Request for Proposals

Digital Mural Artist

May 2026

Prepared by:
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Batavia Park District
327 West Wilson Street
Batavia, IL, 60510

Batavia
Park District

Request for Proposals

Digital Mural Artist

Batavia, Illinois Pedestrian Ramp Mural Project

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1. Project Overview

The Batavia Park District is soliciting proposals from qualified artists or artist teams for the creation of a digital mural design for the Batavia Pedestrian Ramp project.

The selected artist will develop a large-scale mural design to be executed as a community engagement initiative from late June through August 2026. The mural will be implemented using a paint-by-number format spanning 53 individual panels.

This Request for Proposals is for **digital design services only**. Proposals should not include the provision of paint, materials, or on-site installation services.

The mural site is located along a U-shaped pedestrian and bicycle ramp in Batavia's historic downtown area. The ramp connects the Fox River Bike Trail to the City of Batavia and serves as a prominent gateway for both residents and visitors.

Batavia, founded in 1833, is the oldest city in Kane County and is home to approximately 26,000 residents. Known for its windmill heritage, strong sense of community, and proximity to the Fox River, Batavia offers a blend of historic character, natural beauty, and modern accessibility.

2. Mural Theme and Design Intent

The mural, titled **"Peace Out Batavia!"**, will serve as a vibrant and welcoming visual landmark adjacent to the "Peace on Earth" pedestrian bridge and Peace Plaza.

The design must include a designated "Instagrammable" feature incorporating the word *Batavia.*

The design should incorporate one or more of the elements below:

- Reflect themes of peace, community, nature, and healthy living
- Celebrate Batavia's riverfront identity and outdoor culture
- Incorporate elements such as local birds, fish, flowers, windmills, and pets
- Convey a sense of movement appropriate to its river-adjacent setting

- Respect the historic character of the downtown environment

The overall aesthetic should be **bold, colorful, family-friendly, and visually engaging**.

3. Design Requirements

The mural design must:

- Be community-focused and welcoming
- Utilize organic, flowing compositions
- Incorporate both:
    - Outlined foreground elements (outline color may vary), and
    - Non-outlined/background elements
- Complement surrounding architectural and environmental features
- Be one continuous mural design and not a patchwork style of several mini-murals
- Integrate the Batavia Park District color palette:
    - Green (#8DC640)
    - Blue (#0556A5)
    - Dark Blue (#173547)
    - Magenta (#910191)
    - Gold (#EBAB25)
    - Greige (#99A1B4) (tentative)
- Be developed in a clear paint-by-number format suitable for community participation
    - Limited painterly sections are permitted; however, these may require artist volunteer participation to complete.
- Be developed in a way to use Sherwin Williams paint swatches.

Site Considerations

- The mural will be installed on the **inside of the outer walls only** of a U-shaped ramp
- The tops of the walls are sloped; mural coverage begins at the handrail and extends upward
- A designated **“Photo Corner”** will be located on the north wall for high visibility
- Two fixed elements must be incorporated into the design so they remain clearly visible and integrated into the composition. The items are shown in images at the end of the proposal. These elements are:
    - A mirror
    - A “Bicyclists Slow” sign

4. Artist Deliverables

Overall Mural Package

The selected artist shall provide:

- Full mural rendering in:
  - Full color
  - Black and white
- Print-quality resolution vector files
- Division of mural into 54 panels ready for production
- A palette of **10–25 total colors**
- Paint specifications using Sherwin-Williams swatches
- Estimated percentage usage of each color

Panel-Specific Deliverables (for each panel)

- Full-color vector rendering
- Press-quality vector file for printing
- Cyan-outlined vector file indicating paint-by-number guides
- Paint swatch numbers used
- Panel-specific paint list (Sherwin-Williams references)

Exclusions

The artist is **not responsible** for:

- Paint procurement
- Materials
- Fabrication or installation

5. Eligibility

This opportunity is open to:

- Individual artists and artist teams
- Emerging and established artists

Experience in mural design, public art, or large-scale visual work is **preferred but not required**.

