

## Presented By:

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## Letter of Interest



## Prepared For:

CITY OF TEXAS CITY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT  
ATTENTION: KELLY BENDER  
1801 GTH AVENUE NORTH  
TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590

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DEAR MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,

I HOPE THIS LETTER FINDS YOU WELL. MY NAME IS MARIA DEFELICE, AND I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY DEEP INTEREST IN COLLABORATING WITH THE TEXAS CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ARTISTIC LANDSCAPE OF TEXAS CITY THROUGH THE CREATION OF MULTIPLE MURALS.

ORIGINATING FROM COLUMBIA, SC, I AM A SELF-TAUGHT MURAL ARTIST WHO HAS BEEN PAINTING MURALS FOR OVER 10 YEARS WITH OVER 100+ MURALS IN MY PORTFOLIO. I HAVE A DEEP PASSION FOR BRINGING THE "ART GALLERY" EXPERIENCE TO THE PUBLIC. MY BELIEF IS THAT PUBLIC ART SHOULD BE INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF RACE, GENDER, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, AGE, OR ANY OTHER FACTOR. THROUGH MY WORK, I AIM TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY'S IDENTITY AND FOSTER A SENSE OF UNITY AMONG ITS RESIDENTS.

MY GOAL WITH THE PROPOSED MURALS FOR TEXAS CITY IS TO CREATE VIBRANT AND ENGAGING WORKS THAT WILL SERVE AS LANDMARKS FOR THE COMMUNITY. I AM COMMITTED TO COLLABORATING CLOSELY WITH THE TEXAS CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND WELCOME FEEDBACK FROM THE BOARD TO ENSURE THAT THE MURALS REFLECT THE UNIQUE IDENTITY AND VALUES OF TEXAS CITY.

IN ADDITION TO MY ARTISTIC SKILLS, I AM EAGER TO ENGAGE WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. I AM OPEN TO HOSTING A Q&A SESSION, INTERACTING WITH THE PUBLIC, OR EVEN INVITING STUDENTS TO WITNESS THE CREATIVE PROCESS. BY INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY IN THE MURAL-MAKING EXPERIENCE, WE CAN CREATE A STRONGER SENSE OF OWNERSHIP AND PRIDE IN THESE PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT MY PASSION FOR CREATING INCLUSIVE AND IMPACTFUL PUBLIC ART ALIGNS WITH THE GOALS OF THE TEXAS CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. I AM EXCITED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE CULTURAL ENRICHMENT OF TEXAS CITY AND CREATING LASTING LANDMARKS THAT WILL BE CHERISHED BY GENERATIONS TO COME.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING MY PROPOSAL. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER AND EXPLORE HOW WE CAN COLLABORATE TO ENHANCE THE ARTISTIC LANDSCAPE OF TEXAS CITY.

SINCERELY,



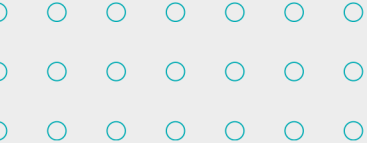
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Maria DeFelice Art, LLC is a sole proprietorship owned by Maria DeFelice of Columbia, SC. Maria creates all of her artwork herself and typically installs all murals alone, on rare occasion hiring an assistant.. She has been painting murals since 2010 and has over 100+ murals in her portfolio for a wide variety of clients including the City of Columbia (SC) , Polk County (NC), Capital Area Development Authority (Sacramento, CA) public schools, Amazon, Hilton Hotels and many more. Maria is a member of the SC Arts Commission and continually seeks to bring art to the public.

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# ARTIST BIO



## MARIA DEFELICE Owner/Artist

Maria DeFelice is a multi-faceted muralist who aspires to bring art to all. Born and raised in Columbia, SC, Maria's artistic journey has taken her overseas, leaving an impactful mark where she goes.

Growing up in Columbia, Maria discovered her love for art at an early age. Though primarily self-taught, in 2010 Maria began experimenting with murals - starting in her own home, friends homes, local small businesses and beyond.

Maria's artistic journey took an unexpected turn when she spent five transformative years living in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The Middle Eastern influence is evident in the fusion of colors, patterns, and themes that characterize her work.

While living in UAE, Maria completed murals for many hotels, bars, restaurants, private schools, nature reserves, charities, private homes, and more. She published a coloring book "Color UAE", exhibited with Abu Dhabi Art Hub, and painted a mural for the California Housing Authority in Sacramento, CA.

