



**Call to Artist(s) for Public Art: Eight Commissioned Art Designs for Downtown Blue Springs, MO**  
Issued September 15, 2022

**Blue Springs Downtown Alive!** issues a Call to Artist(s) for a themed Cats on Main Exhibition entitled **“Celebrate Blue Springs”**. We are seeking artistic designs to be painted onto individual, stand-alone fiberglass molded cast reproduction in the shape of a “Cat” which will be located on the North and South sides of Main Street between 7 Highway and 15<sup>th</sup> Street. There will be a total of eight Cats representing the Blue Springs High School Mascots, with four shaped like a Wildcat and four shaped like a Jaguar.

The purpose of our Cats on Main Exhibition is to complement our existing public art located within the Downtown District and to provide a connection between Downtown, the Blue Springs School District and the Community. This project will serve as an enticement to bring residents and visitors to the Downtown District to view the Cats on Main Exhibition which will be visible along Main Street. The effect of your “Celebrate Blue Springs” design will be the new business this public art project could potentially attract in addition to the new patrons it will bring to the existing businesses located here.

This is a juried event open to artists with a past or present relationship with the Blue Springs Community. **Submission Deadline Date: December 15, 2022.** There will be an artist(s) stipend (or scholarship if under age 18) in the amount of \$500 for each “Cat” and painting materials expense will be covered by Downtown Alive up to \$200 per cat. The Cats will be coated with white primer and will be clear coated once the design has been completed by the artist(s), all provided by Downtown Alive at no expense to the artist(s).

**INTRODUCTION**

Blue Springs Downtown Alive! is a 501(c)(3) organization. We are a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization and have been working to return vitality to the district by bringing new business, enhancing the district with art projects and aesthetic improvements, as well as developing incentives to stimulate investment.

Blue Springs Downtown Alive! is undertaking the project for commissioning artistic designs to be painted on a total of eight “Cats” using the Blue Springs High School Mascots as the shape for the “Cats” in celebration of the award-winning Blue Springs School District located within our Community. Each individual, stand-alone “Cat” will be cast in a fiberglass mold and attached to its own individual base.

The eight Cats will be auctioned for sale during each of the High Schools Homecoming Week with proceeds being set aside by Downtown Alive to fund future projects within the Downtown District. Your “Celebrate Blue Springs” artistic ideas will help foster growth within the Downtown District for the benefit of the entire Community now and for future generations.

Our **VISION** is a healthy, vibrant downtown, creating a great city in which to live, work, shop and play for the benefit of all residents and businesses in Blue Springs.

Our **MISSION** is to engage in historic preservation, revitalization activities and education; by encouraging the cooperation of downtown merchants, property owners, residents and partners, creating a positive image of downtown, strengthening the economic base and providing design education to improve the appearance and vitality of the Downtown Area.

For more information about Downtown Alive in general, please visit [www.downtownbluesprings.com](http://www.downtownbluesprings.com).

### **CALL TO ARTIST(S) DETAILS**

This Call is for commissioning a total of eight “Cats” as follows:

- A stipend of \$500 (or scholarship if under age 18) will be offered per Cat.
- The expense of painting materials will be covered by Downtown Alive up to \$200 per Cat.
- Each artistic design must speak to the theme “Celebrate Blue Springs” in some way, but not necessarily high school related. We are looking for an artistic design that speaks to the Community in a creative fashion. We ask that you avoid creating designs that are political or controversial in nature.
- Each artistic design must be submitted by an individual or group of individuals that have had a past or present relationship with the Blue Springs Community. The artist(s) relationship with the Community can be that of a resident, an employee of a Blue Springs based business, a volunteer for a Blue Springs based organization, etc., and the relationship with the Community may be current or in the past.
- The artist may or may not currently live in the area, however no transportation/travel expense will be provided by Downtown Alive! for artist(s)
- Four individual, stand-alone Cats to represent Blue Springs High School using the Wildcat Mascot as the shape for the Cat which will be placed on the North side of Main Street.
- Four individual, stand-alone Cats to represent Blue Springs South High School using the Jaguar Mascot as the shape for the Cat which will be placed on the South side of Main Street.
- Each individual Cat will be seen at eight different locations on Main Street from 7 Hwy to 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Downtown Blue Springs.
- Each Cat is approximately 6’ in length, approximately 4’ height and 30” to 32” in width, similar in size to the former Cow Parade or the Parade of Hearts, both located throughout the KC Metro area.
- Molded, fiberglass cast reproductions will be provided without charge to the artist(s) awarded the commission.
- A warehouse type space will be provided in Blue Springs for painting if needed.
- Once painting is complete, arrangements will be made for each Cat to be placed at its pre-determined location.
- An artist may apply for more than one commission.
- The artist(s) will be selected by a juror panel comprised of five local individuals with an artistic background.

