



Community Call to Action

African American Mural: South Omaha Mural Project

A Midsummer's Mural

midsummer@cox.net

402-490-7026

Community Participants and Leaders Needed!

Project Overview

This mural will be created to depict the history, personal experiences, and vision for the future of the Black community in South Omaha. The story of this community is often overlooked in the understanding of Black History in Omaha and in the history of South Omaha. Many influential leaders came from this area, like [Roweena Moore](#) who was instrumental in improving workers rights in the meat packing plants and who founded the [Malcolm X Memorial](#). The neighborhood we will be focusing on is the Highland South/Indian Hills area. Research is currently being done by the Southside Redevelopment Corporation to understand the needs of the community for new housing. We want to ensure that the stories of the neighborhood are seen and heard amidst a time of great change for the area. Our mural will lift up voices of the past and present to celebrate the culture and contributions of this essential community of South Omaha.

This project is made possible by the South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance and will be part of the South Omaha Mural Project. A series of large scale murals depicting the diverse cultures and neighborhoods of South Omaha. You can see more about the other murals at southomahamuralproject.com

Goals

- Amplify Black voices and talent in Omaha

- Create a public space for this story to be seen and represented
- Create a beautiful and deeply meaningful work of art
- Have public discourse about the history and experiences of the community
- Imagine what the future of the neighborhood looks like, with redevelopment on the horizon
- Be invitational to what is needed and wanted by the community
- Use experimental mural creation techniques
- Maintain safe Covid-19 practices

Committed Artists

Barber <http://barberpaintspeople.com/>

Lead Designer- in charge of the direction of the visual design and overall content and message of the final mural.

South Omaha Mural Project Team <https://www.amidsummersmural.com/who-we-are/>

Rebecca Harrison, Richard Harrison, Hugo Zamorano, and Jair Rodriguez- present to provide technical support, strategic planning, and facilitation of many aspects of the project

Artists Needed:

- 5 Contributing Artists- brought in to provide multidisciplinary modes of expression to the workshops and contribute to the content and direction of the final mural.
- 5 Apprentice Artists- Paid to learn and assist with the design, installation, and completion of the mural

Call for Artists Information can be found at southomahamuralproject.com

Please share with any artists you think would be interested

Community Participants and Leaders Needed!

To accomplish this model we will need to have strong community partners. There will need to be a host from each block to help spread the news of each event and invite their neighbors personally to attend. It will be essential for the success of the project if there are advocates from the neighborhood who are personally invested in the project. Hosts will be asked to have a short informational session with the artists before the workshop to get all the details on how the event will unfold. Please read the details of the process below to get a better understanding of what the workshops will be like.

If you live in the Highland South/Indian Hills Neighborhoods and are interested in hosting a design workshop on your block or at your church please contact Rebecca Harrison at 402-871-1017 or email rebecca.midsummer@gmail.com

Details of the Process

Phase 1

Summer/Fall 2020: Conducting the design and painting workshops

Phase 2

Spring/Summer 2021: Design and Installation of the final mural

Due to some restrictions and setbacks, we have reimagined our previous mural making models. Instead of meeting indoors at public gathering places in large numbers, we will be doing targeted small outdoor workshops. We will be able to accomplish this by using our TELApporter, a van equipped with mural workspaces that can be set up quickly in a parking lot or driveway. We will paint on Polytab, a versatile mural fabric, that can be painted offsite and then installed onto a wall at a later date. This will be helpful in that we still have a few walls to choose from for the ideal placement of the mural. These workshops will be led by the lead designer and contributing artists. The lead designer will be in charge of providing context for the scope of the larger mural project, leading discussions, providing hands on guidance, and digesting the dialogue. Five contributing artists will be brought in for two workshops each. Their role will be to lead exercises that speak to their interests. For instance, a poet could lead a writing workshop before the painting exercise, or a dancer could get people moving their bodies and then responding to that in paint. Supporting Artists from the South Omaha Mural team will assist with set up and facilitation of the mural painting process. Workshops will target a small block radius with less than 10



neighbors participating at each event. We will have gloves and masks available to all participants.

Within a 3 hour window we will do the following

- Set up the mural van and play music to encourage people to come out and join the workshop. 15 min
- Give an introduction to the broad and focused context of the project. 15 min.
- The assistant artist will lead an exercise with a prompt that encourages people to think about content for the mural 45 min
- The lead artist will lead a discussion about mural design and content. 15 min
- The participants will then work to design and paint their own section of the mural. 1 hour 30 min.

