



Mass Street Music

Mural Design and Proposal by Louis Copt

www.louiscopt.com

Description + photos of building and area

The mural will be painted on the south-facing wall of Mass Street Music, located at 1347 Massachusetts Street. The mural will be visible to traffic going north on Massachusetts Street and will be visible from classroom windows at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School. The mural will also be visible by traffic and pedestrians traveling along 14th Street.

Technical feasibility – materials, permanence

The wall will be prepared for painting using exterior latex primer. The artists will use high-quality aerosol acrylic mural paint and seal with anti-graffiti sealer.

Description + photos of building and area

A Photoshop version of the finished mural is attached.

The mural will be approximately 8' x 12'



Historical, neighborhood and cultural context

An independent institution that has instilled so much joy, passion and goodwill in the people of Kansas (and beyond), Mass Street Music has long committed itself to the preservation and restoration of musical instruments. For decades, it's been successful despite the rise of big box stores and ecommerce. Owners Jim Baggett and Rick Dishinger, together with Greg Smith, founded the store in 1978, dedicating themselves to the crafting and repairing of acoustic instruments. The store has moved and evolved, occupying a relatively "quieter" part of Downtown Lawrence at 1347 Massachusetts Street since 1983. With small town atmosphere and world class service, it specializes in retail and repair. "There seems to be a general goodwill toward this kind of old-fashioned business. We get a lot of compliments," he says on his website.

Historical, neighborhood and cultural context (continued)

Music and the prairie have been intertwined for many years. My mural proposal, which is also sure to garner compliments from visitors to the store, is of a Flint Hills sunset during a prairie burn. Fires are started naturally or by man, both accidentally and intentionally as is the case during annual prairie burns. The Plains Indians started fires to attract game to new grasses. They sometimes referred to fire as the "Red Buffalo." Ranchers today start fires to improve cattle forage and for prairie health. To me, the prairie fires are a symbol of renewal and are necessary for the preservation of the prairie.

Making music is symbolic of our local community, and arguably part of its health. More broadly, each year Symphony in the Flint Hills hosts a large concert to heighten appreciation and knowledge of the Tallgrass Prairie in the Kansas Flint Hills. They work to build awareness for the last stand of tallgrass prairie ecosystem. The land and landscape are central to our culture. Symphony in the Flint Hills organizers answer the call to stewardship with education. They collaborate with musicians, artists, historians, scientists, and community members to advance both the traditions of yesterday and changes for the future. Symphony in the Flint Hills helps sustain the region's unique culture and landscape. I feel Mass Street Music is an appropriate place for a mural celebrating traditions of preservation and restoration of the Kansas Flint Hills.

Resume and past work

Artist Louis Copt will be assisted by two professional mural painters. Resume, selected works portfolio and past mural projects are attached.

Letters of support

Letters of support from Liberty Memorial Central Middle School, Bishop Seabury Academy and neighbors are attached.

Dear Lawrence Cultural Art Commissioners,

As the art teacher at Bishop Seabury Academy, I am happy to support Louis Copt's mural proposal for Mass. Street Music's southern, outdoor wall. There are multiple benefits to allowing the mural to proceed. To name a few:

- Louis Copt is a well-respected, *local* artist who is known for work that celebrates classic Kansas landscape imagery. Who better to paint a mural near our iconic downtown Lawrence?

- The location of the mural is catty-corner to Liberty Memorial Middle School. Students there will be able to witness, along with the whole neighborhood, the task of mural painting from its beginning stages all the way to its completion.

- The mural will beautify and enrich the visual interest of the intersection. For visitors coming to town from the south, an eye-catching mural will be a welcoming sight, adding to Lawrence's already strong reputation for supporting the arts.

Thanks to Louis's willingness to reach out, some of my students will get to visit the site and be introduced to the whole mural-making process. The chance for students to pick the brains of working artists will be awesome!

I appreciate all that you do to support the art scene in Lawrence.

Best regards,

Laura Porter



Laura Porter, Director of Fine Arts
Art Instructor
Bishop Seabury Academy
4120 Clinton Parkway
Lawrence, KS 66047
Tel: 785.832.1717 ext. 1206

October 4, 2021

Dear Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission,

I am writing to show my support for Louis Copt's proposed mural on the south wall of Mass Street Music. I live and work on Massachusetts Street. I am a middle school teacher at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School. My third-floor classroom faces Massachusetts Street and has a great view of the building. I live two blocks south of Mass Street Music, where my son is a regular customer.