### **MATERIAL DETAILS**

- The Blue Springs High School Mascot design for each Cat is attached as a part of the Call to Artist. It is not required that the Mascot design be incorporated into each artist(s) Cat design.
- Each Cat will be cast in a fiberglass mold reproduction and mounted on a small base.
- The artist(s) will be responsible for painting the entire Cat and the attached base only.
- The Cat will be coated with primer in advance by Downtown Alive at no charge to the artist(s)
- Paint materials must be sunlight resistant, weather-proof, have the ability to sustain outdoor temperatures and must be able to be sealed with a clear coat sealer after the artist(s) completion.
- Each Cat will be coated with a clear coat sealer after completion by Downtown Alive at no charge to the artist(s).
- The artist will not be responsible for installing the Cats for display.

## **COMPENSATION**

Once the artist(s) has been selected as one of the eight finalists and the contract for painting the Cat is complete, they will receive a stipend of **\$500 for each Cat (or scholarship if under age 18)**. The cost of painting materials will be covered by Downtown Alive up to \$200 per Cat.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Artists must submit the following to be considered:

- **Letter of Interest**—identify which Blue Springs High School Mascot you wish to submit for, and any other information to show why you are interested in this project. If you are submitting for both Mascots or submitting more than one design, you will need to submit a separate application for each with all the required application information.
- **Current Resume**—include information and details about your relationship with the Blue Springs Community, educational background, previous work, honors, and past experience, if any, in public art projects.
- **Image/ File Requirements**—a minimum of five and a maximum of six jpeg images representative of your body of work is required. One additional video file is optional. See attached for additional details regarding file size, etc.
- **Submission must be emailed to [downtownbluesprings@gmail.com](mailto:downtownbluesprings@gmail.com) or arrangements may be made for submission via Google Drive**
- **Initial Submission Deadline Date: December 15, 2022**
- **Finalists Notified: January 16, 2023**
- **Finalists Make Presentations: Week of January 23, 2023**
- **Winning Artist/s Announced: February 1, 2023**
- **Artist(s) Begin Painting: February 15, 2023**
- **Painting Completion Date: May 1, 2023**
- **Planned Installation Date: Week of May 15, 2023**
- **Dedication: June 1, 2023**
- **Auction of Cats: Homecoming Week in September/October, 2023**

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

- All applications must meet application requirements and deadlines to be considered for this Call to Artist(s).
- Applicants will be first juried on the basis of submission materials, including artistic quality of past work, experience, academic credentials and verification of relationship with the Blue Springs Community
- The artist(s) will be selected by a Juror Selection Panel comprised of five local individuals with an artistic background.
- The semi-finalist selection will include eight artistic designs representing each Blue Springs High School Mascot (total of 16 designs) will be selected for further review, which will involve presentation of each artist(s) proposal sketches (in a method chosen by the artist) and an interview with the Selection Panel, either in person or by electronic means as mutually determined.
- The Juror Selection Panel will make the final decision choosing a total of eight designs, four for each Blue Springs High School Mascot.
- The winning artist(s) will be asked to sign a Contract detailing the requirements for design, installation, and compensation arrangements (if under age 18, contract must be signed by parent or legal guardian)
- Terms of the Contract will include release of all artistic designs and ownership of product by Downtown Alive.

## **PROMOTION**

Each artist may be videotaped during the final interview selection process and during painting of the Cats. This information will become archival for historic purposes and also be used for promotion of the Downtown District. The Cats will be promoted in local and regional publications and will be placed on the Downtown Alive website and

may be placed on the City of Blue Springs website with photographs and a map of the location of each sculpture. Artists will be invited to attend a dedication event to celebrate the installation of the Cats.

