

PUBLIC ART

PROGRAM

CALL TO ARTISTS PARAMOUNT PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of Paramount is seeking applications from artists for the design, fabrication, and installation of a public art opportunity. This is a public art project inside an event room and community space that will soon be under construction within the **Hay Tree Public Market** project at **16493 Paramount Blvd.** Hay Tree Public Market is a food hall presently under construction inside a building primarily built in 1926.

The building is immediately adjacent to the Hay Tree, California Historic Landmark No. 1038. The Hay Tree was a gathering location for hay sellers from the early 1930s through the early 1960s. The peak of the hay and dairy industry in the township of Hynes (now Paramount) began in 1932. Hynes was the largest volume hay market in the United States, followed by Kansas City and Minneapolis/St. Paul.

The building was originally an automobile repair garage called Schilling's Garage. By 1940, Western Consumers Feed Company, a dairy supplier, acquired the property and operated for decades from this location. By the early 1980s, Ted Mosier Sales, Inc. owned the property and operated a construction material and general merchandise wholesale business with a public scale at the front of the building. Paramount Saw operated from the property from 2001 to 2023.

An agreement with the current property owner entitles the City to improve a portion of the 12,000 square foot building with a City historical museum and event area. The indoor 1,567 square foot event/community room, once completed, will include wall space that is in need of public art.

This opportunity is open to experienced artists based nearby or willing to travel to the City of Paramount. All expenses, including, materials, permits (if required for a particular type of artwork), lodging, transportation, and food are included in the budget noted below.

A participating artist or artist team (or their representative) must be 18 years of age or older and may enter a maximum of 2 works for consideration.

The public art will become the sole property of the City of Paramount. The City is entitled to reproduce and use the public art in any way on any media.

Description

The public art theme is **Celebrating the History of Paramount**. The commission is open to multiple types of design approaches and styles. The City is looking for a lasting project that will be a point of community pride and recognize the City of Paramount. Content options to include are people, buildings, Hay Tree, events, or a combination of one or more, as related to the City of Paramount (and/or the township or land before city incorporation in 1957).

Possibilities include mosaic mural and panels of relatively lightweight but durable material and construction, or a combination of the two. Painted murals are ineligible for this particular opportunity.

The artwork should be original work of the artist and appropriate and complementary for this publicly accessible location. The public art should be enjoyed by all generations and by a diverse community. Upon selection, the artist(s) and the City of Paramount will execute a contract formalizing terms, price, and schedule for completion.

The selected artist's name and social media handle will be included on a wall plaque, listed on www.paramountcity.gov, and listed on any marketing materials which feature the selected artist's work. Depending on the materials/media, the selected artist will receive up to \$55,000.

Budget

Project budget is up to **\$55,000** for the entire project. This budget is inclusive of all costs associated with the design, planning, materials, permits (if required based on the art type), installation, completion of the project, and all related incidental expenses. The budget includes all possible travel costs (transportation, lodging, meals, etc.) and insurance. This project is funded by the City of Paramount's Public Art Ordinance/Public Art Fund (fee of 1% of project valuation required for private development projects valued at \$100,000 or more).

Submission Requirements

- **Artwork**. Submit color sketches or mock-ups of each of your entries (no more than two entries). A proposal does not need to be a finished piece but should be as detailed as possible to represent what you intend to create.
- **Contact Information**. Please include full name, social media handle, mailing address, telephone, and email. Teams must identify one artist or representative to be the primary contact, as well as contact information for each artist on the team.
- **Resume or CV**. Current professional resume or curriculum vitae (CV), detailing relevant past projects, and providing professional references.
- **Digital images of past work**. 4 digital images (JPG or PDF format) of previously completed artwork. List date, size, location, and description of work.

- Letter of Interest. This 1-page letter should indicate why you are interested and note your creative approach. Include if you would be available for a short interview that could be recorded and archived for public listening and/or viewing.
- Itemized Budget. Provide an itemized budget including applicable shipping and installation costs.
- Community Value (Optional but Preferred). Submit a one-page letter describing how your project will engage the Paramount community. Preference will be given to proposals that include an outreach plan. Possibilities for outreach include the Paramount Historical Society, the nearby residential neighborhood, and/or other Paramount-based community groups.

Note: Upon final selection and approval, the artist will be required to submit final agreement documents, IRS W-9 form, artist biography, and artist statement.

Public Art Location Specifications

- The public art location consists of an interior wall of a 1,567 square foot event/community room that will soon begin construction inside the Hay Tree Public Market (food hall) that is now under construction.
- The total wall area is approximately 10 feet in length, and 8 feet in height.

Aerial View – Below is an aerial view of the Hay Tree Public Market property, outlined in red. The property is at the intersection of Paramount Blvd and Harrison St. To the immediate north is the Hay Tree, and City Hall is to the northwest.



Below is a photo of the historic Hay Tree on the adjacent property to the north of the Hay Tree Public Market building.



Below is an exterior view of the building before construction for reference.



Below is the exterior view of the building currently under construction for reference.



Below is a photo facing west of the interior of the building before construction began. The two people standing in the photo are in the area of the community room where the public art will be located.



Below is a floor plan of the building showing the public art location circled in blue within the event/community room shaded in yellow. The red line represents the building exterior. The project architect is Hamilton Architects.



Below is a rendering of the interior of the building that will be the event/community room. Dimensions of the wall space are included. The public art should be appropriately scaled and does not need to fill the entire wall space. The project architect is Hamilton Architects.



How to Enter

Submissions can be sent electronically to askplanning@paramountcity.gov . Digital files should be in a file format of one of the following: PDF or JPG.

Physical copies of artwork can be mailed or delivered to:

Paramount City Hall
16400 Colorado Avenue
Paramount, CA 90723
Attn: John King

Please contact John King at askplanning@paramountcity.gov or 562-220-2049 if you have questions.

Selection Process

Please review all of the submission rules and requirements throughout this Call to Artists document carefully. Failure to meet any one of these requirements may result in your submission being disqualified from the jurying process.

Works for this public art project will be reviewed by the Paramount Public Art Advisory Committee. Upon committee selection of the artwork finalist (or finalists), the Paramount City Council will provide final review and approval.

Schedule

Completed application materials and the proposed mural design must be received no later than 5:00 pm PST on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. The following is the complete schedule:

- Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Call to Artists release date.
- Monday, May 18, 2026. Deadline for receipt of all required submission materials.
- Thursday, May 28, 2026. Public Art Advisory Committee review of artist work.
- Tuesday, June 9, 2026. City Council selects final artist(s).
- Tuesday, June 23, 2026. City Council approves agreement documents for selected artist.
- Thursday, July 2, 2026. Deadline for selected artist to submit required agreement documents with signature.
- Monday, August 10, 2026 (tentative date, subject to completed construction of the event/community room). Artist begins the public art installation.
- Monday, August 17, 2026 (tentative date, subject to completed construction of the event/community room). Artist completes the public art installation.