



Call for Artists

South Shore Bank Building Painted Art Installation Project

CorridorLive! South Shore / Commercial Corridor Storefront Activation Grant Program

The South Shore Community Development Corporation is seeking artists to create painted art installations for the historic South Shore Bank Building located near the highly visible intersection of 71st Street and Jeffery Boulevard.

This project is part of the broader [CorridorLive! South Shore](#) and [Commercial Corridor Storefront Activation](#) grant program, a corridor revitalization effort focused on activating storefronts, celebrating South Shore culture, supporting local business growth, and creating visible momentum along the 71st Street commercial corridor.

The South Shore Bank Building has long stood as a landmark within one of the community's most active transportation, commercial, and pedestrian hubs. Through this project, the building will be transformed into a vibrant public-facing art experience that reflects the history, beauty, creativity, and future of South Shore.

This is not a single mural commission. We are seeking a curated collection of painted works by multiple artists, installed on framed plywood panels of various sizes.

Project Vision

The goal is to create a highly visible outdoor art installation that:

- Celebrates the culture, history, architecture, music, food, people, and lakefront identity of South Shore
- Adds beauty and energy to the 71st Street commercial corridor
- Supports storefront activation and commercial district revitalization
- Creates a visual destination for residents, visitors, businesses, and investors
- Highlights South Shore as a community of legacy, creativity, commerce, and possibility

The artwork should feel bold, welcoming, culturally grounded, and visually engaging from the street. We are looking for work that helps people stop, look, smile, take photos, ask questions, and feel proud of South Shore.

Installation Format

Selected artists will create original painted artwork on framed plywood panels prepared for installation on or around the South Shore Bank Building.

Panel sizes will vary and may include:

- Large feature panels
- Medium mural-style panels
- Smaller accent panels
- Window-covering or façade-mounted art panels
- Grouped panels that create a larger visual story

Final dimensions, number of panels, and placement locations will be determined based on the site plan, building conditions, safety requirements, and overall curatorial direction.

Artists may be selected for one panel or multiple panels depending on the proposal, style, scale, and project needs.

Suggested Themes

Artists are encouraged to respond to one or more of the following themes:

- **South Shore Legacy**—Architecture, migration stories, neighborhood pride, generational memory, landmarks, and community leaders.
- **South Shore Culture**—Music, jazz, art, literature, fashion, food, faith, family, storytelling, celebration, and creative expression.
- **South Shore as Gateway**—71st Street and Jeffery as a community crossroads, transportation hub, commercial corridor, transportation hub and gateway to the lakefront.
- **Nature, Water, and Wellness**
- Lake Michigan, beaches, harbors, gardens, flowers, trees, wellness, rest, movement, and the natural beauty of South Shore.
- **Commerce and Possibility**—Small businesses, entrepreneurship, storefronts, economic revival, future investment, and community ownership.
- **The Future of South Shore**—Youth, innovation, imagination, housing stability, cultural tourism, neighborhood revitalization, and what South Shore is becoming.

Artists may also propose their own concept if it aligns with the overall goals of the project.

Who Should Apply

This opportunity is open to visual artists, muralists, painters, illustrators, designers, and artist teams.

Priority consideration may be given to:

- South Shore artists
- South Side artists
- Chicago-based artists
- Artists with a connection to South Shore's history, culture, or community
- Artists experienced in public art, murals, exterior painting, or community-based visual work
- Emerging artists with strong concepts and the ability to complete the work professionally

Youth artist teams, artist collectives, and collaborations between emerging and experienced artists are welcome.

Scope of Work

Selected artists will be expected to:

- Develop an original painted artwork concept for one or more framed plywood panels
- Participate in a project orientation or site briefing
- Submit a final sketch or digital concept for approval before painting begins
- Complete the artwork within the approved timeline
- Use durable materials appropriate for exterior display
- Coordinate with the project team on delivery, installation, sealing, and documentation
- Sign a basic artist agreement, including permissions for project promotion and documentation

The project team will coordinate final installation unless otherwise agreed.

Materials and Durability

Because the artwork will be publicly displayed outdoors, selected artists should use materials suitable for exterior conditions.

The project team may provide or specify:

- Framed plywood panels
- Primer requirements
- Approved paint types
- Protective sealant requirements
- Installation hardware or mounting support
- Anti-graffiti coating, if applicable

Artists should indicate in their proposal whether they will need materials support or whether material costs are included in their proposed budget.

Compensation

Selected artists will receive an artist fee based on the size, complexity, and number of panels assigned.

Compensation may include:

- Artist design fee
- Painting/production fee
- Materials stipend or reimbursement
- Possible additional support for sealing, transport, or installation coordination

Final artist fees and panel assignments will be confirmed before work begins.

Suggested placeholder until budget is finalized:

Artist compensation will be determined by panel size and scope. Artists should submit a proposed budget or fee range with their application. The project team may also assign artists to specific panel sizes based on available funding and curatorial needs.

Submission Requirements

Artists should submit the following:

1. **Artist name / team name**
2. **Contact information**
 - Email
 - Phone number
 - Website or social media, if available

3. **Artist statement or short bio**

Briefly describe your work, your connection to South Shore or the South Side if applicable, and why this project interests you.

4. **Concept proposal**

A short written description of your proposed artwork. Include the theme, imagery, message, and how it connects to South Shore.

5. **Preliminary sketch or visual reference**

This may be a hand sketch, digital mockup, collage, mood board, or sample visual direction.

6. **Work samples**

Submit 3–5 examples of past artwork, especially murals, paintings, public art, or large-scale work.

7. **Preferred scale**

Indicate whether you are interested in a small, medium, or large panel assignment.

8. **Budget or artist fee range**

Include your proposed fee and any anticipated material needs.

9. **Availability**

Confirm your ability to complete the work within the project timeline.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed based on:

- Artistic quality and originality
- Connection to South Shore culture, history, identity, or future vision
- Visual impact from the street
- Feasibility within the project timeline and budget
- Experience or demonstrated ability to complete painted work at the proposed scale
- Durability and appropriateness for exterior public display
- Overall fit within the curated group installation

The selection committee may choose multiple artists whose work collectively creates a strong, balanced, and engaging visual experience.

Project Timeline

Call Released: September 1st, 2026

Proposal Deadline: September 15th, 2026

Artist Selection / Notification: September 22nd, 2026

Artist Orientation / Site Briefing: September 29th, 2026

Final Designs Due: October 15th, 2026

Painting / Production Period: October 15th - 25th, 2026

Installation Target Date: October 30th, 2026

Public Unveiling / Community Activation: November 15th, 2026

Submission Instructions

Artists should submit proposals and any questions by email to:

Lashawn Brown

lashawn@southshorechamberinc.org

Subject Line: South Shore Bank Building Art Proposal – [Artist Name]

Deadline to submit questions is Friday, September 11th by 5pm.

Important Notes

All artwork must be original. Artists may not use copyrighted images, logos, trademarks, or recognizable portraits without written permission.

Selected artwork should be appropriate for public display and should not include discriminatory, hateful, sexually explicit, violent, or campaign-related content.

The project team reserves the right to request design adjustments for safety, scale, content, durability, or site compatibility.

Selected artists may be asked to sign an agreement allowing the South Shore Chamber, South Shore CDC, SSA #42, and project partners to photograph and promote the artwork as part of corridor revitalization, marketing, reporting, and community storytelling.