Louis has shared his ideas for the mural with me, and I am excited. The art will add color and beauty to the corner. I know my students will enjoy watching the mural take shape. Louis plans to invite a small group of students to the site, as the artists prepare the site and begin their work. Liberty Memorial Central prides itself on the rich artistic history of our building. We are fortunate to have a Wayne Wildcat mural in our building, entitled Central Time. Allowing some of our students to engage with the artists will enrich their learning.

During our short story unit, I teach a Toni Cade Bambara story called War of the Wall. The main characters of the story are angry when an outsider comes to town and starts painting on their beloved neighborhood wall. The characters plan to deface the artist's work until they discover the mural is a dedication to the people of their neighborhood. After we read the story, we study the murals in Lawrence, the Wall of Respect movement, and talk about the value of community art. This mural outside our classroom window will add to our discussion.

I am personally familiar with Louis Copt's artwork, and I am thrilled to have a view of his mural from my classroom window. I enthusiastically support this project.

Thank you for your efforts to promote art in the Lawrence community.

Sincerely,

Jackie Stafford
English Teacher at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School
Barker Neighborhood Resident

October 5, 2021
1540 New Hampshire Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Lawrence Cultural Arts Commissioners:

I am the Acting President of the Barker Neighborhood Association and I am writing in support of the mural Mass Street Music has proposed Louis Copt to create for their east wall. The mural will be close to our neighborhood's northwest corner.

The prairie fire is one of Mr. Copt's iconic themes, and beloved by so many people in our community.

I am grateful to Mass Street Music for commissioning art for all to enjoy on their building. They have my enthusiastic endorsement. I think the proposed mural is well aligned with your Commission's mission to encourage the artistic and cultural activities of the community, and the theme fits well with land stewardship in the county.

Thank you for your service in promoting arts and culture in our city.

Sincerely,

Lisa Harris-Frydman

October 6, 2021

Dear Lawrence Cultural Arts Commissioners:

As members of Barker Neighborhood Association (BNA), we're delighted to offer our support for Louis Copt's outdoor mural on the south side of Mass Street Music. We're particularly pleased that the mural will feature one of Louis's beloved prairie fires. To be sure, it will be stunning. Equally important, it truly will be a one-of-a-kind Kansas welcome to passersby on their way toward downtown.

What a great opportunity to transform a beige brick wall into a colorful piece of public art on one of our city's busiest intersections. We can't wait!

Best regards,

Andy Bloomer and Mary Wharff, BNA Past-President
1535 Rhode Island Street

Installation plan and timeline

Upon approval, the artists will begin the painting process observed by selected art students from Liberty Memorial Central Middle School and Bishop Seabury Academy as soon as possible. Painting of the mural will be completed in one to two days, weather permitting

Budget

Artist Louis Copt will pay for the mural project.

Agreement

A signed agreement between Jim Baggett, owner of Mass Street Music, and Artist Louis Copt is attached.

Owner / Artist Agreement

This agreement made and entered into by and between Jim Baggett,
hereinafter called the OWNER, and Louis Copt, hereinafter called the
ARTIST.

Recitals

WHEREAS, the OWNER requires the services of an artist to paint a mural on the wall of
Mass St. Music; and

WHEREAS, OWNER has determined that the ARTIST is qualified to paint the mural desired
based upon the skill, reputation and creativity of the ARTIST; and
WHEREAS, the ARTIST is able and willing to perform under the terms and conditions of this
Contract;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing promises and the covenants set forth
below, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Final Design

The ARTIST shall present the final design to Lawrence Cultural Arts Comm. for
approval prior to the painting the Mural.

2. Creation and Installation

- The ARTIST represents and warrants that the Mural to be created is an original
work of art and that the Mural shall be a faithful rendition of the preliminary design
submitted by the ARTIST and approved by LCAC.

- The ARTIST shall create and be responsible for installation of the Mural.
The ARTIST agrees to have the Mural completely installed
by Dec. 31, 2021.

