



Montgomery Parks: Call to Artists

Public Mural Project at Glenmont Local Park

Call Summary

MARYLAND & DC RESIDENTS are invited to submit their qualifications and letters of interest in creating an outdoor mural on the south façade of the Glenmont Local Park activity building in Glenmont, MD. The deadline to submit applications is May 30, 2025, at 5 PM. Three to five finalists will be selected to receive a commission of \$1,000 each to prepare design concepts. From among the finalists, one will be selected to refine their design and create the mural. The projected budget to create the mural is \$30,000. Work on the mural may begin in September 2025 and must be completed by November 14, 2025. The project is managed by Montgomery Parks. The Montgomery Parks Foundation has generously funded the project.



View of the Park Activity Building. The proposed mural will occur on the wall pictured here.

Site Location and Project Description

Montgomery Parks part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is seeking qualified artists for a mural project on the south façade of the Glenmont Local Park activity building in Glenmont, MD. The selected artist can work with the entire wall

surface (shown in the photo above) and will be responsible for any primer preparation and final sealing of the finished mural.

Montgomery Parks owns and operates 19 Park Activity Buildings. They offer a convenient and affordable option for residents to host parties and all types of events. The Glenmont Park Activity Building sits within Glenmont Local Park at 3201 Randolph Rd. Wheaton, MD 20902. The building is adjacent to a small playground, a swimming pool, and two high schools (Wheaton HS and Thomas Edison HS). It was constructed in 1954 as a purpose-built recreation center and underwent a modest renovation in 2018.

Architecturally, the community building is a mid-century modern design. Over time, glazed openings on the rear of the building facing the playground have been removed and replaced with solid walls and doors. The introduction of public art on the south facade provides an opportunity to engage residents and enhance neighborhood identity.

The mural will be on the south elevation of the activity building, which is the public face of the building from Randolph Road. It is a one-story painted brick gable end wall and is a blank façade, measuring approximately 575 SF. The wall originally featured a large picture window that has since been bricked in. The mural can cover the entire south façade. The direct sunlight received due to the wall's southern exposure necessitates the use of paints and a protective coating that will ensure the integrity of the mural's colors over the years. The work area is entirely on Montgomery Parks' property, and no permits are required.

Special Considerations

Qualified artists are encouraged to visit the project site MoCoParks.org/GlenmontMural and view the wall. The brick wall is painted and has a shallow recess where the window was infilled. Qualified artists should use their expertise to determine the type of artwork appropriate for this surface. Parking is available on site, and we can arrange water and electricity as necessary.

Community Feedback

In July 2024, 1,654 Wheaton/Glenmont residents received a bilingual (English/Spanish) postcard inviting them to share input on the proposed mural's theme via an online survey. Fifty-five community members responded, providing valuable insights for the artist to consider during the design process. The artist is also encouraged to consider the local census data to better understand the area's racial and ethnic makeup—62% of residents identify as Hispanic or Latino. While not every suggestion can be incorporated, community feedback offers a meaningful foundation for creating a mural that reflects shared values and identity.

Key Themes Identified:

- Celebration of diversity, multiculturalism, and unity
- Appreciation for parks, native plants, and local wildlife
- Recognition of Glenmont's history, from its farming roots to suburban growth
- Honoring Latin American heritage and the contributions of immigrants

Local Landmarks to Consider (including some no longer in operation):

- Glenmont water tower
- Glenmont Arcade (Duckpin bowling)
- Stained Glass Pub
- Country Boy Market

Color and Imagery Preferences:

- Bright colors and lively visuals
- Natural tones: greens, blues, and nature motifs (trees, sky, water)
- Some interest in red and yellow, reflecting the Maryland flag or Wheaton High School

Community Aspirations:

- A strong sense of pride and love for the area
- Calls for reduced crime, affordable housing, better walkability, and economic development

The community envisions a mural that is vibrant, inclusive, and deeply rooted in local history and culture—something they can take pride in.

Project Goals

- The artwork should improve the overall visitor experience by creating a memorable image and a strong sense of place.
- The artwork may express the community's culture and identity and may reference elements from the surrounding geographic area, natural systems, or site history.
- The artwork should draw from the community feedback received (see link to Community Input under Additional Resources).
- The artwork medium should be paint, which is sealed upon completion.
- The artwork shall be permanent, durable, and easy to repair and maintain.

Eligibility

MARYLAND & DC RESIDENTS who are 18 and older are eligible to apply. An artist may apply on behalf of a group of artists who also reside in Maryland or DC, but unless the group is incorporated, the contract will be awarded to the applicant. Arts organizations are eligible to apply provided the artists designing and creating the mural are Maryland or DC residents.

Selection Process

There will be a two-step selection process.

Step One

Applicants should submit their professional qualifications and examples of a broad range of their exterior public work, as outlined in the application requirements. Incomplete applications will not be considered. An artist selection jury will review initially submitted materials to develop a short-

list of finalists based on qualifications and artistic excellence as demonstrated by past work, other professional accomplishments, and the likelihood of successfully completing the project within the expected timeframe. Up to five artists will be selected to advance to Step Two.

