

Annual Public Arts Plan FY2026
CONTEST- Eligibility & Project Guidelines

Deadline: Sunday, December 7th, 2025 11:59PM CST (Project 1-3)
Library Murals- Deadline: Sunday, January 4th, 2026 11:59PM CST (Project 4)

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Artist Eligibility & Requirements

Deadline: <u>Sunday, December 7th, 2025 11:59PM CST (Project 1-3)</u> Library Murals- Deadline: <u>Sunday, January 4th, 2026 11:59PM CST (Project 4)</u>	
All submissions must be received by the stated deadline . Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered .	
Age & Eligibility	- Artists must be eligible to work in the U.S. to receive funds. - All artists must complete a W-9 form. <i>If under 18, a parent or guardian must complete the W-9 to receive funds.</i> - Artists must have the correct contact information.
Design	- Follow all Project Design Guidelines listed below. - Upload high-resolution photos, scans, or digital images per project specs at 300 ppi dpi. Sketches or incomplete designs will be ineligible. - Multiple designs are welcome—please combine them into one file (PDF or Word document) before submitting.
Submissions	- Artists can only submit ONCE per project. - We will only be accepting the first submission. - If you are submitting multiple designs, combine them into one PDF or Word file. <i>Example: Submitting 2 designs for Mini-Gallery Posts Artwork, each page should include one design with its title and size clearly stated.</i>
AI Disclaimer	- Submissions generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools must be the original work of the submitting artist, organization, or writer and may not rely solely on AI-generated content. - AI may be used as a supportive tool (for editing, or refining ideas), but the final entry must clearly demonstrate the artist's or author's own creative work. - Works that are entirely AI-generated will not be accepted.
Acknowledgment	- The artist agrees that artwork submitted is for the community's benefit and becomes City property upon completion. - Further agreements and contracts will be discussed with artists whose proposals are selected.

Guideline Overview

Some project will have specified guidelines to ensure artists are made aware of appropriate design considerations for **public viewing and dimensions**.

All artists submitting artworks part of design and poetry contests are expected to follow the guidelines to ensure their submission is eligible.

Project List

You can find **project templates and samples** in the **Template section of the Public Arts Page**. These are meant as examples to help guide your submission and highlight important considerations in your design.

FY26 Public Arts Projects		
1. Footnotes: A Literal Story Walk Sidewalk Poetry (\$250- for selected writing)	Description	Poetry embedded into sidewalks through stamping – featuring original work by community members.
	Goal	Introduce literary arts into daily life, with themes that highlight local history, district pride, or offer uplifting messages designed to inspire and enrich the community.
2. Jumpstart Creativity-Ground Hopscotch Murals (\$500- for selected design)	Description	Painted hopscotch murals that combine art, play, and learning, encourage people to physically engage with the artwork.
	Goal	Activate sidewalks near schools, and libraries with joyful, interactive art for children and families.
3. Mini Gallery Posts (\$500- for selected designs) *The award represents the total purchase amount for the selected artwork and includes printing costs.*	Description	Small outdoor display cases featuring rotating exhibits will invite local artists, organizations, schools, or youth to contribute, making the art space inclusive and hyper-local.
	Goal	Bring art into everyday outdoor spaces, showcases small works such as paintings, prints, poetry, photography, or student art.
4. Library Murals Deadline: <u>Sunday, January 4th, 2026 11:59PM CST</u> (\$500- for interior selected designs & \$750- for exterior selected design)	Description	Interactive murals designed to enhance libraries as inclusive, high-traffic community hubs.
	Goal	Promote education, creativity, and cultural connection – especially important in Laredo, where outdoor engagement can be limited by weather.

City of Laredo
Standard Operating Procedures for Public Art Projects

Design Contest Guidelines

1. All art must be original.
 - The artwork cannot quote, appropriate or adapt imagery created by other artists, unless that artist's permission is obtained in writing in advance and submitted to us.
 - The adaptation of other imagery (e.g. photographs) is allowed if the images are in the public domain, or used with permission.
2. The rendering may be hand-drawn, or digital, but **must be in color, or have an explanation of the colors being used**, including but not limited to warm, cool, complementary, analogous color palette.
3. The artwork must have a title and narrative description, artists statement.
4. Remember, the murals will be in public areas and must be suitable for all ages, races, etc. There should be nothing offensive, vulgar, too scary, etc.
5. Logos, advertisements, organization names, and other promotional content are not permitted in the artwork.
6. Design may not include any large fields of solid white or color, as these invite tagging/graffiti.
 - The artwork proposed should fully occupy all surfaces, with complex or overall patterning, to assist with graffiti prevention.
 - Artist may be asked to adapt proposed design so that all surfaces meet this rule.
7. Proposals should include the Artist's signature as it would appear on the artwork(s).
 - Signatures must not exceed 2 inches x 8 inches in actual size and cannot include the copyright sign©. Websites, phone numbers, social media handles, etc. are not allowed.
8. Selected works will be displayed as submitted if already framed.
 - Unframed artworks will be framed by the City at its discretion to best complement the piece and maintain consistency across the exhibition.
9. Mini- Gallery Post Artwork- For digital submissions, artists must provide a high-quality printed version of the artwork (matte finish preferred). Printing costs are **included** in the project compensation.

