



RECKONING & REMEMBRANCE

Louisiana Native Guards Commemorative Mural

Application Timeline:
Aug 4 - Aug 21 at 11:59 pm CST

CALL TO
ARTISTS

Call to Artists – Request for Proposals (RFP)

Project Name: Reckoning & Remembrance Louisiana Native Guards Commemorative Mural
Project led by The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice and the Krewe of Red Beans in partnership with Arts New Orleans

RFQ Release Date: August 4, 2026

Application Deadline: August 21, 2026 by 11:59 PM CST

Budget: \$46,000

Application: [LINK](#)

Artists who are interested in submitting to the Call for Artists- Request for Proposals are encouraged to contact The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice and the Krewe of Red Beans with any questions about the project, its scope, or requirements, or how to complete an application after reviewing the Call for Artists - Request for Proposals.

Contact: Project Manager – Shaddai Livingston shaddai@accneworleans.com

Founder of Krewe of Red Beans and Beanlandia – Devin De Wulf

devin@kreweofredbeans.org

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice and the Krewe of Red Beans invites New Orleans’ muralists artists to submit proposals for a major commemorative mural honoring the Louisiana Native Guards — the first Black Union soldiers officially mustered in the United States. This is a rare opportunity to create enduring public art on a landmark building in the Bywater neighborhood that will be seen by tens of thousands of New Orleanians and visitors each year.

Eligibility

To qualify, applicants must:

- Be 18+ and legally authorized to work in the U.S.
- Reside in Orleans Parish or the greater New Orleans metro area
- Meet all contractual obligations and adhere to the timeline provided.

We welcome proposals from individual artists and artist teams. We especially encourage applications from New Orleans-based artists and artists with ties to the communities whose history this mural honors.

Information Sessions

Interest artists are invited to attend artist information meetings via zoom & on-site at Beanlandia.

- Session #1: Monday, August 10th 10 am CST via Zoom: [LINK](#)
- Session #2: Friday, August 14th 5pm CST at Beanlandia- 3300 Royal Street New Orleans, LA 70117

Questions outside of sessions: **Founder of Krewe of Red Beans and Beanlandia – Devin De Wulf** devin@kreweofredbeans.org

About The Krewe of Red Beans / André Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice

The Krewe of Red Beans is located at 3300 Royal Street, which was once the site of the Touro Almshouse, where the Louisiana Native Guards were headquartered initially. The krewe was established in 2008 and has grown over the years into a community-centered non-profit.

The André Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice is a local non-profit based on historic Bayou Road in New Orleans. Founded by Lauren Turner Hines, the organization seeks to honor the past and shape a more equitable future.

The two organizations are joined by a historical connection to Andre Cailloux, and we are excited to work to promote greater public awareness of the Civil War and Reconstruction history of New Orleans and create spaces and time for community-wide reconciliation.

About Arts New Orleans

The mission of [Arts New Orleans](#) is to improve the quality of life in New Orleans by supporting, activating, and investing in our city's greatest natural resource: our artists, cultural producers, and creative community. Arts New Orleans is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 1975, designated by the Mayor and City Council as the city's official community arts agency.

Building on the abundant cultural wealth and creativity of our community, Arts New Orleans envisions a New Orleans in which arts and culture play a pivotal role in all areas of policy, planning, and placemaking. We believe arts and artists should be central to all community and economic development efforts, from public health to public safety, education, and infrastructure.

Arts New Orleans is the largest producer of public art in New Orleans. We offer artist and youth training programs, produce cultural events, and champion new opportunities for artists to

develop their crafts. As a local/regional Arts Council, we advocate for expanded arts investment and serve as an intermediary grant-maker.

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Background

In September 1862, New Orleans became the site of an extraordinary act of resistance and courage. General Benjamin Butler, the Union commander who controlled the city, issued a call for free men of color to officially join the Union Army. The response was immediate and overwhelming.

At 3300 Royal Street — the very wall where this mural will live — became the headquarters for the Louisiana Native Guards, later the Corps d’Afrique, and they were a multiracial coalition determined to end slavery. These men would go on to fight at the Battle of Port Hudson in May 1863 – the first major battle with Black Soldiers.

This mural should celebrate that moment and the people who made it. The central historical figures we want represented include:

- **Cpt. André Cailloux**
 - Free man of color, celebrated officer of the Louisiana Native Guards; killed heroically at Port Hudson (May 1863) in one of the first major assaults led by Black soldiers. His death and funeral galvanized Black New Orleans. He was also the self-described, “Blackest man in New Orleans”.
- **Gen. Benjamin Butler**
 - Union Commander who authorized the recruitment of free Black men into the U.S. Army — a radical act that helped change the course of the Civil War. General Butler’s legacy has been written mostly by Confederates who opposed Black soldiers. We hope to help set the record straight.
- **P.B.S. Pinchback**
 - Officer, Native Guards, and later the first Black governor of Louisiana during Reconstruction. He was a main recruiter of Black Soldiers in New Orleans during the war.
- **Charles Sauvinet**
 - New Orleans’ first Black civil sheriff, officer in the Native Guards, and civil rights pioneer who successfully challenged segregation in Louisiana courts.
- **The Soldiers**
 - The hundreds of free men of color and formerly enslaved men who answered the call. Their names and faces deserve to be seen. In particular, we are excited to honor two men from the Congo who joined.

