



COMMUNITY-ENGAGED ART AT THE WONG CENTER

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2024



**ART
TONIC**

INTRODUCTION

Mutual Housing California is seeking two artists or artist teams to create public art in collaboration with the residents of the Wong Center, an affordable housing community in Sacramento's historic Railyards area. This opportunity involves two separate, large-scale community art projects: one for an indoor area and one for an outdoor area.

Selected artists or teams will work closely with Wong Center residents and community members to design and create artworks. The finished pieces should celebrate and highlight the cultural, historical, and social stories of the Wong Center community, creating a sense of home and belonging for the residents.

In partnership with Art Tonic and Annie Ledbury of the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, we aim to uplift the voices of our senior population and build stronger connections between residents, their neighbors, and the wider community.

The project is expected to run from December 2024 to June 2025.



ABOUT THE WONG CENTER



Part of the Railyards Revitalization Project, The Wong Center is located at 631 F Street, Sacramento, CA. It's located at the edge of both the Railyards and the historic Chinatown in Sacramento.

The Wong Center features 135 one-bedroom and 15 two-bedroom apartments, all designated for seniors aged 55 and older, with incomes ranging between 40% and 60% of Sacramento County's area median income. Additionally, the Wong Center includes 4,000 square feet of community space and an outdoor area.

This housing complex supports Mutual Housing's mission to address the housing needs of California's diverse families. Mutual Housing emphasizes resident involvement in shaping their communities through site-specific councils that address various needs, including youth development, education, economic resources, safety, and recreational facilities. Leadership and community building are integral aspects of Mutual Housing's approach.

History of the Area: Sacramento Railyards

Originally inhabited by the Maidu and Nisenan people, the Sacramento Railyards region has a history dating back over 4,000 years. During the Gold Rush, Chinese immigrants settled in the area known as "China Slough," which later became part of the Railyards. Sacramento's first Chinatown, called Yee Fow, developed in the mid-1800s along I Street, becoming a thriving community despite frequent flooding and fires. Chinatown continued to grow, peaking in population by 1880, but faced setbacks with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. By the 1950s and 60s, redevelopment projects displaced much of the original Chinatown, and efforts to re-establish it in the 1970s had limited success. Subsequently, after 130 years in operation, Union Pacific ceased all rail operations in the Sacramento Railyards in 1999. Today, the Railyards area is undergoing revitalization, with the goal of transforming into a mixed-use area while addressing environmental concerns from its industrial past.

ARTIST OPPORTUNITIES

We are excited to offer both indoor and outdoor spaces for art installations. Although a fully developed project plan is not required, artists will be asked to indicate their preference for an indoor or outdoor site on the application form.

Indoor Locations



Lobby of the Wong Center. The entrance faces 7th Street.

This is a prominent entry space that serves as a welcoming area for visitors.

Indoor Locations (Continued)



Community Room (view from entrance)



Community Room (view from kitchen)

Outdoor Locations



Front of the Building



Community Garden

Outdoor Locations (Continued)



Back of the Building

ARTIST OR ARTIST TEAM ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this opportunity, applicants must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be an experienced professional visual artist.
- We have a preference for applicants who have strong connections to or reside within the Sacramento region. Artists should be able to engage regularly in person with residents of the Wong Center.

We welcome artists at all stages of their careers and encourage submissions that show experience with public art and community-engaged art projects.

We expect artists or artist teams to:

- Complete the project within the specified budget. (Slightly larger budgets may be approved for the outdoor artwork due to higher material costs.)
- Adhere to the project timeline outlined below.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Call to Artists Launches	Monday, September 23, 2024
Online Information Session	Monday October 7, 2024 5:30pm
Call to Artists Ends	Friday, November 1, 2024
Finalists Notified	Monday, November 18, 2024
Selected Artists Notified	Wednesday, November 27, 2024
Artwork Designs Approved	March 2025
Artworks Completed and Installed	June 2025

BUDGET

Each selected artist or artist team will be allocated a project budget of \$15,000 to cover all costs related to the creation and installation of the artwork. This budget is designed to encompass materials, labor, and any other necessary expenses. After artists are selected, they will work with the project team to develop their budgets.

Note: While the standard budget is \$15,000, there is flexibility for slightly larger budgets for outdoor projects due to potentially higher material costs. Adjustments may be made based on the specific requirements of the projects.

APPLICATION PREVIEW

The following information, questions, and files are required to submit your proposal.

Submit on this Application form: <https://tinyurl.com/wongcenterartrfq>

First Name

Insert the first name of the Artist or Lead Artist here.

Last Name

Insert the last name of the Artist or Lead Artist here.

Email Address

Insert the email address of the Artist or Lead Artist here.

Phone Number

Insert the phone number of the Artist or Lead Artist here.

Website or professional social media link (if applicable)

Are you applying as an artist team?

Choose Yes or No from the dropdown menu.