The artist(s) appearing in these still or video images agree by applying for this call, that their image(s) may be used by Downtown Alive in and/or for promotional materials including, but not limited to, newsletters, flyers, posters, brochures, advertisements, fundraising letters, annual reports, press kits, and submissions to journalists, websites, social; networking sites and other print and digital communications, without payment in exchange for the artist(s) appearance.

**ATTACHMENTS PROVIDED**

- #1 – Blue Springs High School Mascot designs, Wildcat and Jaguar layouts (see Downtown Alive website for 3-D image which will be available soon)
- #2 - Site locations for placement of each Cat
- #3 - Image / File Requirements

**QUESTIONS.** Contact Annette Seago, Project Manager ([aseago8@gmail.com](mailto:aseago8@gmail.com)) or Pam Buck, Executive Director ([downtownbluesprings@gmail.com](mailto:downtownbluesprings@gmail.com) or 816-645-0287) for any questions about the Call to Artist(s) or to arrange for a site visit.

Attachment #1

Blue Springs High School Mascot Designs

Blue Springs High School Wildcat:



Blue Springs South High School Jaguar:



Attachment #2

Placement of Cats on Main

Main Street – North Side

1. City-owned lot - Grass area West of Blue River Dental
2. City Hall - Grass area at City Hall where the Heart was placed
3. Strip Center between 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> St - in the island in front of the east access drive
4. East 40 - West of the access drive, not on Railroad property

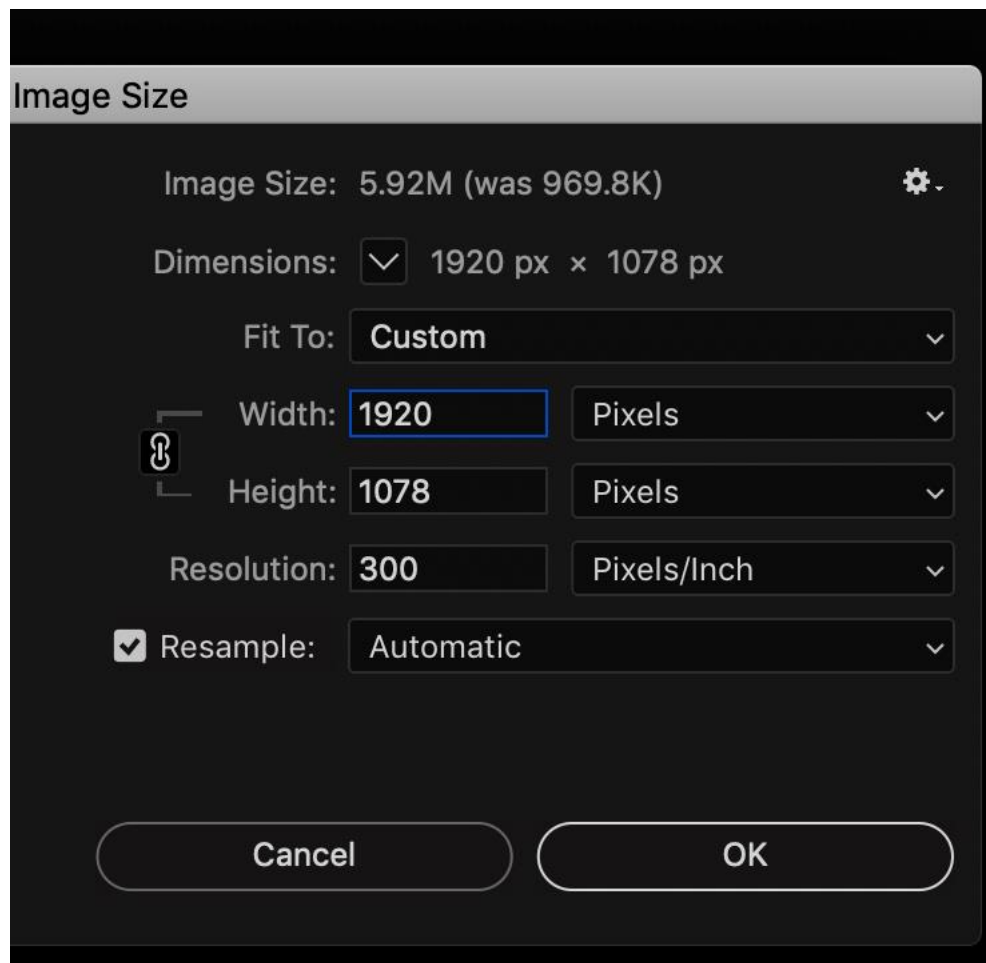
Main Street – South Side

1. 7 Highway Center – Grass area West of the Main St access point
2. 9<sup>th</sup> & Main – Grass area West of electrical box
3. 11<sup>th</sup> & Main – Relocate the good bench to the West side & place Cat @ old bench location
4. Scout Coffee/Genevieve's – Flat, grass area between the two businesses