6. Project Location

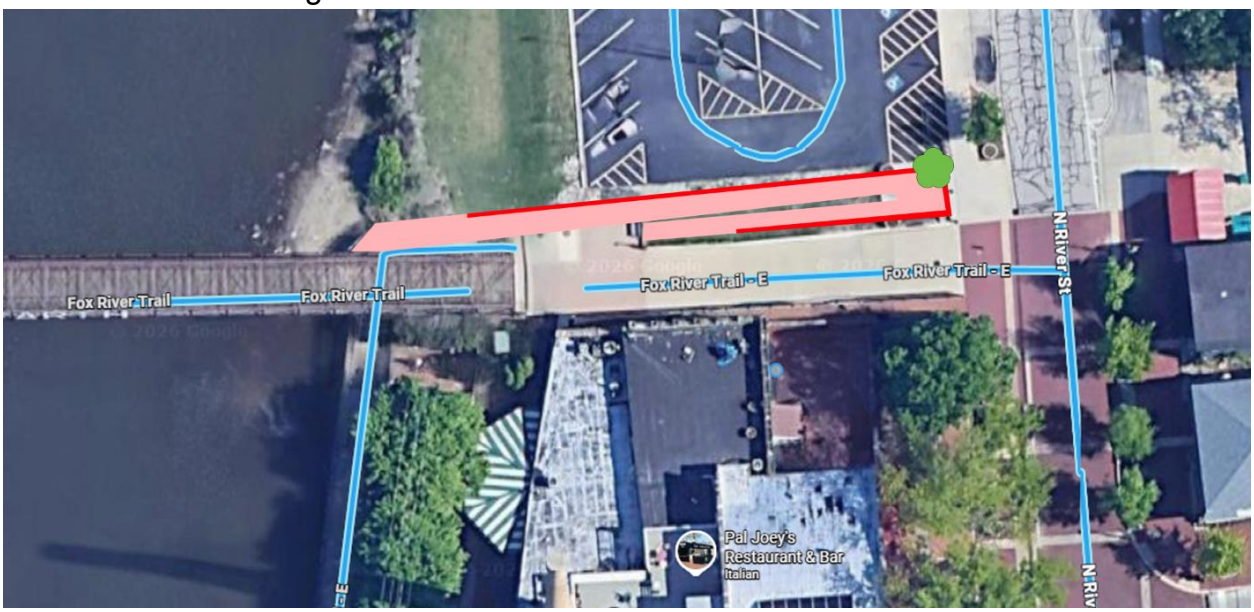
The mural site is located:

- On the east side of the Fox River
- Near the intersection of North River Street and State Street

- Adjacent to the “Peace on Earth” pedestrian bridge
- In downtown Batavia, Illinois

Site reference materials are available below. The mural indicated in the schematics is a placeholder and not a suggestion to the artist. The mural will start at the handrail and go to the top of the wall.
https://files-backend.assets.thrillshare.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/5349/Cob/53dacfe6-df38-48ac-b3f9-1583ea951731/Peace-Bridge-V3-renderings.pdf?disposition=inline

The ramp is indicated in pink. The mural location is indicated in red and the photo corner is indicated in green.



7. Dimensions

The artist will submit a vector file which will be scaled to fit the mural dimensions.

The mural will span three exterior ramp walls (53 panels total). The panels at their maximum size are 4’x8’. The mural will cover the wall above the handrail (indicated as a horizontal gray line on the schematics at the end of this document.)

- North wall: 142 feet
- West wall: 25 feet
- South wall: 49 feet

8. Submission Instructions

All design proposals must be submitted:

- As a **single PDF document**
- Via email to: **katieb@bataviaparks.org**
- No later than **9 a.m. CST on May 28, 2026**

9. Entry Requirements

Submissions must include:

- Artist name
- Company name (if applicable)
- Contact information (email and phone)
- Total project fee
- Portfolio (3–6 samples of relevant work)

Optional:

- Up to three (3) concept descriptions and/or preliminary sketches on the provided ramp shape template.

10. Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed by a Batavia Park District selection committee with representation from the Batavia Public Arts Initiative.

