



**Request for Proposals**  
Mural Art for Orcas Landing Marine Interpretive Area  
March 2021



**Background**

San Juan County is developing a marine interpretive area within the Orcas Landing site, just west of the Orcas Island ferry landing. This high visibility location includes a storage building that had its lead paint removed and is currently painted as a blank white canvas. The Marine Resources Committee (MRC), who is sponsoring and advising on this project, would like artists to submit their design concept for consideration. It is expected that the mural will remain in place on the wall for 5-10 years before being refreshed or replaced. The mural area is approximately 25 feet wide by 12 feet tall.

**Scope of Work**

- 1.0 Prepare a final design for review and approval  
Building off the Artists' concept submitted for this proposal, the Artist shall complete a scalable mock-up of their final design, including selection of colors. This design will be reviewed by the County and approved, prior to the Artist proceeding with the installation.
- 2.0 Complete Art Installation  
Artist shall paint the mural (approx.25'x12') utilizing appropriate outdoor paint and sealers to ensure the piece is durable for 5-10 years. The County will provide the pre-sealed and finished plywood panels and will mount them to the concrete wall.

**Schedule**

The goal is to have the interpretive area complete and open by Memorial Day 2021. The Artist will have 30 days to complete the piece from the time the contract is signed and approved.

**Budget**

San Juan County has a total of \$5,000 in grant funding to complete this mural. A contract with the chosen Artist will not exceed this amount in total.

**Selection Criteria**

Artist's mural design concepts shall be reviewed by the MRC and selected based upon their consistency with the site vision and purpose, which includes:

1. Highlighting the Islands' unique ecosystems, especially the nearshore/marine environment
2. Being respectful of Island and Native American culture and character
3. Creating a welcoming gateway to visiting Orcas Island
4. Attracting people to visit the marine interpretive area and activate this public space

San Juan County will consider the recommendation of the MRC before making the final decision on the selected artist.

### Proposal Submittal

Interested artists shall submit the following items in an 8.5x11 format pdf document, **consisting of a total of three pages**:

1. A brief artist introduction, contact information, link to your portfolio of work (specifically related to environmental and/or cultural works), and a statement of why you are interested in this work. Please highlight your experience with outdoor murals, marine environment interpretation, and Native American cultural work (please limit this information to one page).
2. Provide an 8.5" x 11" draft mural concept overlaid on top of the picture of the building provided in separate jpeg file. Picture should be turned horizontally (one page).
3. Provide images of your art and/or inspiration you are drawing from for this piece (one page).

**Exceeding the three-page limit will disqualify a proposal**; this approach is designed to ensure fairness, consistency in materials provided for review, and limit the investment of the proposers.

### Deadline

Submittals are due by **March 22, 2021 at noon**. Submit the proposal to [pubwks@sanjuanco.com](mailto:pubwks@sanjuanco.com) with the attachment and subject reference: Orcas Landing Mural "insert Artist Name"

### Questions

Any questions regarding this RFP can be directed to Kendra Smith, San Juan County Environmental Manager at [kendras@sanjuanco.com](mailto:kendras@sanjuanco.com). or 360.378.0532



*Previous mural and site context*



**Kelp forest and crab artwork at Orcas Landing by Zackarya Leck**

## A Vibrant Home for All

The waters before you contain a rich marine ecosystem and wide variety of habitats—from eelgrass meadows and kelp forests to rock reefs, ocean channel sand waves, brackish tidal marshes and pocket beaches.

These diverse habitats serve as a shelter for millions of organisms from microscopic single cell plants to tiny crustaceans to clams, scallops, crabs, and shrimp—and small forage fish like surf smelt, sand lance and herring.

The forage fishes, in turn, become the preferred prey of salmon—Chinook, chum, pink, and coho—as well as seabirds and many marine mammals in the Salish Sea.

This is a web of life, interconnected—one that contains multitudes.

In recent years, salmon, herring, and eelgrass habitats along with populations of resident orcas have begun a serious and startling decline.

What's happening here? Evidence points toward a disruption of the food chain due to shoreline development, storm drain runoff, sewage dumping, carbon emissions, climate warming and ocean acidification.

How can we help? Efforts include preserving natural beaches, shorelines, eelgrass meadows and other habitats, and eliminate pollution in the Salish Sea. Support continued research into fish ecology, climate change, and marine ecosystems, and join us to help organizations working to restore our natural environment. Let's work together to protect, preserve, and restore our home for future generations.

## A Connection With Nature

Coast Salish peoples have gathered the bounty of the waters around the San Juan Islands since time immemorial. They used the traditional reef-net system to catch the abundant salmon, with nets woven from nettle plants. Local knowledge of the seasonal tides and migrations of all five species of salmon remain critical to foraging success. Fishing and shellfish harvesting continues today around the islands by the Coast Salish commercial and recreational fishers.

For many, the act of gathering seafood to eat with family and friends is still a vital, life-sustaining practice. These experiences help instill a deep understanding of the interdependence and connectedness of marine life, and the importance of preserving, protecting, and restoring marine habitats and food webs.

When salmon arrive, net is pulled up.

Ropes are made with braided red-cedar bark.

Bunches of beach grass tied to floor ropes increase the illusion of a normal sea bed.

Just like today, historic Coast Salish fish hooks were made of many materials and styles.

Salmon swims in the direction of tidal current.

Reef netting was developed here by tribal fishermen centuries ago. The woven cedar net between the two canoes is lifted, trapping salmon in the process. Teamwork and patience is required for success.

Reef-net fishing can still be found in a few locations around the San Juan Islands, but most fishing has been replaced by motorized boats, gill nets, purse seines, rods and reels. Techniques and gear may have changed but the essential act of fishing remains as it always has been.

**Interpretive signage at Orcas Landing by Larry Eifert**

