

Our Stories Through Art (OSTA) Request for Proposals (RFP): Public Art Inspired by Community Storytelling

Issued by: Our Stories Through Art (OSTA) Coalition

Deadline for Submission: [Insert Date]

Project Budget: Up to \$10,000

Project Type: Mural

Location(s): Talent Historical Museum, 105 N. Market Street, Talent, OR

Contact: Donna Ruiz

1. Overview

The *Our Stories Through Art (OSTA)* coalition invites proposals from artists and artist teams for public artworks inspired by storytelling. Selected works are approved to take the form of murals but could include written word, digital art, or mixed media and should reflect a narrative that resonates with the Talent community.

This year's theme—“**Ecological Narratives: Biodiversity and Belonging**”—celebrates the evolving relationships between people, wildlife, and the land we share. Artists are encouraged to creatively reflect Talent's rich natural history and present-day environmental identity through their work.

OSTA is a coalition of community leaders, artists, educators active in the organizations committed to elevating local stories through the arts. This initiative is administered by the **Talent Business Alliance (TBA)** and supported by key partners including the **Talent Public Arts Committee (TPAC)**, **Talent Historical Museum (THS)**, **Talent Maker City (TMC)**, and **Coalición Fortaleza (CF)** formed as the **OSTA Coalition**. Together, we seek to foster connection, resilience, and shared identity through creative expression.

We strongly encourage proposals from artists with a meaningful connection to Talent including those who live, work, or have cultural ties to the region.

2. Storytelling Theme

The OSTA Coalition invites artists or artist teams to submit proposals for a public art installation that highlights the rich biodiversity of the Talent, Oregon area. This project seeks to tell the evolving story of the region's native plants and animals, both those that have historically inhabited the area as well as those currently present.

The goal of the installation is to celebrate Talent's ecological diversity, foster community engagement, and promote public awareness of the dynamic relationships between people, wildlife, vegetation, and the environment over time.

Artists are encouraged to interpret the theme creatively, drawing upon their unique perspectives and experiences. Art should invite conversation, reflection, education, and engagement with the public.

3. OSTA Project Goals

- Celebrate the identity, culture, history, or natural beauty of Talent through artistic storytelling
 - Promote community healing, resilience, and connection
 - Activate public spaces and engage the community with art that tells a shared or meaningful story
 - Offer a creative and engaging experience for residents and visitors alike
 - Honor the history and ecology of local wildlife and vegetation
 - Encourage environmental awareness and stewardship
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4. Eligible Art Forms

This project is approved for murals on the parking lot side of **105 N. Market St., Talent**. The RFP welcomes multiple types of public art for possible inclusion, including but not limited to:

- **Murals:** Painted on surfaces that can be attached to public walls or structures (must consider long-term durability and weatherproofing)
- **Written Word:** Poetry, prose, or other narrative forms displayed in a public space (e.g., engraved or printed plaques) can be added to the murals.
- **Digital Art:** Public-facing digital work such as projections, augmented reality (AR), interactive installations, or QR code-activated media. Submissions should include a plan for accessibility, equipment needs, and long-term visibility.

- **Mixed/Multi Media:** Works that combine two or more artistic disciplines such as visual art with sound, performance, or text. Proposals should clearly outline how the piece will be experienced by the public and how it will be maintained over time.
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5. Project Location

Talent Historical Museum, 105 N. Market Street, Talent, OR

The artwork will be installed on the building housing the **Talent Historical Museum**, a central, accessible site that honors Talent's cultural and ecological heritage. This location was chosen for its **high visibility, historical significance, and ease of access** for the community.

While the physical artwork will be located at the museum, the **OSTA coalition organizations may support community engagement, storytelling workshops, and project outreach**. Artists are encouraged to propose in their submittal, creative ways to collaborate with these groups to deepen public involvement.