Evaluation criteria include:

- Artistic quality and originality
- Alignment with project goals and theme
- Feasibility of execution
- Compatibility with the surrounding environment

11. Project Timeline

- May 13, 2026 — RFP released
- May 28, 2026 — Proposals due (9 a.m. CST)
- May 28, 2026 — Jury review (11 a.m.)
- May 29, 2026 — Artist selected
- May 29, 2026 — Notification to all applicants
- May 10, 2026 — First draft due

- June 15, 2026 — First revisions due
- June 19, 2026 — Second revisions due
- June 22, 2026 — Final deliverables due

12. Compensation

The selected artist will receive payment upon completion of:

- Final mural design
- Production-ready panel files
- Complete paint specifications

Payment will be issued to the selected artist via check within 30-60 days of design completion.

13. Terms and Conditions

- The artist is not required to participate in mural installation but may volunteer
- The artist will collaborate with the project manager on design details as needed
- The artist will receive credit on-site and in public communications, where feasible

Rights and Usage

- The artist retains ownership of all original artwork and submissions
- The Batavia Park District is granted a **perpetual, non-exclusive, worldwide license** to use, reproduce, and promote the artwork for both commercial and non-commercial purposes without providing additional compensation to the artist
- The artist grants permission for use of their name and likeness in project-related materials

14. Contact Information

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Project Manager:

Katie Burgess
Director of Creative Development and Community Engagement
Batavia Park District
Email: katieb@bataviaparks.org

15. Additional reference materials

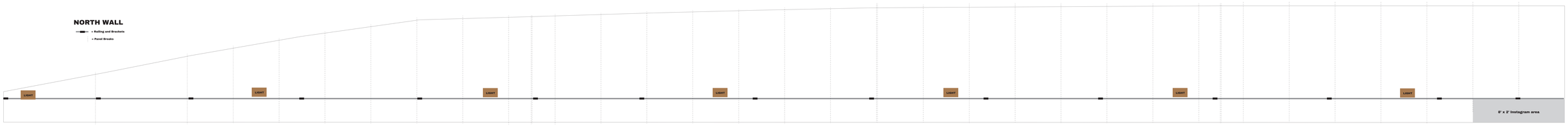
Attached are these images:

1. **North wall schematic.**
    - The mural design should cover from the horizontal handrail line to the top of the wall. The only portion included below the handrail line is the 8’x2’ Instagram area indicated in gray. The left side of the Instagram area can be milled to be a different shape. Use this schematic as the base template for the design. Ai files are available upon request.
        i. Single dotted lines - panel edge
        ii. Double dotted lines - panel edge and expansion joint.
        iii. Thick horizontal line - handrail- The panels end at the bottom of the handrail.
2. **Photo of North wall showing handrail, lights and slope.**
3. **East wall schematic**
    - All art is over the handrail except for the 8’x2’ Instagram area indicated in gray.
    - The Mirror and Caution Sign locations are set. The mural design must incorporate these two elements in a way to ensure they have high visibility. The right side of the Instagram area can be milled to be a different shape. Use this schematic as the base template for the design. Ai files are available upon request.
4. **Photo of 5’8” Man in the Instagram area.**
5. **Photo of two men next to the Mirror and Caution Sign showing the scale of the mural space.**
6. **South wall schematic**
    - The mural design should cover from the horizontal handrail line to the top of the wall. Use this schematic as the base template for the design. Ai files are available upon request.
    - Single dotted lines - panel edge
    - Double dotted lines - panel edge and expansion joint.
    - Thick horizontal line - handrail- The panels end at the bottom of the handrail.
7. **Photo of South wall corner with tape and indicator lines showing panel locations**