Step Two

Each finalist will be invited to visit the site, prepare a site-specific concept proposal, and present their concept proposal to the artist selection jury. The jury will be comprised of representatives from the community and Montgomery Parks staff. Each selected finalist will receive an honorarium of \$1,000 to cover costs associated with preparing the concept; no expenses or travel costs will be reimbursed. Concept proposals should include a color design concept proposal to scale; proposed materials for surface preparation, installation, and sealing; means and methods for installation; a site protection plan to ensure the adjacent areas and features will not be damaged; an itemized budget, availability, and schedule; and maintenance requirements.

The artist selection jury reserves the right to request modifications to the proposals to meet project goals and requirements. If adjustments cannot be made to meet the stated goals or the jury's suggestions, the jury has the authority to disqualify a finalist. Montgomery Parks will post the finalists' designs on the Glenmont Park Activity Building website, where the community will have the opportunity to vote for the winning design.

The project contract, for final design and installation of the artwork, will be awarded and administered by Montgomery Parks.

Montgomery Parks shall have the unconditional right to retain the design proposal materials from the finalists as part of the proposal process. If the proposal is disseminated by print or digital means, full credit will be given to the artist or artist team.

Final Design Process (for Selected Artist)

- Work collaboratively with Parks staff to refine the design.
- Create a final design for approval by the Parks.
- Purchase or rent materials, supplies, and equipment necessary for the creation of the artwork.
- Execute artwork in a manner consistent with the approved design, provide an anti-graffiti / UV resistant coating, Coating specifications to be provided by artist for approval by Montgomery Parks prior to application.
- Protect against damage to nearby surfaces and features and restore work site to pre-installation conditions.
- Develop a maintenance guide, provide inventory of materials used, and documentation of completed work.
- Work cooperatively with the Parks throughout the process in a manner that facilitates the design, coordination, and installation of the artwork for the project, and consistently meets the schedule.

Budget

The budget consists of two phases: 1) planning and 2) project implementation. In the planning phase, a \$1,000 honorarium will be awarded to each finalist selected to develop their design concepts. The projected budget for project implementation is \$30,000 for the winning artist and

will be disbursed in three installments. This budget includes the artist's commission as well as all necessary supplies, equipment, and insurance for creating the mural. Funds are not available to cover travel costs during either the planning or implementation phases.

Artists will be required to carry liability insurance, as well as Workers Compensation insurance if applicable.

Anticipated Project Schedule

- Call to Artists Posted - May 2025
- Applications (Qualifications) Due - May 30, 2025
- Artist selection jury meets to review applications and select finalists - June 2025
- Finalists contacted, sign design agreement. Artist planning phase: \$1,000 honorarium awarded to each finalist - End of June 2025
- Artists work on concepts - End of June to mid-July 2025
- Design concepts submitted with proposed budget & project schedule - Mid-July 2025
- Final design concepts presented to be voted on by the community via an online survey – July to August 2025
- Community voting closes, and the winning design is selected - August 2025
- MOU signed with winning artist; one third of the \$30,000 project implementation honorarium is awarded - August 2025
- Community engagement at the park activity building to refine the design - September 2025
- Begin mural installation; additional third of the \$30,000 project implementation honorarium awarded - September 2025
- Public dedication and community celebration; final third of the \$30,000 project implementation honorarium awarded - November 2025

Schedule subject to change.

How to Apply

Applications should be concise, well-organized, and easy to follow. They should include the following materials:

1. Resume (2 pages max)
2. Statement of Interest (1000 words max). Tell us your professional accomplishments as an artist and why you are qualified and interested in this project.
3. 3-10 digital images representative of your work that are relevant for this project. Images must be at least 300 dpi and are preferred in JPEG or PDF formats. Images should be numbered and correspond to an image list. Alternatively, include the information below embedded with the image.
4. Image List: Provide an annotated list of the images, indicating the image number, artist's name, title of work, date, media, site location, and budget.
5. Include at least three (3) references of people who have detailed knowledge of the artist's work. Each reference listed must include contact name, organization/affiliation, address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Submit all *clearly labeled* materials via this link – art@montgomeryparks.org

Please clearly label all files with the artist's **full name for all application materials**

- *Example* – Jerome Smith Resume and Letter of Interest.pdf
- *Example* – Jane Martinez Work Samples.pdf
- If possible, please consolidate files into one PDF
- PDF, JPEG, MP4 and PNG files preferred

Additional Resources

- Mural Facade Measurements

About the Montgomery Parks Foundation

The Montgomery Parks Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that champions Montgomery County Parks by cultivating financial support and public engagement of county residents and businesses as members, donors, sponsors, and advocates.

About Montgomery Parks

Montgomery Parks manages more than 37,000 acres of parkland, consisting of 415 parks. Montgomery Parks is focused on promoting physical activity, social connectivity, and environmental stewardship, especially in diverse and urbanizing areas, with an emphasis on teens, working-age adults, and seniors. Montgomery Parks is a department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), a bi-county agency established in 1927 to steward public land. M-NCPPC has been nationally recognized for its high-quality parks and recreation services and is regarded as a national model by other parks systems. MontgomeryParks.org

Accessibility at Montgomery Parks

Montgomery Parks, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the Program Access Office at 301-495-2581 (Voice/TTY), MD Relay 7-1-1 or 800-552-7724 or ProgramAccess@MontgomeryParks.org to request a disability modification. [Visit Montgomery Parks Program Access](#) for more information.