



Request for Proposal: Muralist

Contractual Work: Artist / Muralist (2025 Creative Growth Grant Project)

Project Name: “Let’s stand together, workers, and have a union here”: An Artistic Display of Historical Labor Resistance in North Charlotte’s Mills

Issued by: The Historic North Charlotte Neighborhood Association (HNCNA)
• dba NoDa Neighborhood & Business Association (NoDa NBA)

RFP Date Issued: November 4, 2025

RFP Submission Deadline: December 31, 2025

About Us

The NoDa Neighborhood and Business Association, “NoDa NBA,” (formally known as the Historic North Charlotte Neighborhood Association or “HNCNA”) is volunteer run, federally recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization. As a registered public charity, all contributions made to the association, including dues, are tax deductible.

We are on a mission to make our growing neighborhood the best it can be. We strive to promote the arts, advocate for a greener environment, support small and local businesses, encourage diversity, and bring together our community members. We host a variety of public events throughout the year while always looking for new and eclectic ways to foster our community. Through a variety of communication sources, we promote our culture and our community while also sharing and documenting the voices of NoDa.

Project Proposal

“Let’s stand together, workers, and have a union here”¹ highlights Charlotte’s textile workers, their communities, lives, and labor activism in the early 20th century. These workers, nearly exclusively white due to the South’s Jim Crow segregation policies, lived together in close-knit mill villages where they strove to support each other through good times and bad. They grew

¹ From Ella May Wiggins, “A Mill Mother’s Lament,” (1929). During the 1929 strike at Gastonia’s Loray Mill, twenty-nine year old mill worker and organizer Ella May Wiggins penned and performed this song titled “Mill Mother’s Lament” which was later recorded by Pete Seager. That year, Wiggins was killed by anti-labor vigilantes for her activism leaving five orphaned children. After her death, the song became an anthem for the southern labor movement.



their own crops, raised animals, danced, played baseball, listened to records, radio, and strove for a better future for themselves and their family.

The North Charlotte mill workers community created a strong sense of solidarity among the workers and an expectation of justice at work which sometimes resulted in conflicts with mill owners and management. From 1919 to 1934, these workers struck against what they saw as injustice and oppression. They fought for higher wages but also for the right to have a say in their work and how it would be done. They wanted dignity and justice and they risked their jobs and their physical safety to achieve the ideal of economic justice, an ideal which was an essential part of the national policy program known as the New Deal. Their strikes challenged the notion that southern industrial workers were passive, loyal and obedient. Although they failed to gain the concessions they were looking for, their collective actions turned the nation's attention to the plight of the southern workers in the 1920s, and 1930s. Little has been done to acknowledge or recognize their contribution to national history.

Our grant project will seek to correct this by creating a mural that recognizes and celebrates Charlotte's mill village communities, their joys and recreations, but also their unionism and labor strikes for better conditions. The mural will highlight NoDa's past as a textile center of Charlotte and present written and oral accounts detailing the lives and work of Charlotte residents.

Scope of Work

The NoDa NBA is looking for (1) muralist/artist for this project. Final Designs may be subject to edits by the NoDa NBA and/or the Property Owner (Built on Hospitality).

Design Details:

- Design must cover the entirety of the pictured wall, including paneling and brickwork (roof and windows are not included in the design).
 - Paint must be safe for vinyl siding and done in such a way that the mural will last rain and weather damage.
 - Colors should be not overly bright or overly dark for proper visibility and avoid overly stylized colors.
 - The proposed design may not contain any advertisements, stickers, or offensive content.
 - The proposed design must be original artwork and reflect the accurate history and culture of NoDa's mill communities based on the best primary and secondary historical sources available (see "Resources" section below).
 - Final artwork shall be created with or sealed with an anti-graffiti coating, be suitable for all weather, and sun-damage preventable.
 - Final design must be approved by the Project Team, NoDa NBA, and Property Owner.
 - The artist is responsible for all materials and supplies for the creation of this mural.
 - Final design must include the NoDa NBA logo (will be provided).
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Resources

- Mural narrative: Behind the mural: “Let’s stand together, workers, and have a union here”: An Artistic Display of Historical Labor Resistance in North Charlotte’s Mills
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CmRPPKc9oDGkxTmrq1RThnboeyuYin/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101367890504611153147&rtpof=true&sd=true>
 - Additional resource document for history of North Charlotte North Charlotte millworkers
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MdhOTPeUjZhW8n6ZghJXDefS0I7FKx1MEm3aA4usas/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Dr. Tom Hanchett’s essay on the history of the North Charlotte neighborhood (pages 1-10 are truly relevant to this project)
 - <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Hanchett-North-Charlotte-Essay.pdf>
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Proposal Requirements

Please include the following in your proposal:

- A short bio/introduction,
 - Relevant experience and at least two samples of previous artwork (ideally previously completed murals),
 - And your design proposal sketch for this project.
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Compensation

Compensation: \$15,500. Half will be given when the contract is signed and the remaining half when the work has been completed.

Location

Mural Location: 3040 N. Davidson Street. Mural will be on the right side of the house.



Projected Timeline

November 4, 2025	Artist RFP Release Date
December 31, 2025	Proposal Deadline: Team Begins Reviewing Submissions.
January 6, 2026	Team presents top 3 submitted designs to NoDa NBA for review and vote on final design. Artist is informed.
January 15, 2026	Final artist selected and notified. Contract signed.
January 19, 2026	First half of funds are dispersed to artist.
February 1, 2026	Mural site is powerwashed in preparation for painting. Mural installation to begin afterwards.
March 1, 2026	Mural completion deadline, last batch of funds dispersed to artist.



Submission Instructions

- Please email your proposal and any supporting materials to: krysten.reilly@noda.org
- Subject Line: Last Name - Creative Growth Grant

Questions

If you have any questions about this RFP, please contact: krysten.reilly@noda.org

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