If applying as a team, add the additional artist names here.

Choose your project location preference.

Indoor

Outdoor

Open to either Indoor or Outdoor

APPLICATION PREVIEW (CONTINUED)

Narrative Questions

Provide a brief biography of yourself that describes your artistic practice and career highlights. (1500 characters or less)

This answer should be about the Artist or Lead Artist. If applying as a team, include team bios in the next field.

If applying as a team, include the rest of the team bios here. (2500 characters or less)

Artist Statement: Describe your artwork, including the media, style, themes, and subject matter. Explain your inspiration, motivations, techniques, and materials. (1500 characters or less)

If applying as a team, please provide the following information for the entire team, not just the lead artist.

Describe your experience with community engagement in your art practice, especially in large-scale projects. Include specific examples of how you have *involved community members in your art*. (1500 characters or less)

If applying as a team, please provide the following information for the entire team, not just the lead artist.

Explain how collaborating with the senior residents at the Wong Center aligns with your artistic vision and practice. What approaches or strategies would you use to ensure meaningful engagement with the residents? (1500 characters or less)

If applying as a team, please provide the following information for the entire team, not just the lead artist.

Describe your connection to the Sacramento region and to the Railyards area. How could this connection inform your approach to creating a community-engaged art project with the residents of the Wong Center? (1500 characters or less)

If applying as a team, please provide the following information for the entire team, not just the lead artist.

APPLICATION PREVIEW (CONTINUED)

Artist Uploads

Image Submission

Upload 8-10 image files of your artworks relevant to this opportunity. Each image file should feature only one artwork.

If applying as a team, the images should represent the entire team, not just the lead artist.

- Format: PNG or JPG
- Size: Each file should not exceed 7 MB.
- File Naming: Label each image file with your first and last name followed by a number (e.g., JaneSmith1.png, JaneSmith2.png).

Image List

Provide a PDF document with an image list that includes the following details for each artwork:

- File Name
- Artist Name
- Artwork Title
- Artwork Dimensions
- Year Completed
- Artwork Location (If applicable)
- Artwork Description (Include any community engagement details.)
- File Naming: The PDF should be named with your first and last names (e.g., JaneSmith_ImageList.pdf).

Artist Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Upload your CV as a PDF file.

- Length: Maximum of 3 pages.
- File Naming: The PDF should be named with your first and last names (e.g., JaneSmith_CV.pdf).

SELECTION PROCESS

Artists will be selected based on a competitive review process that considers the completeness and clarity of their application, demonstrated experience in large-scale art and community engagement, technical skill, and their connection to the Sacramento region. A selection committee, composed of art professionals, Mutual Housing staff, and community members will evaluate proposals using the rubric below. Finalists will be invited for an interview to discuss their art and community engagement experience in more detail.

Rubric

Topic	Description	Points
Application Completeness	Clarity, thoroughness, and completeness of the application, including adherence to guidelines, format of file types, and all required materials.	5
Large-Scale Art Experience	Demonstrated experience creating large-scale public or private art installations. Consideration includes successful completion of similar projects that reflect a strong understanding of public art processes, environments, and audiences.	5
Community Engagement Experience	Quality of past work that involved community engagement in the design, development, or implementation. This includes examples of how the artist/ artist team has worked with diverse groups of people, facilitated participatory activities, and created artworks that reflect and/or integrate community input, ideas, values, and/or creations.	5
Technical Skill	Assessment of the technical skill exhibited in the artist's/ artist team's previous work, considering use of materials, craftsmanship, durability, and innovation. This includes the feasibility of media and techniques in the context of the proposed project and the facility's needs.	5
Connection to the Region	Degree of connection or familiarity with the Sacramento region, including residency, past work in the area, community relationships, and understanding of local culture, history, or demographics. This may include how the artist's/ artist team's work reflects or is influenced by the region.	5
Total Points		25

HOW TO APPLY

Submissions are due on Friday, November 1, 2024 by 11:59 pm PST.

Submit here: <https://tinyurl.com/wongcenterartrfq>

All artists will be notified of a decision by December 6, 2024.

INFORMATION SESSION

We will host an information session on Zoom, Monday, October 7, 2024 at 5:30 PST.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/wongcenterartinfo>

OFFICE HOURS

Join Art Tonic for office hours if you have questions or would like advice on your application. Register at the links below.

Friday, October 4, 11am - 12pm: [Click to Register](#)

Thursday, October 17, 6pm - 7pm: [Click to Register](#)

QUESTIONS

Submit questions by email to mutualhousingart@gmail.com

DISCLAIMER

Mutual Housing CA reserves the right to select up to two artists or artist teams for this project, or to reject any or all applications. We may also extend the call for artists or issue a revised call to ensure a fair and comprehensive selection process. The final number of selected artists and the details of their projects will be determined based on the evaluation of all submissions and project requirements.