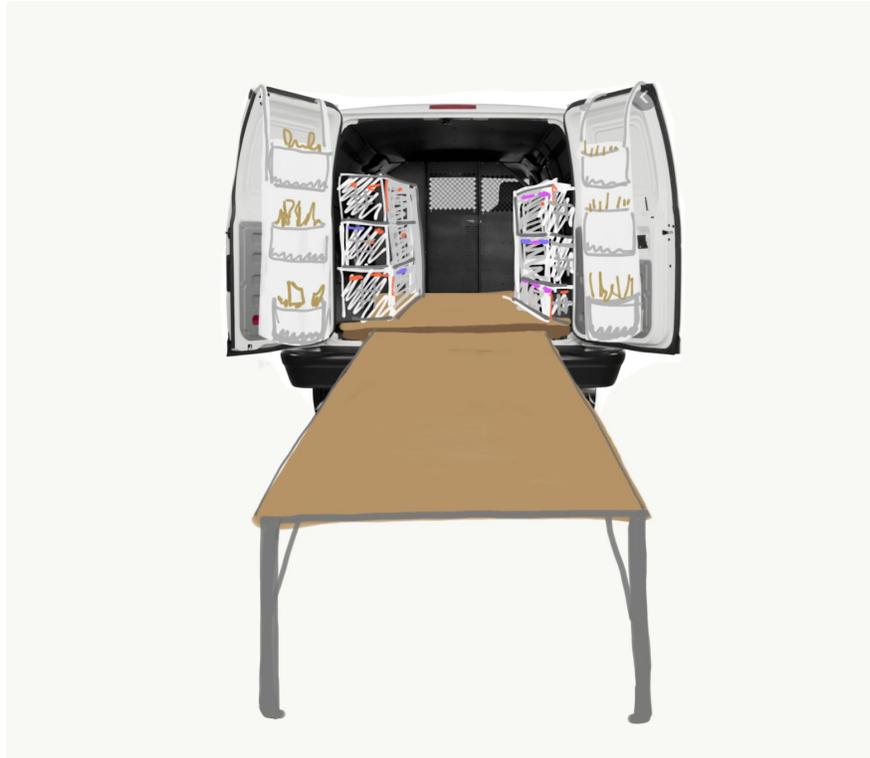
With this model, each workshop will be a different experience with different media, artists, and discourse. Each event will also produce a different swatch of the mural, we will only use a small range of colors at each event. At the end of all the workshops, we will have swatches of different hues to pull from to create the larger mural design. The lead designer will use these swatches as parts of a collage to create the final design. Before the pieces are cut up to create the large mural, we will find a way to showcase them as individual pieces. Whether they be displayed outdoors in public, projected on a wall, hung in an art gallery, or simply as a portfolio online, we will make sure to highlight the work on its own before it becomes integrated into the larger work.

To design the final imagery, the lead artist will gather all of the context and ideas discussed at the workshops. They will create a design that speaks to their personal artistic sensibilities as well as the stories and dreams of the community. Public comment will be welcomed on the design through online formats and in person visits to the neighborhoods.

Once the design is approved, the mural team will cut the swatches to match the design and apply the final design onto a wall using Gel Medium to create a permanent installation. All of the elements of the mural will have been painted by the community and the final composition will be informed by all of the conversation and input. It will be an inclusive and unique way of accomplishing a community built mural project.

The *TELA*porter

“Tela” meaning “canvas” in Italian and “cloth” in Spanish, the *TELA*porter will bring our studio out to the streets. With a retractable easel and mixing table, the van will be able to unfold into a fully functional workshop in minutes.



Phase 1 Timeline

Description	Approx Date	Duration (hours)
Artist Meeting	8/08/20	2 Online



Artist Meeting	8/11/20	2 Online
Workshop 1	8/15/20	3
Workshop 2	8/16/20	3
Artist Meeting	8/20/20	2 Online
Workshop 3	8/22/20	3
Workshop 4	8/23/20	3
Workshop 5	8/29/20	3
Workshop 6	8/30/20	3
Artist Meeting	9/02/20	2 Online
Workshop 7	9/5/20	3
Workshop 8	9/6/20	3
Workshop 9	9/12/20	3
Workshop 10	9/13/20	3
Exhibits of Mural Segments	9/20/20-10/30/20	?

Examples of our Work on Mural Fabric

