



HAPA and Hattiesburg Landmark Preservation, Inc. are pleased to announce a Call for Artists to execute an America250 Mississippi and Mississippi Arts Commission America250 Mississippi Public Art Grant project. The program celebrates Mississippi stories in recognition of the nation’s 250th anniversary in 2026.

This call seeks artists to design and execute an exterior mural in Hattiesburg, MS. It is open to those with professional experience in public art or painting.

SPECIFICATIONS

The mural will be painted on an exterior brick wall measuring approximately 14 feet high x 85 feet wide. The proposed project is in the heart of downtown Hattiesburg along the rail line, visible from much of the downtown district.



Concept proposals should follow the theme **“Power of People and Place: Mississippi is the American Story.”** Artists are asked to submit engaging designs depicting enduring service to country and its deep contribution to community life. The mural will celebrate Hattiesburg’s veterans, honoring both their military service and the meaningful lives, careers, and civic roles they embraced upon returning home. Patriotic colors should be considered.

At the heart of this mural is the belief that service does not end when a uniform is removed. The mural's purpose is to visually tell Hattiesburg's story of service, one that spans generations and extends far beyond the battlefield. The mural should emphasize the intersection of national sacrifice and local impact. This local story contributes to Mississippi's broader narrative as a state shaped by duty, resilience, and strong community ties, and to the American experience of service in defense of freedoms, equity, and democratic ideals. The mural reinforces that what veterans fight for, such as liberty, opportunity, and justice, is realized through everyday acts of service within their own communities.

Hattiesburg's identity is deeply connected to service. From its historical role as a transportation and timber hub to its modern role as a center of education, healthcare, and small business, the city has long been shaped by individuals who serve locally and nationally. Veterans have been central to our legacy, bringing skills, leadership, and a strong sense of responsibility back to their hometowns. **The mural should depict elements that honor both heritage and progress.**

ELIGIBILITY AND STIPEND

Artists are asked to provide a total budget for the project with their submission, not to exceed \$15,000, which should consider costs for materials, supplies, travel, and the 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. The wall will be pressure washed by the property owner at no cost to the artist.

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 Tuesday, May 5, 2026. No late or incomplete applications will be considered. Artist selection will be made by May 15 and work on the mural may begin on May 25 and **must be completed no later than June 19, 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: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at midnight

Project completion: By Friday, June 19, 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.