INELIGIBLE ENTRIES

A proposal/rendering will be ineligible if it contains any of the following:

1. Copyrighted or trademarked image or logo; a brand or business name.
2. Art that is plagiarized, stolen or copied or partially appropriated from another source (i.e. somebody else's idea and/or imagery).
3. Anything that defames or invades the rights of any person, living or dead. Anything that could be construed as harmful to a third party.
4. Work that is not suitable for viewing by all ages and cultures, in a public location, as determined by the City of Laredo at its sole discretion.
5. Artwork should be inclusive and suitable for diverse public settings. Designs referencing specific faith traditions may be deemed ineligible.
6. Prints or reproductions of traditional original artworks (e.g., a print of an oil painting) and

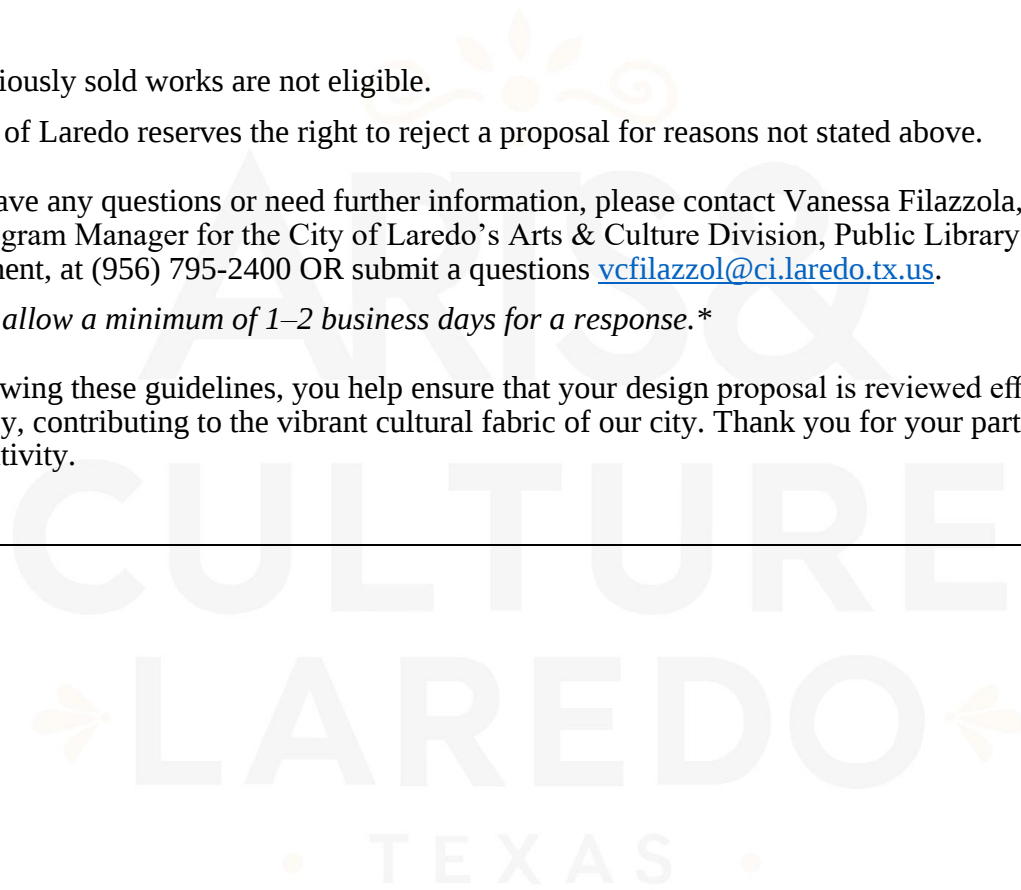
previously sold works are not eligible.

7. City of Laredo reserves the right to reject a proposal for reasons not stated above.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Vanessa Filazzola, Public Arts Program Manager for the City of Laredo's Arts & Culture Division, Public Library Department, at (956) 795-2400 OR submit a questions vcfilazzol@ci.laredo.tx.us.

Kindly allow a minimum of 1–2 business days for a response.

