



**CALL FOR
ARTISTS!**



GATEWAY ARCH NATIONAL PARK
RESEARCH CENTER

MURAL COMPETITION

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 2025



GATEWAY ARCH NATIONAL PARK RESEARCH CENTER

THE ARCHIVES READING ROOM at Gateway Arch Research Center is a new space dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the park. Located at the Old Post Office in downtown St. Louis, the Research Center will open by appointment starting October 1, 2025.

The park’s archival collection was created in 1988, when Jefferson National Parks Association (JNPA) helped fund its creation to support the National Park Service. Until then, materials had been collected without organization or a permanent home since the 1930s. The collection now includes thousands of items: drawings, photos, reports, maps, letters, and more.

These records tell the story of how the park was imagined, planned, built, and managed over time. They cover everything from the original design competition that resulted in the construction of the Gateway Arch, documents related to key figures involved in the park’s creation, and other records that explore topics related to the nation’s westward expansion. The opening of the Research Center will make it easier for students, researchers, and other curious parties to explore the history of the Gateway Arch National Park



TO MARK THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY of the Gateway Arch, the park’s longtime partner Jefferson National Parks Association is hosting a mural design competition open to local artists.

The goal of this project is to showcase the park’s history through a mural created specifically for the research center. The winning design will be applied to a wall in the Archives Reading Room. The competition aims to support local artists and bring our regional history to life in a new public research space.

- COMPETITION SELECTION COMMITTEE**
- Bi-State Development
 - Gateway Arch Park Foundation
 - Great Rivers Greenway
 - Jefferson National Parks Association
 - National Park Service
 - Regional Arts Commission

MURAL COMPETITION THEMES

All designs must engage with one or more of the following themes:

The Design, Development, and/or Construction of the Gateway Arch

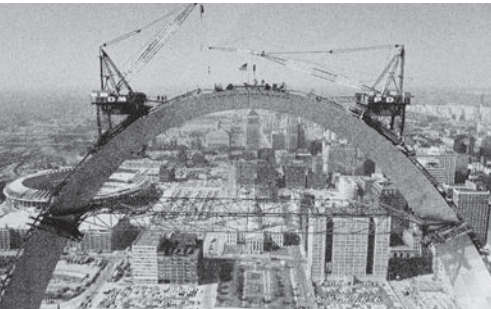
The Old Courthouse as a Crucible for Change

Dred and Harriet Scott
Virginia Minor
U.S. Citizenship

The Confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers

Thomas Jefferson’s Vision of the American West

Louisiana Purchase
Lewis and Clark
Indigenous Perspectives



The mural space is located in the St. Louis Old Post Office, 815 Olive Street St. Louis, MO 63101.

Dimensions for the mural wall are 258 inches x 79.5 inches.

Artists interested in viewing the mural space are invited to see it by appointment only on July 8, July 11, or July 16. Contact the park curator, Jennifer Clark to set up an appointment at jennifer_clark@nps.gov.



COMPETITION TIMELINE

- 1 SUBMISSION PERIOD**
Submissions must be submitted by July 25 at 4:00pm
- 2 WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT**
Judges will evaluate submissions and select a winner by August 15
- 3 MURAL DESIGN**
Competition winner must create the project in the research room by September 15
- 4 PUBLIC PRESENTATION**
Mural will be unveiled in October to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the completion of the Gateway Arch

MURAL COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

Jefferson National Parks Association (JNPA) offers a \$5,000 cash award plus reimbursement up to \$2,500 for approved materials to create an indoor mural for the Gateway Arch National Park Research Center at 815 Olive Street, St. Louis. The competition is free to enter, and multiple entries by the same artist are welcome. The selected artist will sign a letter of agreement confirming all terms before starting work.

ELIGIBILITY AND MURAL REQUIREMENTS

Artists must be 18 or older and reside in the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Area to ensure site access. The mural must be original, scalable for large indoor installation, and not created using artificial intelligence. The selected artist will install the mural on painted drywall 79.5 inches high by 258 inches wide and must complete work on site during business hours by September 15, 2025, or forfeit the award.

Submitted designs must be inspired by one or more identified themes. Artists are encouraged to interpret these creatively while maintaining historical and educational relevance. The mural will be a long-term but not permanent installation. The artist will have no rights to retrieve the mural after the display period.

OWNERSHIP, USAGE, AND LICENSING

The selected artist retains copyright to the final art but grants JNPA and the National Park Service (NPS) a royalty-free, unlimited license to display, reproduce, publicize, and archive the mural for educational, interpretive, and historical purposes with typical artist attribution. This includes use of images in print, digital communications, and products sold in JNPA's nonprofit park stores. This license applies only to the final artwork, not to sketches or concepts submitted.

COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT

The \$5,000 award is paid upon completion. Up to \$2,500 reimbursement for approved supplies is available. The artist must provide all materials, including paint, brushes, drop cloths, and other essential single-use items. Reimbursable expenses may include equipment rental and vehicle mileage (up to 150 miles/day at the IRS charitable rate). All reimbursement requests must have itemized documentation. Meals, lodging, and hired help are not reimbursed. The artist is responsible for any tax liability on payments.

ARTIST RESPONSIBILITIES

The winning artist must:

- Sign a letter of agreement before starting
- Complete the mural on site by Monday, September 15, 2025
- Acquire and bring all necessary materials and tools
- Follow safety, preparation, and quality standards
- Coordinate with Gateway Arch National Park staff for scheduling
- Submit documentation for approved reimbursements

MURAL COMPETITION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS & TIMELINE

Artists must submit applications electronically via a link at mural.jnpa.com. Physical submissions are not accepted.

TIMELINE:

- Submission deadline: Friday, July 25, 2025, 4:00 p.m. CDT
- Winner notified: No later than Friday, August 15, 2025
- Installation period: August 15 - September 15, 2025
- Unveiling: October 2025 (date to be announced)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Completed Application Form - via submission portal at mural.jnpa.com
2. Digital sketch or scanned illustration of original design concept
3. Artist Statement - Up to 300 words describing concept and theme reflection
4. Work Samples (*optional, but highly encouraged*) - Up to three examples of prior mural or large-scale work

SELECTION CRITERIA

Submissions will be reviewed anonymously based a variety of factors including artistic quality and originality; relevance to historical and park themes; feasibility and timeline adherence; mural/public art experience; and suitability for indoor display.