

August 2018

BCIL Mural Project RFP

Organization Overview:

Founded in 1974, Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) is the second oldest independent living center in the country (and there are now nearly 700 similar programs nationwide). The organization was created by people seeking full integration into society by empowering people with disabilities with the practical skills and self-confidence needed to take control over their lives and become active members of their communities. Our goals and activities have always been driven by the expressed needs of our consumers.

People with disabilities experience inequality. While great progress toward social integration has been made, notably stemming from passage in 1990 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, stigma and barriers still exist. The lives of people with disabilities can be a struggle as they seek inclusion and independence. Giving an organized voice to a significant part of Boston's disenfranchised population, BCIL confronts discrimination head-on while also providing critical services. The need and motivation is profound as our members attempt to build a quality of life that allows them to "boldly go where everyone else has already gone before."

Project Overview:

The audience for this project will be the disability community that utilizes the space and services of BCIL. Serving over 5,000 people in the Greater Boston area with disabilities yearly the mission of BCIL states - The Boston Center for Independent Living is a frontline civil rights organization led by people with disabilities that advocates to eliminate discrimination, isolation and segregation by providing advocacy, information and referral, peer support, skills training, PCA services, and transitional services in order to enhance the independence of people with disabilities.

BCIL has recently expanded and undergone a full office renovation which included the addition of new conference and community meeting space. In this new space, BCIL would like to have a mural painted on one wall, which would not only be visible in that room but also visible from the main lobby area.

BCIL makes conference room space available for other community groups and their members. Some of these include (but not exclusively) MassADAPT, HALT (Housing Advocacy Leadership Team), DAAHR (Disability Advocates Advancing Our Healthcare Rights) and the MassCollaboration (a collaboration between BCIL, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, the MBTA, and the MBTA police).

BCIL envisions the mural design to incorporate the message of independent living, diversity and the disability community, utilizing an artist(s) from the disability community to do this project.

Scope of Work:

BCIL serves a thriving disability community and this mural project, and the inclusion of artists of all abilities will benefit the Boston community as a whole. This project will put emphasis on the abilities of all people, and focus on what the disability community can give to the community at large.

BCIL will promote the mural project to the community and our target audiences using social media, electronic communications, and printed notice. BCIL has the ability to broadly engage with not only the disability community but the entire Greater Boston community. With this project, we plan to engage the community by spreading the word about the skills and talents of artists in the disability community and the independent living movement.

To assist in building the excitement for the completion of the mural and its official unveiling, BCIL will provide updates throughout the project utilizing the same media sources.

Project:

BCIL will have a mural designed and installed in a conference room located at BCIL's office at 60 Temple Place, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111. The size of the space for the mural is approximately 10' x 16'. The mural will be installed on mounted canvas which will be attached to the conference room wall, making the installation portable. BCIL will provide the canvas. Depending on the final selection, BCIL may choose to use multiple smaller mounted canvas pieces (ex. 36" x 48") or may choose a single mounted canvas.

This project will be completed during BCIL's business hours which are Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

BCIL strongly believes in organizational diversity and believes it to be paramount when serving cities where minority is majority. The theme for this project is independent living, diversity and the disability community. The chosen artists design will reflect this theme.

This project will focus on utilizing the skills of an artist or artists who have a disability. People with disabilities are often marginalized and overlooked in today's ablest society. This project will be inclusive and specifically include and fully use the skills within the disability community.

The chosen artist(s) must self-identify as a person with a disability and priority will be given to those that live in the BCIL service area. Service area can be accessed at <https://bostoncil.org/service-area/>.

Proposals should be limited to no more than 3 pages with up to 2 additional attachments which would show the design of the proposed project. Proposals should include the mural design idea, the materials to be used, anticipated timeline, and all parties who would be involved in the installation of the mural. Note: The artist will provide all materials to be used, and is responsible for transporting products to and from BCIL's office.

Upon completion, BCIL will host an unveiling reception that will include BCIL board, staff, consumer/clients, art community members and funders.

Proposals to be submitted no later than **4:00 pm on Thursday, September 27, 2018**. Proposals (including attachments) should be emailed to Susan Smith at ssmith@bostoncil.org or can be mailed or dropped off to Boston Center for Independent Living, Attn: Susan Smith, 60 Temple Place, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

Evaluation and Award Process:

Submitted proposals which meet the guidelines will be reviewed by a 3-person committee comprised of a BCIL board member, BCIL staff person, and a consumer we serve. The committee will choose the final design, which will receive final written approval from the executive director of BCIL.

The artist will be notified and will be expected to sign a written agreement within 5 days of notification and submit a written outline of the final timeline to be used for the project. Should finalist not be able to proceed with signing an agreement and providing a timeline, project award will be given to the 2nd place finalist, etc.

The chosen artist will be compensated \$1,250 at the completion of the project as a 1099 contractor.

Timeline:

- Proposals to be received by 4pm on Thursday, September 27, 2018
- Evaluation committee will review and choose finalist and rank remaining proposals by October 12, 2018
- Finalist will be notified and must sign agreement and provide final timeline by October 19, 2018
- Project to be completed by December 14, 2018 or a date mutually agreed upon by all parties.
- BCIL reserves the right to modify or extend the above timeline

Contact:

Contact for information regarding this RFP or any other project related questions should be directed to Susan Smith, Development and Special Projects Manager at ssmith@bostoncil.org or 617-338-6665 x 210.