By following these guidelines, you help ensure that your design proposal is reviewed efficiently and fairly, contributing to the vibrant cultural fabric of our city. Thank you for your participation and creativity.



City of Laredo – Public Arts Program

Project Recommendation Design Approach

The design prompts are provided as inspiration. Artists and organizations are encouraged to propose alternative concepts, as long as they are appropriate for public viewing and their goals are clearly outlined in the letter of interest || artists statement.

Project Themes Include	
Mental Health & Wellness	Sports & Teamwork
Education, Learning, Reading or Storytelling	Cultural Heritage & Local Pride
Motivation, Encouraging, & Positivity	Environment & Sustainability
Holiday & Seasonal	Playful and Whimsical
Other: _____	

Themes	Design Prompts
1. Footnotes: A Literal Story Walk Sidewalk Poetry	
1. Mental Health & Wellness	- Write a short poem celebrating kindness toward yourself or others, or finding light on difficult days. - Explore finding calm in a busy or chaotic day. - Share a quote or tip you'd want to hear that promotes mental health and wellness.
2. Sports & Teamwork	- Reflect on how sports, teamwork, or building community has shaped you. - Explore the power of coming together – friends, family, neighbors – to achieve something meaningful. - Write a short poem celebrating collaboration with your peers.
3. Education, Learning, Reading or Storytelling	- Reflect on how learning has changed your world – what doors has knowledge opened for you? - Share a quote or piece of advice you wish you had learned early in life. - Describe a world you've visited through books or stories.
4. Cultural Heritage & Local Pride	- Write a poem about your city and its traditions. - Explore Laredo's unique culture – its food, music, people, or history.
5. Motivation, Encouraging, & Positivity	- Write an uplifting poem encouraging someone to take a step forward. - Share a message that would make someone smile or keep going during challenging times. - Compose a short, positive poem designed to motivate and inspire others.
6. Environment & Sustainability	- Celebrate the Rio Grande, Laredo's natural beauty, or ways we can protect our home. - Share an uplifting quote or short poem about caring for the environment and keeping it clean.

7. Holiday & Seasonal	- Write a poem about the magic of holidays, family traditions, cultural celebrations, or seasonal joy.
8. Playful and Whimsical	- Write a short, playful poem that bends reality. - Explore silly, imaginative, or whimsical ideas in your poetry. - Use words in surprising ways to make readers see the everyday differently.
2. Jumpstart Creativity: Ground Hopscotch Murals	
1. Mental Health & Wellness	- Create uplifting affirmations or mindful creative, playful steps.
2. Sports & Teamwork	- Design steps inspired by different sports, movements, or playful “plays.” - Create a path that encourages healthy activity, motion, and fun.
3. Education, Learning, Reading or Storytelling	- Incorporate creative learning elements, such as identifying plant elements, learning the planets, a book with each step a word, etc. - Design imaginative story-themed paths—example: stepping stones leading to a castle with mushrooms, fairies, or magical elements throughout.
4. Cultural Heritage & Local Pride	- Highlight local landmarks, cultural symbols, or historical facts within each square.
5. Motivation, Encouraging, & Positivity	- Design each square with a motivational word, phrase, or symbol in a unique, creative style.
6. Environment & Sustainability	- Design a creative nature trail featuring animals, trees, or other natural elements for players to follow. - Incorporate motifs like leaves, rivers, or the sun to make each step engaging. - Include prompts such as “Care – Grow – Bloom” or sustainability messages like “Reduce – Reuse – Recycle.”
7. Holiday & Seasonal	- Design a festive hopscotch with seasonal shapes, colors, or patterns. - Incorporate elements like snowflakes, flowers, foods, or piñatas to represent the season creatively in each square.
8. Playful and Whimsical	- Design a hopscotch path with unusual shapes, twists, or imaginary steps. - Incorporate playful movements, unexpected colors, or magical elements that make kids and adults smile. - Make each square a mini “adventure” or whimsical experience.
3. Mini Gallery Posts ARTWORK: (Any small form of art or medium- max size 24" X 24" X 15")	
1. Mental Health & Wellness	- Produce artwork that shows how you recharge, find peace, or support mental well-being.
2. Sports & Teamwork	- Produce small artworks that illustrate the connection between play, sports, exercise, and community.
3. Education, Learning, Reading or Storytelling	- Create artwork that encourages reading or symbolizes knowledge, growth, and discovery. - Produce a scene that illustrates adventurous stories inspired by books.

