

# National Academy of Design, 2024 Abbey Mural Prize Application

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Are you applying as an Individual, Collective, or as an **Organization**?\*

Select...

Project Lead/Artist Name\*

First Name [Chantal](#)

Last Name [Healey, Executive Director, Chicago Public Art Group](#)

Are you working in collaboration with or receiving support from an organization?\*

**Yes**

No

Maybe

Project Lead/ Artist's Email\* [chantal@chicagopublicartgroup.org](mailto:chantal@chicagopublicartgroup.org)

Project Lead/ Artist's Website [Home - CPAG \(chicagopublicartgroup.org\)](http://Home - CPAG (chicagopublicartgroup.org))

Address\*

Country

Select...

Address

[3314 S. Morgan](#)

Address Line 2 (optional)

[Unit 1](#)

City

[Chicago](#)

State, Province, or Region

[IL](#)

Zip or Postal Code

[60608](#)

Please provide the address to which all correspondence and grants should be sent.

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## PROJECT DETAILS

Project Title: Final or Working\*

Solidarity Mural

Project Location: State or Territory \*

Illinois

Select...

Project Location: City/Town\*

Chicago

Do you have a specific location for your project?\*

Yes

No

If yes, do you have permission from the location for your project?

Yes

No

If you answered "No," you must answer **Question 5** below.

Project Summary\*

Limit: 75 words

A brief overview of your concept, location, participants, and community connection.

The Chicago Public Art Group requests support to preserve the mural "Solidarity." This piece has important historical, artistic, cultural, and social significance. Painted by John Pitman Weber and Jose Guerrero in 1974, the mural was installed in the United Electrical Workers Union Hall at 37 S. Ashland Avenue. The UE is moving and their new facility will not accommodate the art. The Chicago Teacher's Union located at 1901 W. Carroll has agreed to rehome Solidarity.

Intended Project Start Date\* March 1, 2024

Intended Project Start Date

This date can be approximate, but all funded projects must begin before June 30, 2025.

Note: If your project is already in progress, please select April 22, 2024 as your start date.

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Note: If your project is already in progress, please select April 22, 2024 as your start date.

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## PROPOSAL QUESTIONS:

1) Project Description: Please provide a detailed project description including imagery, concept, and materials. Limit: 500 words \*

The Chicago Public Art Group requests support to preserve an iconic public art installation. The mural “Solidarity” has important historical, artistic, cultural, and social significance for both Chicago and the nation.

Painted by John Pitman Weber, a CPAG founder, and Jose Guerrero in 1974, the two-story mural was installed in the interior stairwell of the United Electrical Workers Union Hall at 37 S. Ashland Avenue.

The union sold the building that has been its home since 1947. Neighborhood gentrification, the structure’s deteriorating condition, and UE’s changing needs as a result of virtual work and meetings make the current location a poor fit for the organization’s future operations.

CPAG has retained preservation experts, Parma Conservation to remove, restore, and relocate the mural to the Chicago Teacher’s Union. The CTU, located on West Carol Avenue, near the heart of the Chicago loop, eagerly awaits its installation. The building is a three-story renovated warehouse with a dramatic modern interior that will provide an elegant frame for the art. It is owned by the Chicago Teachers Union Foundation, a 501c3, which would become the custodian of the artwork.

The first phase of this process is completed. Wall sections containing the majority of the mural were removed from the building. Prior to their removal, the entire mural was documented with high-quality photographs and video, allowing us to preserve virtually both the mural itself and the experience of seeing it in its original context. The second and final phase of preservation is the complex process of removing the paint from the wall sections, reapplying it to canvas, and then retouching portions that require restoration.

Weber and Guerrero met in 1973. Weber was teaching at Elmhurst College and Guerrero was employed at the Sunbeam factory. This is how Weber describes their work together.

“The UE was one of the few independent, progressive, and democratic unions, and our murals reflected its worldview. At the top of the stairs, we depicted a group of evildoers: a Ku Klux Klansman holding a noose, a Nazi, and a greedy, buffoonish boss sitting on a pile of workers with a factory in his hand. Jose added a Texas Ranger, a group viewed by many Mexicans in his home state and across the southwest as repressive.

“We studied and borrowed compositional tricks of the great Mexican masters—Rivera, Siqueiros, and Orozco—to make interior corners, handrails, stairs, and columns fit naturally into the flow of the mural. Jose had to work around his shift at the plant, and I around the classes I taught at Elmhurst College. The UE could barely keep its lights on, so the union paid only for our materials. But we were both happy to have the rare opportunity to practice mural composition on the aging plaster walls of a late 19th-century building.

“We used a quote from Frederick Douglass for the mural’s title: ‘Without struggle there is no progress.’ Douglass’s words fit our intentions—to use art as a tool to shape a better world.”