6. Budget

Artists may request up to **\$10,000** to cover project-related costs. This may include:

- Artist fees
- Materials and supplies
- Installation and equipment rental
- Insurance

Final budget approval is subject to review and approval from the Our Stories Through Art (OSTA) coalition. Proposed budgets should be realistic, clearly itemized, and reflect the full scope of the project.

7. Submittal Requirements

Please submit the following (PDF or clearly labeled attachments preferred):

1. **Project Proposal (1–2 pages)** including:
 - Concept description and how it interprets the selected storytelling theme
 - Preliminary Concept Design (sketches, renderings or mock-ups)

- Intended materials and method (especially for physical works like murals or sculpture)
 - Technical and installation considerations
 - Anticipated maintenance needs
 - Preliminary Budget
 - Estimated project timeline
2. **Artist Statement** (max 500 words)
 3. **Artist Resume or Bio**
 4. **Work Samples** (up to 5 images, audio files, or writing samples)
 5. **References** (3 to 5 references that speak to the quality of your work)
 6. **Preliminary Budget** outlining how funds will be used
 - Be sure to include any permit requirements
 7. **Community Engagement Plan** – Describe how the community may participate or connect with the work.

Community Engagement Plan Examples:

- Hosting a storytelling or sketch session
- Co-creation activities with youth or residents
- QR code linking to ecological or cultural interviews
- Artist talk or community celebration event

Need support or accommodations?

If you have questions about accessibility or require assistance with the application process, please contact OSTA. We are committed to supporting a wide range of applicants.

8. Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- **Artistic Quality & Originality**
Strength of concept, creative vision, and execution
- **Interpretation of Theme**
Thoughtful and creative engagement with the selected storytelling theme
- **Community Relevance**
Alignment with Talent's cultural identity, values, and public art goals
- **Feasibility & Durability**
Practicality of execution and longevity, especially for outdoor or physical installations
- **Accessibility & Public Impact**
Potential for broad community engagement, inclusion, and interaction
- **Budget Clarity & Efficiency**
Transparency, accuracy, and reasonable use of available funds

A review panel including TPAC members, local creatives, and community representatives will evaluate proposals. Final decisions are subject to OSTA approval. For more information please see attached scoring rubric.

9. Timeline

- **RFP Opens:** 8/28/2025
- **Submission Deadline:** 9/28/2025
- **Meeting with semi-finalist(s):** 9/29/2025-10/10/2025
- **Finalist Notification:** 10/24/2025
- **Project Completion Deadline:** TBD

All dates are subject to change based on community feedback or scheduling needs. OSTA will communicate any adjustments promptly.

10. How to Submit

Email Submissions:

Send all required materials as a single PDF or clearly labeled attachments to:

TalentOstaArt@gmail.com

Subject Line: *OSTA Public Art Proposal – [Your Name]*

Mail or Drop-Off Submissions (must be postmarked by 9/28/2025 or before):

Talent OSTA Art Project
P.O. Box 997
Talent, Oregon 97540

Please contact us at talentostaart@gmail.com with any questions.

Additional Notes for Artists:

- This project encourages creativity and innovation. Artists are encouraged to interpret the theme in unique and diverse ways, embracing a wide range of materials, styles, and formats.
- Community engagement is a core component of this project. Consider how your artwork can inspire conversation or involve local residents in its creation, installation, or unveiling.

- Preference may be given to artists with a strong connection to Talent (residency, work, or community history). Emerging artists are encouraged to apply, including students or those new to public art.
- Artists will be responsible for obtaining any liability coverage.
- Artists will be responsible for any permitting requirements with support from TBA.
- Artists retain copyright to their work. By participating, artists grant the OSTA project non-exclusive rights to reproduce images of the work for educational and promotional purposes.
- We welcome proposals in English or Spanish. If you need translation or accessibility support to submit your work, please contact us at [Insert Email]
- Artist agrees to release ownership of the art piece(s)
- Select Artists may be asked to attend a formal interview with the OSTA coalition members.