Request for Proposals: Chalk It Up in Downtown Cuyahoga Falls

Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Partnership | Cuyahoga Valley Art Center | Collide: Cuyahoga Falls

Project Overview

In lieu of an inaugural Chalk the Block Festival (rescheduled for 2021), the Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Partnership, Cuyahoga Valley Art Center, and Collide: Cuyahoga Falls (“the planning committee”) are commissioning local artists to “Chalk It Up” for 5 weeks in Downtown Cuyahoga Falls. Artists will create temporary chalk murals and designs in prominent public spaces for the community to enjoy. This art, albeit temporary, will add color and vibrancy to our Downtown and will accomplish our goals of supporting local art, encouraging the community to get outside and discover new places Downtown, and promoting a sense of community wellness.

Since this art will be done in chalk and in public spaces, is no guarantee how long the art will last. Further, the planning committee cannot ensure that the art will not be vandalized or otherwise disrupted by the public.

We hope that this project will inspire the community and be a fun and temporary way to set the stage for public art, such as murals, in Downtown Cuyahoga Falls’ near future.

The planning committee, led by the DTCF Partnership Executive Director, will:

1. Identify different prominent, public Downtown locations from which artists can choose their canvas, such as the side of a building, a staircase, a plaza, etc. (see below)
2. Create an RFP and select local artists.
3. Schedule artists for 1 of 5 weeks in the month of July and early August.
4. Provide a theme, design recommendations, and/or assistance with day-of logistics, if necessary.
5. Ensure that sponsors get recognized via social media, press, and on the drawings.
6. Pay the artists at the completion of their installation and promote the art each week.
7. Provide a box of chalk for the community inspired by the artists’ work to chalk nearby or at home.

Selected artists will:

1. Plan and design their art.
2. Provide chalk and all materials necessary (except for sponsor signage).
3. Assist with promotion via their professional social media pages and with their own audience.

Project Partners: Planning Committee

Collide: Cuyahoga Falls
Cuyahoga Valley Art Center
Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Partnership

Sponsors

Collide: Cuyahoga Falls
Cuyahoga Valley Art Center
METRO RTA

Deadline for Applications

Sunday, June 14 2020 at 5pm
Selection Process and Timeline

The planning committee will review only completed applications (see application materials below) on June 14. A short list of semi-finalists may be created; further negotiations may take place by phone and/or email. The tentative schedule is as follows:

June 14, 2020 Deadline for application
June 15, 2020 Review by the planning committee
June 19, 2020 or sooner Notification to artists
July Installation

Budget

Each selected artist will receive $150 compensation at the completion of the temporary installation. This covers the artist’s time and materials. Artists are to provide their own chalk and any other materials necessary.

Eligibility and Requirements

Eligible applicants for this project are those who work and/or reside in Northeast Ohio, with a preference given to those who work and/or reside in Cuyahoga Falls and in Summit County. Submitted designs must be original artwork, so long it can be represented in, and is submitted as a high-resolution digital image without loss of integrity or quality.

Artwork will be deemed inappropriate which portrays: content which violates copyright or other known legal ownership interest, profanity, obscenity, indecency, violence, pornography; discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality; defamation or personal attacks.

Artwork must be visually appealing from a distance. There is a 4 foot minimum height preference for most sites. Other sizes will be considered based on how the proposed art piece fits with the space. Preference will be given to art which creates a sense of community and diversity that reflects the Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Partnership’s vision of a more connected, inclusive and vibrant downtown or which reflects the Downtown’s motto of “the fun flows here.” Connecting the art to the Cuyahoga River is also a plus.

These are temporary art installations, therefore no permanent materials shall be used, only washable chalk and chalk pastels- materials which wash away easily with water- may be used.

Available spaces are pictured below. Artists may not get their first choice for the space and should have a back-up choice ready.

Application Materials

ALL items are required for consideration:

1. Artist Name, Mailing Address, Phone Number, E-Mail
2. Digital images of up to 4 individual works of art proposed. Emailed images or a travel drive will be accepted. Recommended image size is between 500-800kb, 200 dpi.
3. Emailed application materials can be sent to Abby Poeske at abby@downtowncf.com
Legal Comments

The Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Partnership, Collide: Cuyahoga Falls, and the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center (“the planning committee”) reserve the right to reject any or all applications, proposals, applicants, and projects, to waive any informalities or irregularities, and to modify or terminate the application process or the selection process for any reason and without prior notice. The issuance of this Request for Qualifications and the receipt and evaluation of applications do not obligate any parties to select any proposal or applicant or enter into any agreement. The planning committee will not pay any costs incurred in responding to this Request for Qualifications except as expressly stated.

Applicants are cautioned not to undertake any activities or actions to promote or advertise their submittal, other than discussions with members of the planning committee as described. Proposers are not permitted to make any direct or indirect contact with members of the planning committee or media on the subject of this Request for Qualifications, except in the course of planning committee-sponsored presentations or to submit questions. Violation of these rules is grounds for disqualification.

Questions

Questions regarding this call to artwork can be emailed to Abby, Executive Director of the Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Partnership, at abby@downtowncf.com
Site Options

1. Site will not be guaranteed their first choice and should have 1-2 back-up choices selected. Sites will be assigned by the Planning Committee. Additional sites may be offered. For questions regarding site locations or addresses to go view the site, contact Abby at abby@downtowncf.com