

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Lincoln School Prairie Mural

Deadline: Monday, February 23, 2026

Budget: \$12,500

Lincoln School (PreK - 1) in Fergus Falls, MN seeks a qualified artist or an artist team to design and create a mural on the exterior of the school building, adjacent to the school's outdoor play space.

The goal of this mural is to celebrate the prairie ecosystem of Minnesota while creating an inspiring public artwork that fosters play, joy, and school pride.



This project is made possible by the Inga M. Johnson Endowment Fund with West Central Initiative, and the voters of Minnesota through the Lake Region Arts Council.

Call for Artists: Request for Qualifications

Deadline: Monday, February 23, 2026 by 11:59pm

Note: This RFQ is for qualifications and experience, and does not require a design proposal at any stage of the selection process.

Mural Goals

- Create a mural that celebrates the prairie ecosystem in the Fergus Falls region.
- Inspire play and joy.
- Enhance the vibrancy of the Lincoln School site.
- Incorporate previously gathered community input into mural design.

Artist Eligibility

- Open to professional mural artists or artist teams in the U.S.
- Artists should have demonstrated experience in large-scale, outdoor murals.
- Preference for artists from Fergus Falls, the greater Minnesota region, and/or those with existing connections to Fergus Falls.
- Artists with experience integrating community input and creative engagement are preferred.

Artist Responsibilities

- Develop a mural design that aligns with the project's theme and vision.
- Collaborate with stakeholders, including community members, project partners, and local officials, to ensure the artwork reflects and incorporates shared values and community input.
- Prepare the mural site, including cleaning and priming surfaces as needed.
- Execute the mural using durable, weather-resistant materials suitable for long-term outdoor display.
- Adhere to the project timeline and budget while maintaining high artistic and professional standards.

Budget

- The total project budget is **\$12,500** which includes artist fees, materials, travel, and installation costs.
- Artist will be paid in 3 installments: \$2500 upon signing initial contract, \$7500 upon design approval, and \$2500 upon project finalization.

Site Information

The mural location is on a large exterior east wall of Lincoln School, facing the playground area (see cover page for image of the wall). The approximate maximum mural area is 4,000 square feet. Final mural dimensions, placement, and scale will be determined collaboratively with the selected artist based on artistic concept, budget, and installation logistics.

Design Process

Artist will be expected to incorporate student and school community input into their design. This input was collected in Fall 2025 and will be readily available for the artist once selected and contracted. To see a sample of this input, see the next page. After at least two planning meetings, the artist will submit a design and budget to a school advisory committee for feedback and approval before beginning the mural.

Timeline

February 23, 2026: Applications Due

March 2 - 6, 2026: Finalist interviews

March 13, 2026: Artists notified

April 2026: Planning and design development

May 2026: Design and budget approval

May - August, 2026: Mural Installation

August 2026: Celebration and Dedication

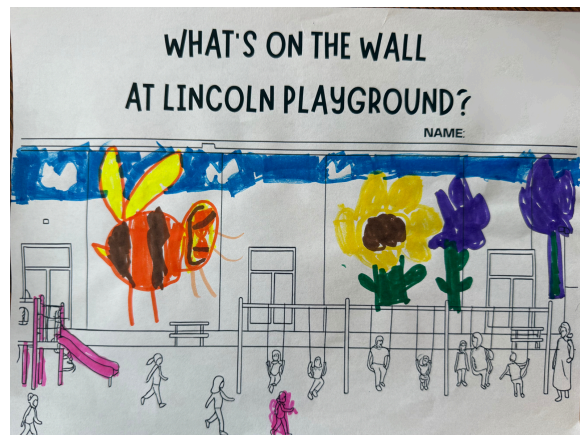
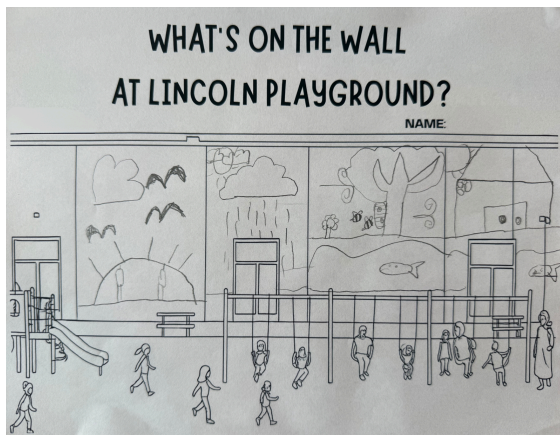
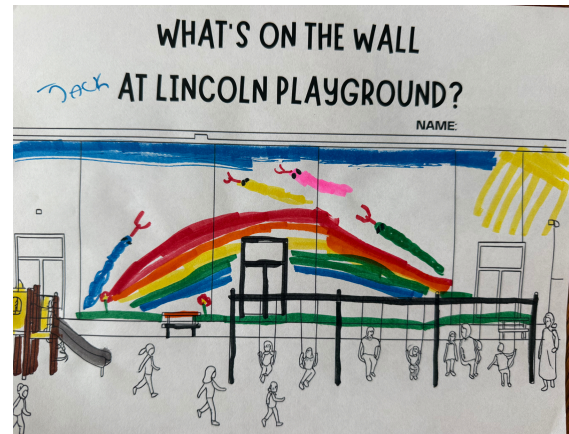
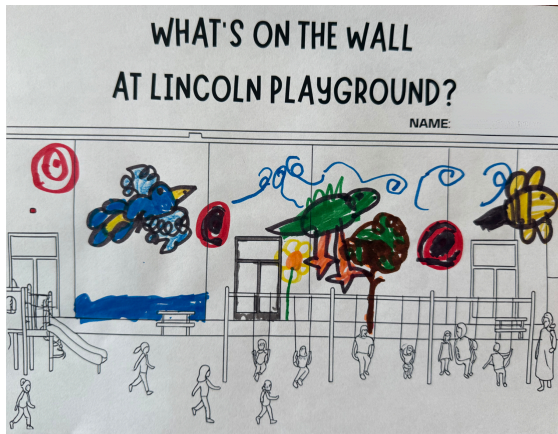
Selection Process

Artists will be selected based on their experience and quality of previous work. Finalists may be asked to participate in a short interview. Artists are not required to submit any design work at any stage of the selection process.

Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated artistic excellence and originality.
- Previous experience in executing outdoor murals of a similar scale, including knowledge of mural-making techniques, materials, and maintenance considerations.
- Passionate about the mural goals.
- Strong project management skills and the ability to work independently or with a team.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Community Input Samples



How to Apply

Please submit the following materials as attachments or a download link (dropbox, etc):

- Letter of Interest (1 page) outlining your artistic approach to public murals, and what excites you about the project.
- Resume or CV (for each team member, if applicable).
- Portfolio of past work (5-10 images with descriptions).
- Two professional references, who have experience on a community art project with you, with contact information.

Email your materials to:

LincolnMuralFF@gmail.com

Questions?

- Email LincolnMuralFF@gmail.com