NORTH WALL

= Railing and Brackets

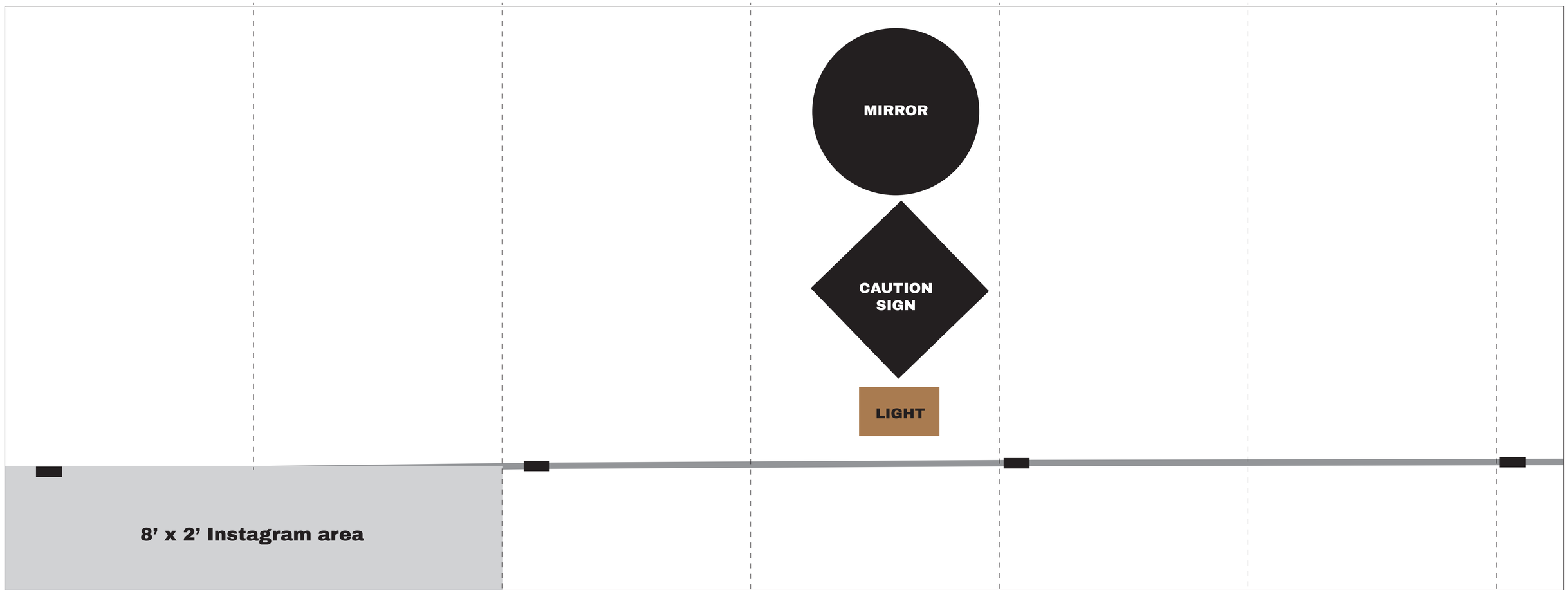
= Panel Breaks



END WALL (EAST)

= Railing and Brackets

= Panel Breaks

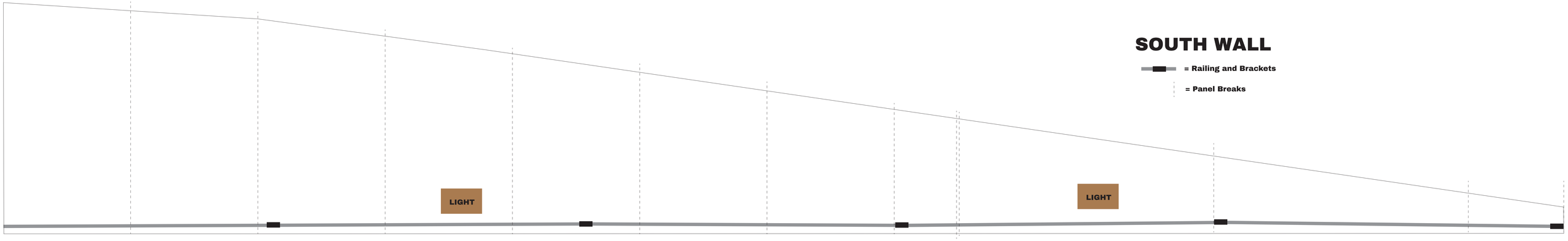


BICYCLISTS
SLOW

SOUTH WALL

= Railing and Brackets

= Panel Breaks



BICYCLISTS
SLOW