

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Hattiesburg Alliance for Public Art and the City of Hattiesburg are pleased to announce a Call for Artists to design and execute a new public art mural in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

This project invites artists to transform a prominent local bridge into an immersive public art landmark. The initiative aims to create an engaging visual gateway that celebrates the unique identity and community spirit of Hattiesburg.

This call is open to artists with professional experience in public art, mural design, or painting.

SPECIFICATIONS

The mural will consist of a design painted on the interior and exterior concrete surfaces of a bridge and tunnel structure. The interior canvas consists of two parallel side walls, and the exterior painting will include two top header panels and four support columns.

Interior

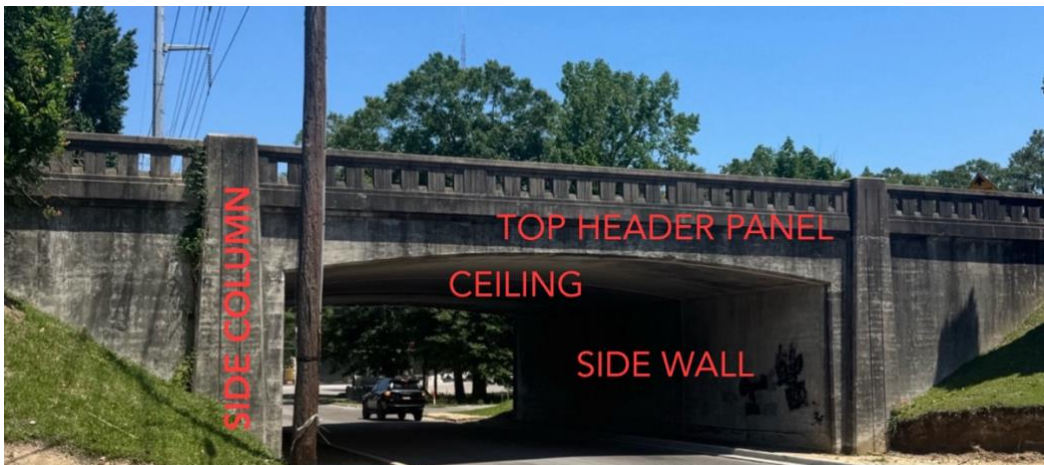
Side walls (x2): 73 feet long x 13 feet high each

Ceiling: 73 feet long x 50 feet wide (while full coverage of this surface is expected, design elements may be limited across the ceiling at the discretion of the artist)

Exterior

Top Header Panels (x 2): 50 feet wide x 4 feet high each

Side Columns (x4): 5 feet wide x 20 feet high each



The site is located on the perimeter of The University of Southern Mississippi and public elementary school Grace Christian, alongside the well-traveled and highly visible Highway 49 and 7th Street. Recent improvements are near completion and include new sidewalks and lighting, increasing foot traffic.

Artists are asked to consider concept proposals through a wide lens of artistic freedom. Designs should capture the vibrant, interconnected spirit of Hattiesburg. Hattiesburg is a place where roots run deep, paths cross, and creativity thrives. Artists are encouraged to explore and interpret any aspect of the surrounding community that holds a deep meaning.

Some ideas include visual metaphors of movement, intersecting paths, and unity. The piece may also celebrate Hattiesburg's heritage and the unique spirit of the city's residents and educational offerings. Concepts may also draw inspiration from local landscapes or pay homage to historic milestones that shaped the area's neighborhoods.

The final composition should thoughtfully utilize both the interior and exterior tunnel structures, integrating the side walls, headers, and columns into one cohesive, seamless design that transforms the bridge into an immersive landmark.

ELIGIBILITY AND STIPEND

Artists are asked to provide a total budget for the project with their submission, not to exceed \$35,000, which should consider costs for materials, supplies, travel, and prepping, painting, and sealing of the mural, all the responsibility of the artist. Artists must supply all equipment and materials needed for the project and are required to apply a protective coating to the finished art. Please note that the bridge and immediate roadway will remain closed during the painting of the mural.

The selected muralist will receive 50% of project budget prior to work commencing with the signing of a letter of agreement, and the remaining 50% will be paid upon the mural's satisfactory completion. A final walkthrough and ribbon cutting ceremony are required prior to the project being considered complete.

Entries must be original designs suitable for viewing by all ages, and artists must demonstrate their ability to hand paint the chosen design through the images they submit to this call.

DEADLINE TO APPLY AND COMPLETE THE PROJECT

All applications must be electronically submitted by midnight on Sunday, July 26, 2026. No late or incomplete applications will be considered. Artist selection will be made by July 31 and work on the mural may begin as soon as August 5 and **must be completed no later than August 31, 2026** unless otherwise negotiated prior to project acceptance. *(Allowances will be made for weather.)*

SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel comprised of professional artists, HAPA, and project partners. Criteria used to select the artist/design include artistic merit and creativity,

demonstrated ability and technical knowledge required to execute the painting, overall budget, and the artist's interpretation of the theme.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Artists may submit up to two concepts for consideration, and the following materials are required:

- Digital images or detailed sketches of your proposed design
- A short bio which includes artist qualifications, experience, and contact information
- A short narrative describing the concept and design of the proposed painted mural
- Images of previous work samples (up to 5)
- Total budget for the project

*****Applications may be submitted electronically via [this Google Form](#). If more than one work is submitted, separate applications must be sent for each work (up to 2 total).*****

PROJECT TIMELINE

Proposal deadline: Sunday, July 26, 2026

Project completion: By August 31, 2026

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Applications cannot be submitted via email. The Google Form linked above must be used. For questions or to request additional information, email kbrock@visithburg.org. Hattiesburg Alliance for Public Art is an affiliate of the Hattiesburg Tourism Commission and supported by the MS Arts Commission and National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about HAPA, see our Facebook page or visit hburgart.com.