

Murals On Broadway

Letter of Interest – Ray Harvey

As a veteran of over three hundred public, private and commercial murals, I know first-hand the power of the visual image. It usually starts as an ordinary wall, a place that is walked by every day. It ends in a vibrant, living icon of the community that speaks to everyone. This is why I paint very large public art pieces. The raw material is the wall and my talent creates the vision for it.

The Murals on Broadway project intrigues me because of the approach to the community. I have seen this same positive direction work so successfully in other cities. I have seen public art bring viewers from all parts of the world to a small town. I have seen wall art transform what was once maybe an eye sore into a destination point of a city and I have also seen the effect it can have on the attitude and pride of an urban area.

But what interests me the most about this project is this. IF, I am fortunate enough to be chosen as the pick artist for this years project, I know the experience I have ahead of me. There will be that first moment with that first brush stroke. The anticipation of seeing the small design become large as life. There will be the first pedestrians questioning what I'm going to do. Then more questions: "How long have you done this?" "You do this by yourself?" "How long will it take?" Then after a relationship is begun, the stories: "You know I paint a little" or "I saw a guy do one of those out west" and "My grandson wants to be an artist, I'll bring him by." This is the unseen impact public art has on a community. Not only does the art bring the obvious beauty, design and decoration to a street it also inspires critique and thought, it sometimes heals and it always speaks. Eventually the art takes shape and nears completion. Those same pedestrians have now bonded with the image and have adopted it as their own. There is discussion on the street. "Did you see it, he's almost finished?" you hear. "That's the best one yet," someone may say. Regardless, by this time the art has done its job.

At this moment I can only imagine the experience I might have on Broadway. Perhaps I may be chosen, perhaps not. It might be my creativity on that wall, or someone else's. One thing is for sure though; if my imagination and Broadway come together this summer it will be a painting that will capture the attention of that pedestrian. He won't forget the image on that wall. It will be bold and it will be unique! Your committee asks what is my interest in your project? My answer is, I have an appetite for empty walls. I want to see them all painted with passion and vision. I hope you will give me the opportunity to create this for your community.