

**Town of Brattleboro
Town Arts Committee**

**Art in Public Places
Application**

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Name: Ken Schneck on behalf of Pride Month Planning Committee

Address: PO Box 1185

Phone number(s): 802.579.1019

Email Address: kschnack@marlboro.edu

Project description

Title: The Concrete Quilt

Medium: Paint on Concrete

Size: Variable

Narrative: See attached.

Is this a site specific work? If so, what is the site?: Yes. The High Grove Lot Back Wall.

Is this an existing work? No.

Is special installation required? If so, please describe: No.

The Art in Public Places program of the Town Arts Committee is not designed for permanent installations. What are your preferred start and end dates (up to one year)? The painting would take place on June 24, 2012 and could stay up for a year.

Artists will be required to enter into a contract with the Town of Brattleboro regarding the borrowing of this work. The Town of Brattleboro does not insure art. under the Art in Public Places program. Artist, or current owner if not the Artist, retains ownership of the art.

Narrative for Concrete Quilt

As described in the bullets below, the goal of The Concrete Quilt, is to provide a space for community members to buy a plot (a 3'x6' square) on a sliding scale (\$1-\$20) with proceeds going to the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont (APSV). The painting would take place on June 24, 2012. APSV is facing a drastic reduction in state aid and this project would serve as both a fundraiser and awareness-builder. 2012 marks the 30th anniversary of HIV/AIDS into our lives and we want to give community members an opportunity to reflect on that experience in an alternative medium, while still echoing the AIDS Memorial Quilt (<http://www.aidsquilt.org/>). Given the proximity of the High Grove Lot to the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, this site is an ideal location.

1. Values and Goals

1.1 Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Arts:

- *Enhance the aesthetic environment of public places in Brattleboro through engaging, unique and high quality public artworks.*
- *Engage appropriately qualified artists.*

One of the goals of this project is to reclaim a concrete wall currently sporting graffiti and provide a space for remembrances and reflections on the past 30 years of HIV/AIDS. In this case, "appropriately qualified artists" would mean community members who have a passion for creating a panel. Much like the AIDS Memorial Quilt does not qualify just who can create a panel, not would we. That said, we would stick to the guidelines provided at <http://www.aidsquilt.org/make-a-panel>

1.2 Enhance Community Identity and Place:

- *Build awareness of community history, geography, identity and cultures.*
- *Develop artworks that are integrated into municipal building projects and are compatible with their settings.*

By having reflections from Brattleboro community members, this will be the ultimate expression of identity and culture. Currently this wall is in disrepair with unappealing graffiti; this project would, without question, enhance that space.

1.3 Contribute to Community Vitality:

- *Promote Brattleboro as a nationally and internationally recognized arts town and tourist destination.*
- *Build cooperation between the private and public sectors, artists, arts and community members.*
- *Encourage civic dialogue about important town and municipal issues.*
- *Develop and maintain safe artworks.*

Socially conscious art that reflects the character and passion of town residents can only serve to promote Brattleboro's twin commitments to art and activism. This project would most certainly create dialogue about HIV/AIDS and be an amazing collaborative between the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, local artists and passionate residents.

1.4 Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities:

- *Create opportunities for all citizens, neighborhoods and organizations to participate in the planning and creation of artworks.*
- *Celebrate Brattleboro's cultural communities.*
- *Provide opportunities for the community to come together.*

We will hold a planning meeting before the mural painting day on June 24th and use all available media to promote this event as an opportunity for all citizens, neighborhoods and organizations to join in.

1.5 Value Artists and Artistic Processes:

- *Provide a range of creative opportunities for artists with a range of experiences.*
- *Involve artists directly in the concept, design and creation of artworks.*

As mentioned above, the key to this project would be involving artists with a range of experiences. That said, we certainly do have some "ringers" who will be able to do some advising to enhance any struggling "quilters".

1.6 Use Resources Wisely:

- *Develop and sustain projects in a cost-effective manner.*
- *Where warranted, request municipal influence to leverage investment in public art, and use public art to leverage private investment in municipal ventures.*

Technically, this space is supposed to be maintained as graffiti-free by the town, but it clearly is not on the top priority list of town projects. This project would increase the pride in that space while also relieving the municipality of the burden to maintain it.

2. Questions for Artist Selection Criteria

2.1 Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Arts:

- *Is the artist's submission, previous work and/or proposed idea engaging and high quality in concept and construction?*
- *Is the quality of the artist's previous work comparable to other artwork commissioned by the Town of Brattleboro?*
- *Is proposed idea unique, one-of-a-kind or part of a limited edition?*
- *Is the artist over-represented in the Town of Brattleboro?*
- *Does the proposed project comply with the Town of Brattleboro's on-premise and off-premise sign regulations and other legal requirements?*
- *Does the artist have a significant or engaging body of work?*
- *Does the artist have experience collaborating with architects and other professionals?*
- *Does the artist have experience with architectural and engineering drawings and methods?*
- *Does the artist have experience in comparable projects and artistic disciplines?*

Tough to answer as this would be a group of artists.

2.2 Enhance Community Identity and Place:

- *Is the artist familiar with the community or setting and its characteristics (which may include history, geography, culture and identity)?*
- *Does the artist's previous work demonstrate such familiarity with its communities or settings?*
- *Do the proposed ideas demonstrate such familiarity with its communities or settings?*
- *Are the proposed ideas suited to integration into the site design?*
- *Does the artist have experience integrating artwork into infrastructure and building function?*

This art does not represent any obstruction to infrastructure. As it is community-derived, it will absolutely reflect Brattleboro and our characteristics.

2.3 Contribute to Community Vitality:

- *Do the artist's previous projects or proposed ideas have the potential to attract residents and visitors?*
- *Does the artist's previous work or proposed process build cooperation between the private and public sectors, artists, arts organizations and community members?*
- *Does the artist's previous work or proposed process encourage civic dialogue about Brattleboro issues?*
- *Are the artist's previous projects or proposed ideas safe?*

This will unquestionably be a safe project.

2.4 Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities:

- *Does the proposed process involve community members in the design or creation of the artwork?*
- *Does the artist have experience working with communities and with diverse groups?*
- *Does the artist have a demonstrated ability to address ADA regulations as they apply to public art?*
- *Does the artist's previous or proposed process celebrate one or more of Brattleboro's cultural communities?*
- *Does the artist have experience in projects that bring people together or create gathering places?*

Diversity is a key piece of this initiative.

2.5 Value Artists and Artistic Processes:

- *Does the artist have a unique or appropriate cultural, geographic or artistic perspective?*
- *Is the proposed project or process an opportunity to nurture an emerging artist?*
- *Does the proposed project or design process include the artist and the artistic process as a central element?*
- *Does the budget demonstrate appropriate support for the artist and the artistic process?*

Yes!

2.6 Use Resources Wisely:

- *Is the artist's previous work or proposed project sustainable, secure and technically feasible?*
- *Has the artist created an artwork that can be reasonably maintained within standard maintenance procedures, and has such a procedure been identified?*

•Has the artist's previous work been successfully completed within set timelines and budgets?

Yes!