

Call for Entries: Ojibwe Heritage Murals

The Grand Portage National Monument in Grand Portage, Minnesota is pleased to announce a call to artists for the Ojibwe Heritage Murals project.

Timeline

Monday, November 18th, 2013, 8:00am

Submission period begins

Friday, January 31st, 2014, 4:00pm

Submission deadline

Background

The Grand Portage National Monument interprets the heritage and lifeways of the Ojibwe people, the use of the historic Grand Portage trail, and cross-cultural encounters between native and Euro-American people made possible by the fur trade. The national monument, located in Grand Portage, Minnesota lies entirely within the Grand Portage Reservation.

This is a cooperative project between the Grand Portage National Monument and the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The national monument and the Grand Portage Band have partnered on over 100 projects. The Heritage Center, which overlooks Grand Portage Bay on Lake Superior, opened in 2007 and sees nearly 100,000 visitors annually. The Heritage Center is open year-round, admission is free.

The Heritage Center serves as the national monument's visitor center. The Heritage Center is also home to the Park's artifact storage area, a cultural demonstration area, interpretive exhibits, classroom, gift shop, and administrative offices. The murals will be exhibited on the walls above the second floor cultural demonstration area. This area is dedicated to the production and exhibition of traditional handicraft objects.

The mural pieces will give visitors to the Heritage Center an attractive and compelling visual introduction to Ojibwe culture and Grand Portage as well as draw visitors to the second floor demonstration area.

For more information or to receive an Artist Packet, contact Ojibwe Heritage Murals Project Coordinator, Beth Drost by e-mail at elizabeth_drost@nps.gov, telephone at 218-475-0123, you may also visit www.nps.gov/grpo.

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Themes

This project celebrates the Grand Portage people, their history, and their place. The chosen pieces will highlight Grand Portage's key artistic, cultural, and/or historical attributes and enhance the Heritage Center's function as a source for Ojibwe culture and history.

Themes were chosen by the national monument and the Grand Portage community and will encompass the following:

1. The Grand Portage Ojibwe, a people with a distinct culture and a proud heritage, have lived for centuries in or near Grand Portage, where their culture thrives today. Production of traditional Ojibwe handicrafts in Grand Portage supports cultural continuity. At least one of the mural pieces should honor, inspire, and/or celebrate Ojibwe handicrafts at Grand Portage.
2. *Gichi Onigamiing*, or the great carrying place, was a vital part of both American Indian and fur trade transportation routes because of the area's geology, topographic relief, natural resources, and strategic location between the upper Great Lakes and the interior of western Canada. It refers to the 8.5 mile portage trail leading from Lake Superior to the Pigeon River. The trail is possibly thousands of years old. At least one piece should commemorate *Gichi Onigamiing*.

Media

The chosen project will encompass the above themes. Open to media including but not limited to the following: drawing, painting, photography, fiber, wood, bark, printmaking, sculpture, glass, encaustic, ceramics, mixed media, and/or digital art.

- 2D media pieces must be no larger than 6' x 18'.
- 3D media may be acceptable and must be appropriately sized to fill the space.

Artists will submit 2 to 4 conceptual sketches or digital illustrations of his/her interpretation of the project themes. Artists should attempt to capture the past and present tones, attitudes, and/or personalities of the Grand Portage people and *Gichi Onigamiing*. Submissions may depict scenes grounded in the production of Ojibwe handicrafts, nature, geography, people, places, culture, heritage, tradition, and/or spirituality.

This is a long-term exhibition. Artist must demonstrate longevity and durability in exhibition of the media. The media may be subject to sunlight, temperature fluctuations, and/or humidity. Where appropriate, pieces must be treated with UV protectant.

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Selection Criteria

Open to all artists and/or groups of artists. Artists of Anishinaabe heritage are encouraged to apply. The selection committee will evaluate each submission and select an artist based on the information contained in the proposals. Proposals will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Ability to design and create artwork that is pleasing and sensitive to cultural, historical, and environmental contexts of Grand Portage
- Honors, inspires, and/or celebrates Ojibwe handicrafts at Grand Portage
- Competency in the art form as evidenced in sample submissions and/or juried exhibitions
- Proven ability to undertake projects of a similar scope.
 - Ability to work on a large-scale.
 - Ability to finish projects within a set time frame.
- Preference given to Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Grand Portage Band members

Works must be original pieces created for this project. The finished works and copyrights become the property of Grand Portage National Monument.

Exhibition

The selected artist will create two 6' x 18' (or comparable) art pieces to be permanently installed above the second floor Cultural Demonstration area in the Heritage Center at Grand Portage National Monument.

Budget

The contract is inclusive of all artist fees, travel, research, design, materials, fabrication, transportation, installation/construction, preservation, and/or archival documentation. The project budget \$23,000 to \$25,000. Three project milestone payments are envisioned.

Installation

Artist(s) are responsible for installing the murals and the method of installation must be included in the project proposal. Installation should be factored in the project budget, materials and process must be approved by the Selection Committee.

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How to Apply

Each proposal must include the following:

Contact Information

- Include contact name, mailing address, phone number, and/or e-mail address of the lead artist

Letter of Interest

- Include up to 1½ pages explaining the artist's interest in the project, relevant large scale experience, and connection to the Ojibwe culture

Project Proposal

- Please include a description of the proposed works and how it relates to the two project themes (See Themes above)
- Include 2-4 conceptual sketches or digital illustrations of artist's interpretation of the project themes (See Submissions below)
- Describe the anticipated fabrication and installation needs for the permanent art. Be sure to include information that will help facilitate the artistic integrity of your work.
 - What space does the art fill?
 - How will the art be installed?
 - What protection/treatment will the art receive?
 - Describe special equipment or other needs

Demonstrated Ability

- Please submit up to six samples of finished artwork pieces to demonstrate competency. (See Submissions below.)
- The applicant must demonstrate an ability to work on a large scale. Please include at least one sample of work that demonstrates this ability. (See Submissions below.)

References

- List three professional references who can confirm to the artist's competency and ability to complete the project within a set time period and work on a large scale

Ojibwe Preference

- Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Grand Portage Band members should provide proof of enrollment.
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Submissions

Proposal and *Demonstrated Ability* images may be submitted to the Project Coordinator via e-mail or sent on a CD or DVD. Photos should be a minimum of 600×800 jpg or tif. Please include an image list.

Image List

Include the artist's name and a brief description of each image including its title, date, medium, size, location, and a reference number (Smith_01.jpg). Include a self-addressed envelope appropriately sized and sufficiently stamped for the return of application materials (if desired).

- E-mail submissions: elizabeth_drost@nps.gov, Subject: Ojibwe Heritage Murals
- If mailing CD/DVD USPS: Ojibwe Heritage Murals, Grand Portage National Monument, PO Box 426, Grand Portage, MN 55605 Attention: Elizabeth Drost
- FedEx/UPS: Ojibwe Heritage Murals, Grand Portage National Monument, 170 Mile Creek Rd, Grand Portage, MN 55605 Attention: Elizabeth Drost