4. Cultural Heritage & Local Pride	- Illustrate Laredo's landmarks, traditions, or cultural motifs through your art. - If you're not from Laredo, showcase something significant from your own heritage.
5. Motivation, Encouraging, & Positivity	- Create small-scale artwork celebrating compassion, helping hands, and positivity. - Explore how acts of encouragement and kindness can be visually represented.
6. Environment & Sustainability	- Depict wildlife, nature, or eco-friendly practices in imaginative ways. - Create art about recycling, green spaces, or your favorite part of the natural world.
7. Holiday & Seasonal	- Illustrate how your community celebrates meaningful traditions. - Capture seasonal celebrations or holiday spirit in a small, engaging artwork.
8. Playful and Whimsical	- Create artwork full of whimsy, exaggeration, or imagination – surreal or dream like pieces. - Explore fantastical landscapes, humorous characters, or otherworldly scenarios.

3. Mini Gallery Posts- Schematics Design Overview

To be eligible for submission, all seven items listed below are mandatory.

1. INTERIOR ART DIMENSIONS	- Accommodates artworks up to 24" x 24" x 15" - (height) X (width) X (depth) - Ability to display mini- art exhibitions.
2. VERSATILE MOUNTING	- Submissions should include at least one or more alternative options for post installation: - Free-standing - Wall-mounted - Tree-mounted - Corner-mounted
3. CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL	- Durable metal construction - Paired with UV-resistant Polycarbonate with a minimum 1/4" thickness to ensure long-lasting quality.
4. INTEGRATED ILLUMINATION	- Designs must allow space for LED illumination without interfering with the artwork. - Include a mount for solar power at the top of the post and/or provide plug-in compatibility with discreet cord management.
5. ENHANCED SECURITY	- Designs must include a hidden or discreet locking mechanism to safeguard valuable artwork from tampering.
6. DURABLE FOR PUBLIC USE	- Thick polycarbonate, weatherproof and vandal-resistant, ideal for high-traffic public areas.
7. EFFORTLESS ART ROTATION	- Includes convenient mounting and access features for easy artwork changes. - Include at least two accessible perspectives for visual engagement.

4. Library Murals

Branch & Area	Design & Themes
1. Joe A. Guerra- The Wall (exterior)	- Envision the wall as a space for interaction and connection, not just a backdrop. - Design with kids, families, and visitors in mind — create elements that invite play, curiosity, and photo moments. - Incorporate color, movement, or scale to encourage people to engage with the wall up close. - Aim to make it a memorable community spot — a place people want to visit, explore, and share.
2. McKendrick, Ochoa, and Salinas- “LAREDO” Letters (exterior)	- We’re looking for distinctive patterns and designs that reflect Laredo’s vibrant culture, history, and identity. - Each letter should stand out yet connect as part of a unified landmark. Think of using monochromatic motifs for each letter that reveal more details up close. - Represent American, Hispanic, Texan, Mexican, and other cultural influences. - Incorporate textures, colors, and motifs inspired by local heritage and community life.
3. Barbara Fasken- Interior Wall Kids Play Area (interior)	- Use child-friendly subjects such as animals, nature, storybook worlds, or gentle whimsical elements - Designs should feel warm, friendly, and age-inclusive, appealing to toddlers through early readers. - Use a balanced composition that keeps the space comfortable and inviting. The mural should enrich the room as a setting for reading, exploring interests, and shared moments. - Keep in mind that certain furniture pieces may sit in front of the mural.
4. Bruni Plaza- Learning Center (interior)	- Use child-friendly subjects such as animals, nature, storybook worlds, or gentle whimsical elements - Designs should feel warm, friendly, and age-inclusive, appealing to toddlers through early readers. - Use a balanced composition that keeps the space comfortable and inviting. The mural should enrich the room as a setting for reading, exploring interests, and shared moments. - Please note that furniture pieces may be placed in front of the mural. We highly suggest designing with this in mind.
5. Bruni Plaza- Storytime Area (interior)	- Use child-friendly subjects such as animals, nature, storybook worlds, or gentle whimsical elements - Designs should feel warm, friendly, and age-inclusive, appealing to toddlers through early readers. - Use a balanced composition that keeps the space comfortable and inviting. The mural should enrich the room as a setting for reading, exploring interests, and shared

	<i>moments.</i> - <i>Please keep in mind the mural design should exclude the windows and A/C control.</i>
6. Lamar Bruni Vergara Inner City-Kids Play Area (interior)	- Use child-friendly subjects such as animals, nature, storybook worlds, or gentle whimsical elements - Designs should feel warm, friendly, and age-inclusive, appealing to toddlers through early readers. - Use a balanced composition that keeps the space comfortable and inviting. The mural should enrich the room as a setting for reading, exploring interests, and shared moments. - <i>Please note that furniture pieces may be placed in front of the mural. We highly suggest designing with this in mind.</i>