



CALL FOR ARTISTS

Aliso Pico Recreation Center Community Garden Art Project

Application deadline: Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Anticipated project start date: Monday, November 2, 2026

Overview

Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission seeks a community artist or artist team from the Eastside of Los Angeles to lead a six-month participatory art-making process with youth and community members, culminating in a mural, painted steps, and planters artwork at the community garden located at the Aliso Pico Recreation Center in Boyle Heights. This is both a public art commission and a youth arts-education opportunity: the selected artist(s) will design and guide the creative process in close collaboration with students in Proyecto Pastoral's IMPACTO youth program and community members.

About Proyecto Pastoral

Proyecto Pastoral is a community-based nonprofit organization in Boyle Heights, born out of the Dolores Mission Church. For 40 years, Proyecto Pastoral has partnered with members of the Boyle Heights community to create and sustain programs in early childhood education, community organizing, homelessness services, and youth development, including the IMPACTO program.

Project Description

The Aliso Pico Recreation Center community garden, located at 370 S. Clarence St., Los Angeles, CA 90033, is a shared community space that will provide fresh produce, environmental education, and gathering space for Boyle Heights residents. This project will bring public art into the garden through the following connected elements:

- **Mural:** A community mural designed and painted through a participatory process with local students, reflecting themes of community, land, growth, and cultural identity in Boyle Heights. The mural will be created as a series of hanging panels, secured to an existing chain-link fence within the Aliso Pico Recreation Center site.
- **Garden Steps and Planters Art:** Painted or otherwise artistically treated steps and planters within the garden, designed as cohesive companion pieces to the mural.

The selected artist(s) will lead youth participants through the full creative process — from concept development and community input through final execution — building youth artistic skills and community ownership of the final artwork along the way.

Artist Role & Responsibilities

- Lead an approximately 6-month participatory art process engaging students and community members in the design and creation of the mural, garden steps, and planters art.
- Facilitate at least 4 youth-centered workshops that teach artistic technique, design thinking, and collaborative creation. Workshops are anticipated to take place primarily during IMPACTO after-school programming, with exact dates and times coordinated with the selected artist.
- Develop original design concepts in dialogue with youth participants, Proyecto Pastoral staff, and community stakeholders.
- Design, fabricate, and hang the mural as a set of durable, weather-resistant panels suitable for hanging on a chain-link fence at the garden site.
- Coordinate and lead the painting/creation of the garden steps and planters art, ensuring durability and quality suited to an outdoor community space.
- Manage and purchase art supplies within the allocated project budget.
- Communicate regularly with Proyecto Pastoral staff on process, timeline, and milestones.
- Support a culminating community celebration or unveiling event to mark the mural's completion.

Project Timeline

This engagement will last approximately six months. Proyecto Pastoral anticipates the following general timeline, to be finalized collaboratively with the selected artist(s):

1. Months 1–2: Community and youth engagement; concept development; site assessment; design proposal
2. Month 3: Design finalization; youth workshops begin; material and supply preparation, including panel fabrication planning.
3. Months 4-5: Mural panel creation and garden steps and planters art creation with ongoing youth participation.
4. Month 6: Panel installation on the chain-link fence, final touch-ups, and quality/durability review. Community unveiling and celebration event.

Eligibility & Requirements

- We are seeking an artist or artist team from the Eastside of Los Angeles (e.g., Boyle Heights, El Sereno, Lincoln Heights, City Terrace, and neighboring communities), with a strong connection to and understanding of the Eastside's culture and history.
- Demonstrated experience as a visual/mural artist, with a portfolio of completed public or community art projects.
- Experience working with youth and/or leading community-engaged or participatory art processes strongly preferred.

- Ability to work collaboratively with Proyecto Pastoral staff, students, and community members throughout the process.
- Must be able to pass a live scan background check prior to beginning work with youth.
- Must be able to provide a W9 form prior to beginning work with youth.
- Experience with exterior/outdoor mural materials and techniques, including fabricating durable panel-based artwork suited to mounting on a chain-link fence.

Budget & Compensation

Total project budget: \$5,200, allocated as follows:

Budget Line	Amount
Artist stipend(s) — for the full process	\$3,200
Art supplies and materials	\$2,000
Total	\$5,200

The stipend is a total for the artist or artist team for the full 6-month process, inclusive of design, facilitation, panel fabrication, and installation. The stipend will be structured as a payment schedule tied to project milestones. For artist teams, the \$3,200 stipend is the total compensation available to the team and will not be increased based on the number of participating artists.

The supply budget covers paint, panel materials, hardware for fence-mounting, and related materials for both the mural and the garden steps. Any costs beyond those outlined above must be submitted in writing and approved by Proyecto before any additional purchases are made.

Application Requirements

Interested artists or artist teams should submit the following:

1. A brief letter of interest describing your approach to this project, your connection to the Eastside of Los Angeles, and your experience working with youth and/or leading community-engaged public art processes.
2. Current resume or artist bio.
3. Portfolio of at least 5 past works, with priority given to murals, public art, or youth/community-engagement projects (images and/or a link to an online portfolio).
4. Two references from prior collaborators, clients, or community partners.
5. A brief statement confirming your ability to pass a background check and provide a W9 form prior to beginning the project.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by Proyecto Pastoral staff. Finalists may be invited for an interview and/or asked to share additional examples of past participatory or youth-engaged work. Selection will prioritize artistic quality, ties to the Eastside of Los Angeles, experience engaging youth and

community members in a collaborative process, and alignment with the values and community of Boyle Heights.

Applicants are not expected to develop or submit a proposed mural design as part of the application. The final concept will be developed collaboratively with youth and community members after selection.

How to Apply

Please submit application materials to: development@proyectopastoral.org

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Questions may be directed to development@proyectopastoral.org

Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission is committed to providing equitable opportunities for artists from Boyle Heights and similar communities. We encourage artists of color, emerging artists, and artists with deep community ties to apply.

The artist will retain authorship of the artwork. Proyecto Pastoral will own the completed physical artwork and may photograph and reproduce images of the artwork for nonprofit, educational, promotional, fundraising, and archival purposes, with artist credit whenever reasonably possible.