2) What is your relationship to the location where the project will be completed? In what ways does your project interact with, integrate into, or reflect the community that will experience it most?\*

The CTU is an excellent home for the restored mural. CTU's engineer has visited Solidarity's current site. He has determined that there is space in CTU's lobby for a significant portion of the mural. Sections that could not be located in the lobby would be distributed throughout the facility.

This placement provides a venue that is ideologically appropriate as well as exposure to an impressive new audience. The organization represents 30,000 school-related professionals. Hundreds of people visit the facility each year. CTU and the UE share a tradition of activism and progressive social values. Solidarity depicts that unique history and will enrich CTU's architectural aesthetic with images that are culturally relevant to the organization.

Limit: 300 words

3) Why is your project relevant? How does your project reflect the issues of the moment and/or relate to its location(s)? How does your project contribute to and/or advance the history and lineage of murals? \*

It's not surprising that unions are currently seeing a resurgence in interest and participation. In a climate of increasing social unrest, art that promotes equality and a democratic perspective is more than worthy of preserving and sharing. We hope you will help us spread that message and save Solidarity so that future generations can understand and appreciate an impactful slice of American history.

This is not only one of the oldest murals in Chicago, it is also the first, and possibly the only one that portrays union history. Larry Spivack, President of the Illinois Labor History Society made this observation. "The mural is an exciting and beautiful way of telling history. It is a lesson for all of us who are interested in a better quality of life, a better society, and one that has less wage inequality and less racial division."

Limit: 300 words

4) Are there other individuals, businesses, community leaders, or community groups who are engaged with or support this project? Include a short description of their involvement or support.

The UE has been intimately involved with the project from inception. They actively sought CPAG's assistance. Over 2,500 members signed a public statement of support. And, over 200 members donated to an online fundraiser, raising almost \$14,000. CTA has also been an enthusiastic collaborator. Letters of support from both groups are included with this proposal. In addition, Parma Conservation has offered advice and guidance beyond the scope of their contract.

Limit: 300 words

If you have support letters or other documents that help to illuminate this support, you may upload them below as additional materials.

5) If you have NOT secured a site or permissions from the appropriate organizational, local, municipal, state and/or federal entity, please explain why.

N/A

Limit: 200 words

Proposed Project Rendering (required)\*

Choose File

Select up to 5 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 5 more files.

Acceptable file types: .pdf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .mov, .mp4, .mpg, .ppt, .pptx

Please submit a rendering or representation of what your proposed project will look like, ideally in the location. This can be an image, a video, or a presentation file.

**Please note: This is NOT the section to upload artwork images by the lead or participating artist(s).**

Additional Materials (optional)

Choose File

Select up to 5 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 5 more files.

Acceptable file types: .doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .mp3, .wav, .mov, .mp4, .webm, .ppt, .pptx, .xls, .xlsx

You may submit any materials from supporting community members or groups that you think will strengthen your application.

**Please note: This is NOT the section to upload artwork images by the lead or participating artist(s).**

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## BUDGET

Total Funding you are requesting from the Abbey Mural Prize\*

\$40,000

USD

Please ensure that the amount written here is equal to the Abbey Mural funding request in the table below.

Total Project Budget\*

\$

USD

Please ensure the amount written here is equal to the total Expenses in the budget table below.

### Instructions

- Using this table, please outline your full itemized budget for your project, including all streams of income for this project and all expenses.
- If you have items not on this list, please include them under "Other."
- Please note that your funding request to the Abbey Mural Prize can be for full or partial funding of the project. If your project budget exceeds your Abbey Mural Prize funding request, please indicate your plans to completely fund the project.

- If your project already has committed funders, supply a list of the funding sources and value of committed funds.
- In the budget description, please indicate whether or not your project can proceed with only partial funding from the Abbey Mural Prize.

**Reminder**

- There is no guarantee that your project will be funded in full. The Abbey Mural Jury reserves the right to fund the project in whole or in part, as marked in your itemized budget.

Project Budget: Income and Expenses\*

	A	B
1	<b>INCOME</b>	
2	<b>Abbey Mural Prize Funding*</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>
3	<b>Private Donors</b>	<b>\$205,000</b>
4	<b>In-kind donations</b>	
5	<b>Other (list below):</b>	
6		
7		
8	<b>TOTAL PROJECT INCOME</b>	<b>\$245,000</b>
9		

A

B

10	<b>EXPENSES</b>	
11	<b>Artist(s)' Fee*</b>	
12	<b>Assistants</b>	
13	<b>Materials</b>	
14	<b>Tools</b>	
15	<b>Equipment</b>	
16	<b>Travel</b>	
17	<b>Photographer</b>	
18	<b>Printed Materials</b>	
19	<b>Contingency</b>	
20	<b>Other (list below):</b>	DEMOLITION 36,600.00 2. CRATING 15,395.00 3. PACK & PICK-UP 109,015.00 4. STORAGE (per month cost at TDI) 650.00 5. LOAD & DELIVER (est. 4 trips to PARMA) 6,000.00 6. DISPOSAL OF EMPTY CRATING MATERIALS 3,220.00 7. STRUCTURAL CONSERVATION 216,580.00 8. CLEANING OF MURALS 47,600.00 9. FINISHING 63,308.00 10. DISPLAY MOUNTING EST. \$38,324.00 - \$47,631.00

A

B

		TOTAL (not including TDI monthly storage) \$536,042.00 - \$
		11. CPAG Administrative Fee \$30,000
21		
22		
23		
24	<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$566,042</b>

#### Budget Description

Limit: 100 words

Please use this section to describe any aspects of your budget that you feel need further explanation.

