

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SPRING WINDOW ART INITIATIVE ON CAMINO CLARK



Project Overview

Rogers Park Business Alliance (RPBA) seeks a Chicago-based Latine artist to design and paint temporary window artwork on 10 - 15 business storefronts on Camino Clark in Rogers Park during the spring (April) of 2026.

RPBA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting local businesses, strengthening commercial corridors, and celebrating the cultural vibrancy of Rogers Park through economic development, public art, and community programming.

This project will take place within Camino Clark in Rogers Park. The Camino Clark state-designated cultural district spans approximately two miles, from Howard Street on the north to Devon Avenue on the south. Home to over 70 diverse retail, dining, entertainment, and service businesses that embody the rich cultural tapestry of the neighborhood, Camino Clark is deeply rooted in Mexican heritage. The district serves as both a vibrant marketplace and a cherished home for those who live, work, and do business here. It aims to strengthen and celebrate its Mexican cultural identity for residents, visitors, and tourists alike. By fostering local cultural development, promoting growth, and expanding equality, the district supports one-of-a-kind businesses and experiences, bolsters the customer base for Mexican and other long-standing businesses, helps prevent displacement, and preserves the diverse character of the neighborhood.

Through the Spring Window Art Initiative, RPBA aims to uplift neighborhood spirit, highlight Mexican/Latine culture, and bring joyful, accessible public art to everyday spaces along the corridor. The initiative will reinforce Camino Clark as a welcoming, culturally vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike, creating moments of delight while increasing foot traffic.

Project Theme

The Spring Window Art Initiative will celebrate the eclectic, authentic, and inclusive spirit of the Camino Clark commercial corridor. Artists are invited to reflect the multicultural character of the district and the everyday experiences that make the corridor feel welcoming to residents and visitors alike.

RPBA encourages artists to draw inspiration from the diversity of faces, businesses, languages, and architectural character found along Camino Clark. Artwork should convey a sense of belonging, cultural pride, and community warmth.

For this cycle, the theme is inspired by the Mexican *alebrije* tradition - colorful, imaginative, and symbolic creatures that represent creativity, identity, and spirit. Artists are encouraged to incorporate alebrije-inspired forms, vibrant color palettes, and expressive patterns that evoke joy and cultural celebration.

Designs should incorporate elements of the [Clark Street branding](#) where appropriate (such as colors, motifs, or graphic elements) to ensure visual cohesion along the corridor.

The goal is to create lively, culturally rooted artwork that transforms storefront windows into celebratory public art, reinforcing Camino Clark as a culturally vibrant and welcoming destination.

Scope of Work

- Design and paint 1 - 2 window panels at 10 - 15 businesses
- Collaborate with individual business owners on designs within the RPBA - identified theme
- Use weather-resistant but removable paint suitable for Chicago conditions
- Remove artwork after the agreed display period
- Provide their own materials and supplies
- Coordinate scheduling with participating businesses

Artist Eligibility

- Latine artist based in Chicago
- Fluent in Spanish *preferred*
- Experience with mural, window, or public-facing art preferred
- Comfortable engaging with small business owners and community members
- Ability to complete work within the proposed timeline below

Selection Criteria

- Artistic quality and style
- Thoughtful and creative interpretation of the theme
- The sketch/rendering must be original
- Relevant experience
- Feasibility and professionalism
- Connection to community and project theme
- Capability to carry out the project

Project Timeline

- RFP Release: February 9, 2026
- Application Deadline: March 9, 2026
- Artist Selection: March 19, 2026
- Painting Period: April 1- 30, 2026
- Paint Removal: November, 2026

Budget

RPBA has allocated a specific budget amount for this project, inclusive of artist fees, materials, travel, and paint removal. Artists should submit a total project quote.

How to Apply

All components of the application must be in digital format and sent in one email. Artist(s) must submit their sketch/rendering as a PDF or JPG. Incomplete proposals will not be accepted. Email completed proposals to abermudez@rpba.org.

Applications will be evaluated based on the selection criteria above.

Proposals must include:

- Short artist statement
- Portfolio (3 - 5 examples of relevant work)
- Proposed approach to the project including sketch/rendering
- Estimated timeline
- A statement of fees and expenses including hourly rate, a flat fee, monthly fee, or alternative pricing model, if applicable
- Contact information (full name, pronouns, address, email, phone number and website/socials)

Deadline: March 9, 2026 - 5 pm CST

If you have questions, please email Ana Bermudez at abermudez@rpba.org.