Aside from art, Maria enjoys baking, playing the piano, and exploring the outdoors with her family and sheepadoodle, Leo. As a mother of three, Maria has a special place in her heart for children and aims to bring artistic experiences to children who might otherwise not be able to visit a traditional art gallery or art museum.

Every mural is an opportunity to tell a story, evoke emotions, and inspire those who encounter her work.

# NARRATIVE OF PREVIOUS MURALS

Throughout my career as a mural artist, I have had the privilege of contributing to various communities in the USA, as well as overseas in the United Arab Emirates,, leaving a vibrant and lasting impression through my art. One of my notable experiences includes painting murals for the City of Columbia, SC, where I had the opportunity to enhance the urban landscape with a large mural on Main Street.

In Polk County, NC, I collaborated with the Polk County Public Library to create two distinctive murals that added a touch of artistic flair to the community. The first was a very large mural in the children's area featuring local plants and animal in an over-sized format that feels magical and immersive to young library guests.

I was selected as the artist for a project in Sacramento, California, where I painted a mural and crafted five commissioned large paintings for the Capital Area Development Authority. I thoroughly enjoyed exploring a new city and working closely with CADA to fulfil their vision for the artwork representing their city.

Towards the end of 2023, I started a program called "Walls Alive!" designed to infuse art into the educational realm. Through this initiative, I have created several murals in public schools, involving students in the mural-making process from start to finish. This program not only beautifies school environments but also fosters a sense of pride and creativity among students.

My portfolio includes a diverse range of projects, from healthcare offices and retail spaces to private residences and charitable organizations. I find joy in collaborating with a wide array of clients and industries, but my true passion lies in public art projects that have a positive impact on entire communities.

Whether it's contributing to the cultural fabric of a city, enhancing the learning environment in schools, or bringing art to unexpected places, I am dedicated to using my skills to create meaningful and visually stunning experiences for all.

# PREVIOUS WORK EXAMPLES



## CITY OF COLUMBIA, SC: "MAGNOLIA ON MAIN"

I was selected as the artist to complete a public mural on (3) 5x15 panels facing Main Street, Columbia, SC. This piece represents the diversity of our community (with its 3 different styles of painting), that come together unified as parts of a greater whole. This was painted with a mixture of latex and spray paints. Columbia, SC 2020

## POLK COUNTY, NC: "GREETINGS FROM POLK COUNTY"

Polk County, NC requested a mural for Polk County Public Library in Columbus, NC. They requested a vintage postcard-inspired mural featuring iconic imagery that represented the county. The mural is the first thing patrons see as they enter the library and it has wonderful impact. Columbus, NC 2023



## CAPITAL AREA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: "ABSTRACT SACRAMENTO MAP"

CADA invited me to Sacramento, CA to create this abstract map mural in their offices space lobby downtown. I also created (5) 4x5 ft paintings (not shown) featuring iconic historic properties in the city. Sacramento, CA 2019

# PREVIOUS WORK EXAMPLES CONTINUED



## THE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SCHOOL:

### 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MURAL

Students created sketches of imagery they felt was important to represent the school. I took the many drawings by students and used them in creating my design for the school. I hosted an "Arts Talk" and Q&A with the students onsite and they were welcomed to watch the mural-making process.

Hendersonville, NC 2023

## ANGEL OAK ELEMENTARY: "CREATE"

Angel Oak is an arts-focused magnet school that primarily focuses on 4 main disciplines of the arts: Dance, Music, Theater and Visual Arts. I created this mural for their cafeteria and allowed students to help paint the mural (which I then finished to a professional level. I also gave an "Art Talk" and open Q&A.

Johns Island, SC 2021



## POLK COUNTY: CHILDREN'S AREA MURAL

Polk County Public Library wanted a vibrant mural in their children's area that highlighted that local wildlife of the area. This is only a small portion of the mural that featured many local species of birds, frogs, turtles, rabbits, opossums, butterflies and more interwoven with local plant life! It is engaging and inspiring as you enter the children's floor of the public library.

Columbus, NC 2022



# PREVIOUS WORK EXAMPLES CONTINUED



## CITY OF TRAVELERS REST, SC: "WELCOME TO TRAVELERS REST"

This is a rendering and mural plan which has been approved for install by the City of Travelers Rest, SC on a 20' x 60' exterior wall. The mural will be completed summer-fall of 2024. I was selected from a pool of muralists as top 3, then my proposal was selected as the winning design.