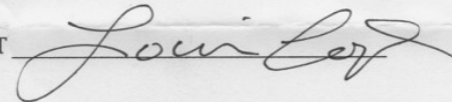
- If work on the Mural is delayed by adverse weather conditions, or any
other cause beyond the ARTIST'S reasonable control, then the completion date shall be
extended for such reasonable time as the parties may agree.

3. Copyright Ownership of the Work

The ARTIST reserves all copyrights in the Mural, the preliminary design, and any
incidental works made in the creation of the Mural under the Copyright Act of 1976, 17
U.S.C. § 101 et seq., as the sole author of the Artwork for the duration of the copyright.
*(The duration of copyright in the United States is currently the life of the author plus 70
years. The ARTIST agrees not to unreasonably refuse the OWNER permission to
reproduce the Mural image for noncommercial purposes.*

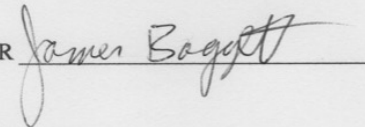
Date 9/08/2021 Name of ARTIST Louis Copt

Signature of ARTIST



Date 9/8/2021 Name of OWNER JAMES BAGGETT

Signature of OWNER



Copyright

Artist Louis Copt will retain copyright.

Life expectancy

15 years

Maintenance materials

Artists will maintain a supply of materials for touch-up and potential maintenance.

Text included in the mural

No text will be included in the mural, only the signature of the artist Louis Copt.

Letters of support

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approximately
8' x 12'

Waldo Neighborhood Mural Kansas City, MO



Flint Hills Mural Emporia, KS





www.louiscopt.com

1985-present Fine Artist

SELECTED COMMISSION WORK

2020, Waldo Neighborhood Mural, Kansas City, Missouri

2003, "Spring in the Flint Hills" Downtown Emporia Mural, Emporia, Kansas

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Wichita Art Museum, Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, Spencer Museum of Art, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, Coutts Museum of Art

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Arrowhead Art Collection, Kansas City Chiefs; Lawrence Memorial Hospital, West Campus; Emprise Bank; Kansas State University College of Business Administration; Cross-First Bank, Kansas City, Mo; FLH Bank of Topeka; Texas A&M University; Russell Stover, Black & Veatch

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

2016, Lawrence Arts Center Annual Benefit Art Auction Featured Exhibiting Artist



www.louiscopt.com

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Fine Art Connoisseur

The Artist's Magazine, three-time Top Finalist in the Landscape Division

American Artist Magazine

American Art Review

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Leopold Gallery in Kansas City, Missouri, Reuben Saunders Gallery in Wichita, Kansas, Strecker-Nelson Gallery in Manhattan, Kansas

EDUCATION

Art Students League, New York City, NY, Summer 1985

Emporia State University, Emporia, KS, Bachelor of Art in Art, 1971

Isaac Tapia and Rico Alvarez Professional Work

Selected Work

“Past, Present, and you are the Future” 2021. Ewing Marion Kauffman School, Kansas City, MO.



This mural's design was inspired and informed by the high school students at Kauffman School. It depicts 5 figures that have been an integral part of our nation's social change movement, pioneers and visionaries that have used their voices and actions to advocate for justice. At the center is Amanda Gorman, our nation's youngest poet laureate, as well as the youngest poet to read at a presidential inauguration. Her words served as inspiration, solace and a call-to-action for millions of Americans during the social upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic. To her left is Claudette Colvin, who at 15 was the first to refuse to give up her seat to a white person on the bus, (before Rosa Parks). To Amanda's right is Emma Gozales, a survivor of the Parkland school shooting, who has become an advocate for gun control and school safety. Behind the central figures are the silhouettes of Cesar Chavez and Ruth Bader Ginsberg, who have passed the torch of justice onto the next generation. The central aim of the mural is to inspire our nation's youth to find their empowerment, their identity and their unique voice through the context of the ongoing fight for social justice during this difficult and transformative era of human history.

Approximate: 1548 sq. ft. Aerosol on Sheetrock Wall

Isaac Tapia and Rico Alvarez Professional Work

“Cafe Corazon” 2019. Kansas City, MO.



The Café Corazón mural is an homage to the beauty, color, and the arresting passion of Latinx culture. It stands for the strength of the people from all the different Latin countries that have found their way to Kansas City and made it home. It represents the heart of the Latin culture that beats on no matter where it finds itself. It is a celebration of community.

