) is seeking professional muralists and/or muralist teams to submit their interest and qualifications to design and paint an exterior mural for Pierce's Corner, one of the City's oldest commercial buildings located on Main Street in Suwanee's historic downtown area. The mural will be painted on an exterior painted brick wall which is approximately 97 feet long and 30 feet high. The mural may cover the entire surface of the wall or only a portion of the surface, depending upon the artist and design selected.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to professional public muralists and muralist teams, over the age of 18 who have the demonstrated ability to execute a public art project of this scale and budget. The selected artist(s) will be required to comply with the E-Verify process.

PROJECT BUDGET

The all-inclusive budget for this project is up to \$25,000.00 (to include artist fees, supplies, necessary equipment/machinery, etc.)

BACKGROUND

A community of approximately 21,000 residents, The City of Suwanee is recognized as one of the premier small municipalities in the metro Atlanta area, Georgia, and the nation. Suwanee understands that quality design, focus on pedestrians, well-used public spaces, and the inclusion of features that are different, fun, and interesting are all important components of keeping a place dynamic and viable. Public art is a vital part of this mix. Vibrant, thriving communities across the country all have one thing in common: a strong commitment to public art. Public art has become an important piece of what Suwanee does, who Suwanee is, and how Suwanee is viewed.

Suwanee launched its public art initiative in 2008 with the formation of the City Council-appointed Public Arts Commission (PAC), established to create programs that bring and promote public art in Suwanee, and to work with and encourage developers to use one percent of construction costs to include public art or support public art as a component of new projects.

In 2011 the first 'SculpTour' exhibit, a recurring temporary sculpture exhibition, was launched. The 2022 exhibit marks the seventh installment of the public art encounter that has brought over 100 sculptures to a walkable one-mile area of downtown Suwanee. Additionally, the City has approximately 21 permanent pieces located in various parks throughout the city. In 2015, the City partnered with an urban designer and planner to facilitate the development of a public art master plan. This plan set a vision and 10-year strategy that is helping to take public art in Suwanee to the next level.

This public art project will be the third large-scale mural that the City of Suwanee has commissioned. See 'Transformation' and 'Time to Blossom' on the public art page, featured as permanent art, in the link at the end of this document. Hover your mouse over the title of the piece to bring up a photo. This project is made possible by a matching grant from the Gwinnett Creativity Fund.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Constructed in 1910, Pierce's Corner is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Suwanee. Situated on a highly visible corner lot on Main Street, in the city's historic downtown area, the two-story brick building has functioned over the years as a general store, silent movie theater, dentist office, antique store, and gas station. The second floor was once a Masonic Lodge. George Pierce Sr. purchased the building in 1951 to serve as a general store. It was at that time that folks began to refer to the building as Pierce's Corner. It is considered to be one of Suwanee's cultural assets.

Pierce's Corner sits just off of Buford Highway, a heavily traveled state road that has recently undergone a major reconstruction of its own. The surrounding area is populated by residential and commercial properties, as well as Suwanee's Town Center Park which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. Suwanee's newest park, Town Center on Main, is currently under construction with completion expected in the Summer of 2024. This new urban park, also located on Main Street, is expected to draw a similar size crowd as Town Center Park.

The City purchased the building 2005 in order to preserve this piece of our history. The Suwanee Downtown Development Authority maintains the building and is in the process of a \$1.7M renovation, with plans to contract with a destination restaurant to take over the main level. Event space or possibly office space would occupy the second floor. Renovation of the building will be completed by the end of September 2023. The exterior painted brick wall will be mural-ready by that date. The paint color will be chosen for the brick prior to design development of the mural.

The planned mural will be painted on the long side of the building, which faces Main Street and the Norfolk-Southern railroad track. This east-facing wall, with a surface of painted brick, is approximately 97 feet long and is approximately 30 feet high. The mural could cover the entire space or only a portion of the space depending upon the artist and design selected. The chosen artwork will be required to withstand the outdoor environment with very limited maintenance.

***See photos of the building in its current state, along with a rendering depicting the renovated elevation, on the next three pages.**



Photo showing mural wall facing Main Street, in its current condition, prior to renovation. A portion of the front of the building can be seen at the far left of the photo.



Photo of mural wall, in its current condition, prior to renovation.



Photo of mural wall, in its current condition, prior to renovation, with view of businesses on the left side of the photo.



Photo of mural wall, in its current condition, prior to renovation. The Norfolk Southern railroad crossing in shown in the foreground.



Proposed view of the mural wall, after renovation completed. The two smaller windows on the left side of the building, pictured in the 'prior to renovation' photos, will be enlarged to full size windows as shown here. The small squares that you see in the rendering above, denote the separation of the first and second levels.



Rendering of front and side of completed project. May change slightly.

SELECTION PROCESS

The City of Suwanee Public Arts Commission (PAC) will review all RFQ submissions and will then either make a final artist selection and work with him/her to develop a proposal, or select and invite semi-finalists to develop proposals. If semi-finalists are selected, a stipend will be offered. Once the final artist has been selected, he/she will work with the PAC, City staff, and members of the Downtown Development Authority, to develop a design concept. If the building has been leased to a tenant prior to concept design, the tenant's input would then be considered as well. Suwanee envisions design concepts that will be representative of the integration between old and new, without leaning heavily toward historical themes or abstracts.

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any and all submittals, waive technicalities and informalities, change scope of the work, and amend said Request for Qualifications as desired by the City.

TIMELINE

- July 3, 2023 – RFQ announced
- July 31, 2023 – Deadline for submissions to be received
- August 14, 2023 – Artist selected or semi-finalists named
- August 14 through August 31, 2023 – Design competition phase, if semi-finalists are selected
- August 14 through September 29 – Design development and final concept approved
- October 13, 2023 through November 30, 2023 – Project installed and completed

APPLICATION

Please submit the following materials, in a single pdf document, with the subject line 'Pierce's Corner Mural RFQ Submission' to Toni Hardy by emailing thardy@suwanee.com.

- Cover page to include contact information (address, telephone, email, and website)
- Three references, contact information only, for recently completed projects
- Biographical information and resume
- Letter describing your interest in project and approach to design
- May provide up to 10 work samples. Please provide a brief description and budget for each
- Total package not to exceed 20 pages. Entire package must be able to be printed on standard 8.5"x11" paper

All materials to be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 31, 2023.

Submit all questions to Toni Hardy at thardy@suwanee.com

Additional information may be found online using the links below.

[Local Cultural Assets | Suwanee, GA.](#) (Pierce's Corner)

<https://www.suwanee.com/explore-suwanee/public-art>. (Public Art Page)

<https://www.suwanee.com/home/showdocument?id=1928>. (PAMP)

<https://www.suwanee.com/home/showdocument?id=2160>. (Guide for Developers)

<https://www.suwanee.com/home/showdocument?id=1806>. (Public Art brochure)