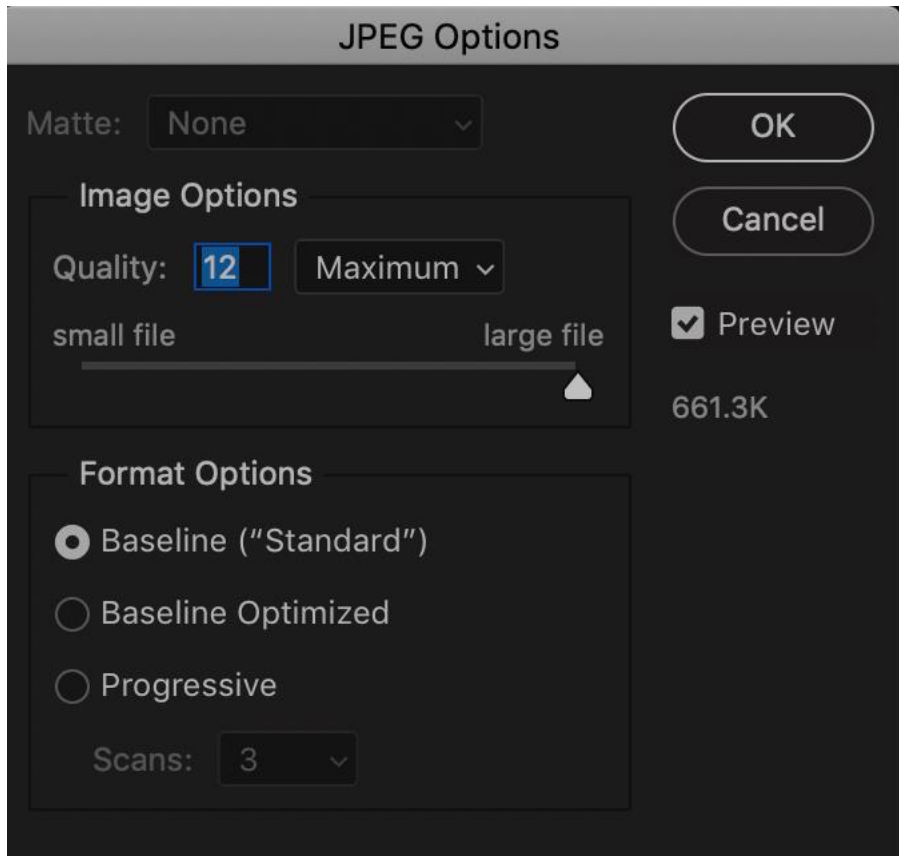
Attachment #3

Image / File Requirements

1. Limit of 6 images per application.
2. **300 ppi** resolution.
3. Sized to **1920 pixels** the **longest** direction
4. **BE CERTAIN THAT CONSTRAIN IS SET ON TO RETAIN SAME IMAGE SIZE RATIO.** *Note" fig "8" symbol left of 1920 and 1078.*



5. **srgb color space.**
6. Save as jpg file format at **highest quality** using baseline (Standard) format options.



7. File naming convention as follows “titlename\_makerfirstinitiallastname” example,,,,,,,,,,,,,  
***Cool Cat\_jsmith.jpg***
8. OPTIONS: Email your submitted image to [downtownbluesprings@gmail.com](mailto:downtownbluesprings@gmail.com) with  
Subject: *Cats on Main*. If file is too large, send via google docs link
9. Any questions can be sent via email to Annette Seago, Project Manager ([aseago8@gmail.com](mailto:aseago8@gmail.com)) or Pam Buck,  
Executive Director ([downtownbluesprings@gmail.com](mailto:downtownbluesprings@gmail.com) or 816-645-0287)
10. Call or email to arrange a site visit.