We encourage artists to explore primary source imagery, period photography, and the rich visual culture of New Orleans’ African diaspora traditions in developing their proposals.

The aesthetic should be rooted in the history and feel of New Orleans — vibrant, layered, and alive. *We are open to a range of styles — from realist portraiture to symbolic and abstract approaches — as long as the work is grounded in the history and honors the dignity of the people depicted.*

We are also happy to meet with artists ahead of time to discuss the history/research that has already gone into this project. Since much of this history has been buried/whitewashed, we welcome folks who would like to learn more. To schedule a time, email beans@kreweofredbeans.org. The deadline for questions is August 14th at 5pm CST.

Project Scope

- Commission of 1 permanent, site-specific mural
- Location: 3300 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70117
- Durable, low-maintenance, context-responsive work
- Community engagement required in design process
- Expected Completion by November 6, 2026

This commission is for a permanent mural with a lifespan of 20+ years. Artists must propose materials, fabrication, and installation methods suitable for New Orleans’ climate and changing weather patterns. For example, including heat, humidity, heavy rainfall, flooding, and storms. Artworks must be durable, structurally sound, long-lasting, and low maintenance. Materials and maintenance plans will be reviewed and approved by The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice and the Krewe of Red Beans as part of the design proposal.

Artwork Parameters

- 1 permanent mural
- We encourage artists to explore primary source imagery, period photography, and the rich visual culture of New Orleans’ African diaspora traditions in developing their proposals. The aesthetic should be rooted in the history and feel of New Orleans — vibrant, layered, and alive. Wall size is approx. 2,011.5 sq ft (across multiple sections)

Site Details

Location: 3300 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70117

Section	Dimensions/Notes	Area
Upper Wall (Main)	65.6 ft wide × ~11 ft tall	721.6 sq ft
Lower Wall (Main)	84.5 ft wide × ~11.5 ft tall	971.75 sq ft
Left Gable Panel	16.25 ft wide × ~5.5 ft tall	44.5 sq ft
Right Gable Panel	Similar to left panel	44.5 sq ft
Upper Gable (Triangle)	84.5 ft wide × ~7 ft peak	229.5 sq ft
TOTAL AVAILABLE	Power line at 22.5 ft (6 ft out from wall) — limits upper reach	2,011.5 sq ft

Important site note: A power line runs at approximately 22.5 feet above grade, approximately 6 feet out from the wall. Artists must account for this in their designs. The total usable mural area is approximately 2,011.5 sq ft. Artists may propose to use the full wall or a defined portion.



Artist Responsibilities

- Selected finalists will be expected to:
- Conduct site visits
- Conduct research to develop a thorough understanding of the site, including its history, cultural context, and other relevant considerations that will inform the artistic approach
- Engage in the design process by working closely with The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice, the Krewe of Red Beans and the selection committee to develop concepts, receive feedback, and revise proposals as needed
- Demonstrate a clear narrative vision rooted in the historical context described above
- Show mastery of large-scale exterior mural painting
- Incorporate the specific historical figures listed, with room for creative interpretation
- Reflect the multiracial, Afro-Creole, and African diaspora character of the Louisiana Native Guards
- Engage meaningfully with the architecture and multiple wall sections
- Include a realistic production plan and timeline
- Present a clear and detailed budget breakdown within the total available
- Prepare and submit final design proposal(s) for review and approval

The winning artist or artist team will additionally be responsible for:

- Developing and managing the project budget, including the artist fee
- Creating a detailed materials list, project budget, and work plan for approval
- Collaborating with The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice and the Krewe of Red Beans through fabrication and installation
- Identifying and contracting with fabricators, engineers, or other professionals as needed
- Completing the project within the agreed-upon budget and timeline
- Securing all required insurance for the duration of the project
- Providing a comprehensive maintenance manual prior to project closeout

The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice and the Krewe of Red Beans Responsibilities

The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice and the Krewe of Red Beans will provide overall project management and administrative support, including:

- Leading project management for the duration of the project, including drafting and executing contracts with the selected artist and project partners, establishing meeting schedules, and processing invoices
- Coordinating with the property owner and other relevant stakeholders to obtain required permits and approvals
- Leading marketing, communications, and public engagement related to the project
- Coordinating professional documentation of the project, including photography and archival materials
- Maintaining project records and administrative documentation

Project Schedule

Artist Selection Process -Request for Proposals (RFP)	
Project Component	Dates
RFP Released	Tuesday, August 4 th
Artist Info meetings via Zoom & on-site at Beanlandia	Session #1: Monday, August 10 th via Zoom- LINK Session #2: Friday, August 14 th @ Beanlandia- 3300 Royal Street New Orleans, LA 70117
Deadline for RFP Submission	Friday, August 21st at 11:59 PM CST
Proposal Review	Tuesday, August 25 th - Monday, September 7th
Selection Committee Meeting	Tuesday, September 8 th
Artist Interviews with finalist artists	Monday September 14 th
Winning Artist Notification	Tuesday, September 15 th
Contract Execution	Monday, September 21 st
Mural execution phase	Monday, September 28 th -Friday, November 6 th
Mural Completion	Friday, November 6 th
Mural Dedication/Unveiling	November 13 th -November 15 th

Project schedule is subject to change.