Travelers Rest, SC. to be completed 2024

## "A LITTLE HAPPY" SHOP: "MAP OF COLUMBIA, SC"

This vibrant map of the city of Columbia, SC highlights important landmarks of the region including the Congaree River, the SC State House, State Museum, University of South Carolina Campus and Stadium, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, and many more. It is a wonderful project in a shop in the heart of 5 Points, Downtown Columbia SC, 2023.



## PRIVATE AIRBNB CLIENT: "GREETINGS FROM ASHEVILLE"

Tourism is clearly a large industry in Asheville, NC and this is one of many short-term rental murals I have painted in the area. This client wanted to contribute to the beauty and individuality of Asheville and create an engaging piece of art for their guests.

Asheville, NC 2024

# BUDGET

I do not create itemized budgets down to each line item - rather, I create all-inclusive quotes that encompass any and all costs associated with the mural install so my clients are aware of the TOTAL price of the mural without any unexpected costs.

**Note: 50% deposit is required upfront to reserve a space on artist's calendar, cover travel, accommodations, materials, etc. Final 50% is due upon completion.**

No.	Description	Price
1.	Priming of walls (if necessary)	\$2000
2.	Travel & Accommodations (including preliminary meeting with board, and second trip to come install murals)	\$5,500
3.	Exterior Wall - 20'x40' (including anti-graffiti top coat)	\$18,000
4.	Interior wall - 8'x16'	\$4000
5.	Traffic Sign Control Cabinet	\$2800
6.	Materials (all supplies, paint, drop cloths, brushes, etc)	\$5500
7.	Equipment Rental (Electric Lift for exterior mural)	\$2,500
8.	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,300</b>

# REFERENCES

**MARCIE DOWLING**  
POLK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, LIBRARY DIRECTOR  
(828) 553-6898  
mdowling@polklibrary.org

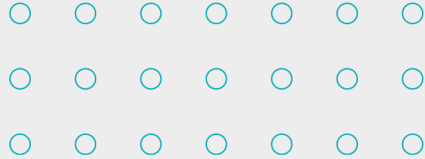
**JUDITH CONDON**  
ANGEL OAK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PRINCIPAL  
(843) 559-6412  
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**CATHEY CHET**  
THE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, TEACHER  
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cchet@mytmcs.org



**JOSH WILLOUGHBY**  
MARKET ON MAIN, OWNER  
(CLIENT RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTING CITY OF COLUMBIA MURAL)  
(803) 348-0621  
joshwilloughby@marketonmain.com

# OTHER NOTES



## PLEASE NOTIFY ARTIST IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT AVAILABLE:

- Two outlets within 50 feet of each mural location
- Access to restroom and sink to clean brushes
- A local liaison which can assist artist with equipment rentals, deliveries or any other logistical issues
- Access to the walls after dark in order to use projector if necessary

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE:

### Before Mural Process Starts

- Mural design with input from board: 2-3 weeks (up to 3 revisions included)

### Upon Mural Process Starting

- Priming All Surfaces: 1-2 days
- Sketching of each design: 1-3 days
- Painting of exterior mural: 4-6 days
- Painting of interior mural: 2-4 days
- Painting of traffic control box: 1-2 days
- Anti-Graffiti top coat on exterior wall: 1 day

Total anticipated time for mural install: 2-3 weeks

**NOTE: IN THE UNFORTUNATE EVENT THAT VANDALISM OCCURS TO THE EXTERIOR MURAL, PLEASE REFER TO THE ANTI-GRAFFITI TOP COAT MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.**

**ALL PAINTS AND MATERIALS USED ARE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY SPECIFICALLY MADE FOR EXTERIOR USE WITH BUILT IN UV AND WEATHER PROTECTION.**

# THANK YOU!



Thank you so much for taking the time to review my proposal. I am eager and hopeful I will be selected to create these 3 public artworks for Texas City. It is my passion and true joy to bring public art to all, strengthening community engagement and identity and I am hopeful to bring this project to life!

Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, or to request additional information.

Please take time to view my website for more samples of the quality of my work:

<https://www.mariadefeliceart.com/murals>

Best of luck in making this decision for Texas City!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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