The images in our mural from left to right: The turquoise foreground is the skyline of Kansas City, the dark blue skyline behind it is Mexico City. The flowers around Frida Kahlo are from left to right: The Ceibo Flower which is the national flower of Argentina and Uruguay. Above that is the Cattleya Orchid which is the national flower of Brazil. Behind Frida's head is the Blue Passion Flower, the national flower of Paraguay. The large flower to her right is the Dahlia which is Mexico's national flower. The skyline in dark blue in the right foreground is Buenos Aires and the turquoise skyline behind it is that of Asunción.

Approx. 180 Sq. Ft. Aerosol on Brick Wall

Isaac Tapia and Rico Alvarez Professional Work

“Raices/Roots” 2021. Cafe Corazon 2, Kansas City, MO.



This work, completed for a Latinx owned coffee shop in Kansas City, honors the Indigenous roots of coffee, mate, and blue corn. The mural reminds viewers that these plants are gifts from Indigenous populations, and that their origins should never be forgotten. Behind the woman's head is an Aztec calendar, which represents the passage of time, eternity and continuity. The mural is an homage to the divinity found in reconnecting with nature and your cultural roots.

Approximate 144 Sq Ft Aerosol on sheetrock wall

Isaac Tapia and Rico Alvarez Professional Work

“Panther Pride” 2021. Park Hill South High School, Kansas City, MO.



This mural was designed and commissioned by the Park Hill School District to represent the school's mascot and shine as a symbol of pride for the members of the Park Hill South community. The Mural features a Kansas City background that celebrates hometown pride. The panthers in the mural direct their gaze towards the visitors side, maintaining a menacing stare to the opponents. As the main gym, this is where sports teams host all of their home games and major school events.

Approximate 3,000 Sq Ft Aerosol on sheetrock wall

Isaac Tapia and Rico Alvarez Professional Work

Sidelines Custom Floral. 2021. Private Business Commission, Martin City, MO.



Aerosol on brick wall
Approx. 400 Sq. Ft.

Isaac Tapia and Rico Alvarez Professional Work

“Turtle Island” 2021. Coast to Coast Pub, Private Business Commission, Kansas City, MO.



Aerosol on Brick wall
Approx. 450 Sq. Ft.

Isaac Tapia and Rico Alvarez Professional Work

"Beautiful Migration" 2019. Kansas city, MO



"Beautiful migration" is for and about women of color and is dedicated to our mothers. In these three women, we wish to celebrate diversity and show we exist. Asunta is a beautiful woman from Ghana. Her parents ran away from war in her country. She lost her mother to the war. She reunited with her older brother after 20 years, but her dad returned to Ghana where he owns land. Every year she organizes and runs a fundraiser so she can send money back to her country to help the people in her father's community. She is also saving money to open a hospital near the village because the nearest hospital is hours away. Sienna is the daughter of Vietnamese immigrants. While struggling to figure out her identity as a Vietnamese and American woman, she is still working hard, supporting herself and going to school in Chicago. In her family she is the first to graduate and first to go to college. Naomi is Chicana, born in KC. Her childhood up to now has been very rough. Her mom went to jail and she has no dad, but despite her hardships she perseveres and is always protecting and providing for her little sister. She wants to become an artist and a veterinarian when she grows up. These three women remind us of our mothers:

Approx. 375 Sq. Ft. Aerosol and Acrylic on Brick wall

Isaac Tapia and Rico Alvarez

Professional References

Nicole Emmanuel
Founder, Executive Director
Interurban Arthouse
8001 Newton St. Overland Park, KS (816) 589-8469
nicole@interurbanarthouse.org

Paul Dorell
Gallery Owner
Leopold Gallery
324 W 63rd St. Kansas City, MO.
(816) 419-1656
paul@leopoldgallery.com

Carlos Mortera
The Bite and Poi-o
800 South Seven St. Tffwy. Kansas City, KS
(913) 948-4717

Jenny Mendez
Mattie Rhodes
401 N Topping Kansas City, MO
(816) 217-3651

Miel Castagna
Cafe Corazon
1721 Westport R. Kansas City, MO
(575) 779-5712



Thank you for your time and consideration.