## ARTIST(S) MATERIALS

Lead Artist Bio: \*

**John Pitman Weber**, is a CPAG co-founder. He is the creator of over 40 public pieces in five countries and is a muralist, sculptor, and printmaker, as well as a documentarian and writer of public art.

Weber has participated in major international and national traveling shows, including the Museum of Modern Art's "Committed to Print," the Jewish Museum's "Bridges and Boundaries," Berlin's "Kunst und Krieg," the "Poetic Dialogue Project," and "Windows and Mirrors," from the AFSC, that traveled nationally.

Weber is represented in the collections of multiple prestigious institutions including the Art Institute of Chicago.



**Jose Guerrero** was a self-taught artist, cartoonist, and printmaker. He joined the mural movement in the early 1970s.

Limit: 150 words  
150 words max

Participating Artist CVs (max. 4)\*

Choose File

Select up to 4 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 4 more files.

Acceptable file types: .doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt

### Instructions

- Name file as PROJECT NAME\_ARTIST LAST NAME\_CV
- You may submit CVs for up to 4 participating artists; please make sure each CV is a separate file
- Please make sure the artist's name is clearly labeled on each page of CV

### Examples of Work by Lead Artist(s)

#### Instructions

- Submit up to 10 representative files.
- Please represent works from all artists in the application
- Upload files in the order you want them viewed.
- Name file as 01\_PROJECT NAME\_ARTIST LAST NAME; 02\_PROJECT NAME\_ARTIST LAST NAME; etc.
- Submitted work may be (but is not limited to): documentation of physical work including a prior mural project, painting, architectural model, sculpture, drawing/work on paper, photograph, video art, sound art, digital art/animation, web-based work, etc.
- Please find acceptable file formats below.

#### Important

**⚠ All fields (work title, year, medium, etc.) are required. ⚠**

Applications without this information will be considered incomplete. If a label is not applicable to one of your files, insert **N/A**.

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Upload up to 10 Examples\*

Choose File

Select up to 10 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 10 more files.

Acceptable file types: .doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .mp3, .wav, .mov, .mp4, .webm

## **File Requirements**

### Image Files

- Acceptable file formats: JPG, GIF, PNG
- Aspect Ratio: Can be horizontal or vertical; any aspect ratio is accepted

### Video Files

- Acceptable file formats: MP4, MOV, WEBM
- Resolution: 720 (1280 x 720 px) or 1080 (1920 x 1080 px)

### Audio Files

- Acceptable file formats: MP3, WAV

### Web Links

- In a text document, submit a weblink/hyperlink to a working website or web-recorder archive.

How did you hear about the Abbey Mural Prize?\*

National Academy Website

National Academy Newsletter

Instagram

Facebook

2024 Abbey Mural Prize Juror (Social Media or word of mouth)

Friend/ Colleague

Open call website (NYFA, CaFE etc.)

Other

Did you attend an Abbey Mural Prize Information Session?\*

Yes, I will/have attended live via Zoom on Thursday, March 7.

I did not attend live, but I watched a recorded Information Session.

I tried, but I had technical issues.

No, I did not have time or the time didn't work with my schedule.

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## **STATEMENT ON SUBMITTED MATERIALS**

Applicants agree that all project proposals are their own or they have express permission to propose the ideas and images in the proposal submitted.

Applicants understand that awards are granted solely on the basis of the individual merits of each application without regard to any other consideration, and that the review process is both objective and nondiscriminatory.

Applicants understand that members of the Abbey Mural Jury or staff related to the administration of this prize may not be canvassed or asked to discuss or review any application.

Applicants understand that all application materials contained within may be selectively repurposed for external communication or promotional purposes by the National Academy of Design.

I Agree\*

**Any comments/questions about the prize? Please email [abbeymural@nationalacademy.org](mailto:abbeymural@nationalacademy.org).**

**Encountering issues uploading files or other technical trouble? Please contact Submittable at [support@submittable.com](mailto:support@submittable.com).**

## BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

- Did you remember to provide metadata (Title, Year, Medium, etc) for all artwork example file uploads?
- Does your itemized budget match your funding request and total project budget?

Save Draft  
Submit

**Last Saved 2 minutes ago**

Drafts may be visible to the administrators of this program.

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