Artist Contract

The selected artist/artist team will be in a contractual agreement with The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice and the Krewe of Red Beans.

Proof of Insurance

Prior to performing any works or services with the Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice and the Krewe of Red Beans the selected artist/artist team will be required to hold (at the artist's expense) and show proof of insurance. Insurance requirements can be found [here](#).

ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

The application period will remain open from August 4, 2026 through August 21, 2026 11:59 PM CST. RFP submissions will be reviewed by The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice, The Krewe of Red Beans, Arts New Orleans and a selection committee that includes community representatives, art professionals, artists and historians.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- 1. Artistic Excellence:** Quality of past work, creativity, and uniqueness of the applicant's concept and design, strength of artistic voice and concept development, visual impact, and craftsmanship.
- 2. Relevant Experience:** Experience with public art or large-scale work, working in similar environments, collaboration with partners, stakeholders, and communities.
- 3. Project Understanding & Approach:** Demonstrated understanding of the project goals, site, and theme, and the strength and thoughtfulness of the artist's proposed approach to engaging with them.
- 4. Overall Project Fit:** Overall alignment of the artist's practice, experience, and perspective with the project's goals, context, and community.

All RFP applicants will be notified by Tuesday, September 8th of the committee's decision. Finalist artists will be invited to interview and visit the mural site Monday, September 14th. The winning artist will be notified on Tuesday, September 15th.

Artist Info Meetings on-site at Beanlandia

Monday, August 10th and Friday, August 14th

After the RFP is released, interested artists will have the opportunity to attend artist information meetings via zoom & on site at Beanlandia. At these meetings, artists can receive detailed information on the project, view the site, review the requirements for submitting a proposal, and ask any pertinent questions regarding the project overall.

Committee Selection Meeting

Tuesday, September 8th

The selection committee will meet to determine three finalists. All applicants will be notified of the committee's decision.

Artist Interviews with Finalist Artists

Monday September 14th

The three finalists will be invited to attend artist interviews and with key project stakeholders to determine the final winner. Artists should come to the artist interviews with a more developed proposal.

Winning Artist Notification (email)

Tuesday, September 15th

Contract Execution

Monday, September 21st

The winning artist will enter into a Standard Public Art Agreement with The Krewe of Red Beans and/or The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice for the fabrication and installation of the artwork. Once a contract with The Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice and the Krewe of Red Beans is in place, the artist will begin receiving payment and start fabrication of the artwork.

APPLICATION

Artists interested in applying will be asked to complete the application through [Arts New Orleans' online Submittable system](#). A Submittable account setup is required to apply. Artists should prepare the following information and materials before submitting them online.

Your proposal package must include:

1. **Artist/Studio Name**
2. **Email**
3. **Phone Number**
4. **Address**
5. **Website** (if applicable)
6. **Social Media Handles** (if applicable)
7. **Personal Identification:** Which category/categories best describe your race/ethnicity? Check all that apply or self-describe (Optional)
8. **Availability:** Are you available for the duration of the outlined project schedule? Yes or no
9. **Artist/Studio Statement:** A short-written response that addresses (3000-character max):
 - a. Your artistic practice
 - b. Your vision for the project and connection to this history
 - c. What motivates you / interests you most about this project?
 - d. Your general availability during the project period. Please indicate other professional obligations and any other constraints on your availability
10. **Resume/CV:** Acceptable file types: .pdf, .doc, .docx. (up to 2 pages). Please label your file: "First Name_Last Name_Resume" or "Studio Name_Resume"
11. **Concept sketch or visual mockup** — 1-2 images; can be rough at proposal stage

12. **Proposed production timeline**

13. **Detailed budget breakdown**

14. List any experience with murals that required extra safety-precautions, such as electric wires or higher heights.

15. Portfolio of 5–10 images of relevant completed murals or large-scale public works. Acceptable file types: .jpg, .png, .mov, .mp4 and must be no more than 300dpi. Label each

file: "**ArtistLastName_WorkSampleName** or "**StudioName_WorkSampleName**"

16. **Work Sample Description List:** For each work sample submitted, list the following (1 page max). Acceptable file types: .pdf, .doc, .docx.

Descriptions should include:

- a. *Artwork title, Artist name*
- b. *Location, Date of completion, Budget*
- c. *Medium, Dimensions*
- d. *Brief description*

Label your file: "**ArtistLastName_WorkSample DescriptionList**"

or "**StudioName_WorkSampleDescriptionList**"

17. [Submittable application link](#)