



Artist Edreys Wajeed, at the Underground Railroad Heritage Center grand opening 2018 (left). Watercolor illustrations by illustrator, E.B. Lewis © Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center / AlanAdetola Photography.

# Call for Artists

Niagara Falls NHA  
Heritage Arts Mural Project  
2019

The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area's Mural Project will unite artists with the community in a collaborative process, rooted in historical and contemporary themes, that will transform our public spaces and inspire our local citizens.

## Contacts

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The Mural Project is an extension of the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area. The National Heritage Area, federally designated by the United States Congress in 2008, works to preserve, protect and promote the historic, natural and cultural resources of the area stretching from Niagara Falls to Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown, New York. We enhance public appreciation for the communities, significant historic and natural resources, and landscapes of the Niagara region.

Through our work, we take a creative approach to projects with the objective to foster pride of place and support for our community. We believe that art creates change, transforming public spaces and individual lives by improving the neighborhoods we live and work in, and by conveying messages of hope, empathy, compassion, and social justice. The Mural Project will encourage visitors to extend their stay in the City of Niagara Falls and assist in the long-term revitalization efforts of the Highland Community of Niagara Falls.



### Mural Project Summary

The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area is seeking seven Western New York artists to create a series of public murals adjacent to the new Underground Railroad Heritage Center and Niagara Falls Amtrak Station in the Highland Community in the City of Niagara Falls.

Here in the Highland Community, many people are the most recent in a long line of black residents whose presence in Niagara Falls made it one of the most important places of courage and resistance to oppression in the United States from the time of the Underground Railroad to today. These stories of heroism are documented and told at the adjacent Underground Railroad Heritage Center. The Mural Project will continue to share these stories and others as it relates to theme of freedom, and specifically what freedom means to the residents of Niagara Falls.

### Project Specifications

- ❖ Any artist residing in Western New York or Southern Ontario are eligible to submit their qualifications for consideration. Experience with public art and/or large murals is preferred but not required.
- ❖ Upon selection, artists will be given a stipend for the project and all necessary materials will be provided by the National Heritage Area. Artists may specify materials needed for their work.
- ❖ Each mural can be approximately 12' x 15' on a prepped and primed concrete wall surface along Main Street and Depot Avenue.

### Artist Responsibilities

- ❖ Each selected artist will design and complete one mural which is responsive to community input.
- ❖ Artists will work with the project team to develop the concept of the mural.
- ❖ Artists may be asked to participate in public programming around the mural making process.

We believe that public art fosters pride in neighborhoods, tackles blight, and builds appreciation for our history and heritage.





### Timeline

- ❖ To be considered, artists are required to complete the application below and submit all necessary materials by **Sunday, April 21, 2019**.
- ❖ Qualifications will be reviewed by the selection committee and applicants will be notified by May 15, 2019.
- ❖ Selected artists will be required to schedule and complete their mural between June 1 – September 15, 2019.

### Submission Requirements

- ❖ Artists must submit their materials and answer the application questions via Google Form. The link can be found on our website: [discoverniagara.org](http://discoverniagara.org) and can also be accessed via the link below:  
  
<https://forms.gle/CqSrPbu87JtwDya87>
- ❖ A complete application must include typed and submitted responses to all the questions included in the Google Form, most current resume, 5-10 images of artwork and portfolio link if applicable.
- ❖ For any issues with using the Google Form, please contract Ally Sponger, [ally@discoverniagara.org](mailto:ally@discoverniagara.org).

The Mural Project will play a central role in expanding the interpretive experience of the Highland Community in Niagara Falls.



Visitors enjoying the exhibits at the Underground Railroad Heritage Center (above), copyright Kim Smith 2018.

Visitors at one of the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area's Discover Niagara Shuttle stops with artist Ellen Steinfeld's designed art bench (photo previous page).

