

Call for Artists: Colorado Mountain College – Steamboat Springs Mural Opportunity



Overview

The installation of murals and public art enhances the visual landscape of Steamboat Springs and enriches student life through creativity placemaking. This mural opportunity at Colorado Mountain College's Steamboat Springs Campus invites artists to submit contemporary designs that embody growth, innovation, and contemplation—reflecting the dynamic learning environment of the college. The 'Joy in the Journey' mural project will transform a prominent stairwell descending from the third floor (social spaces) to the second floor (classrooms) into a place for reflection and inspiration.

In the early 1990s, Professors George Tolles and Terry Hunter constructed a labyrinth maze on campus to encourage contemplative walking. The curatorial committee seeks to honor that legacy through a visually compelling, abstract mural design that incorporates graphic elements native to the campus—such as pathways, trails, maze-like patterns—and evokes the spirit of growth and innovation. Designs should be colorful, interesting and enhance the space in a compelling way.



Theme: Joy in the Journey

Visual elements: Rivers, trails, pathways, growth.

Art Style: Successful applications will include art styles that venture away from realism. Artists are encouraged to submit work that taps into styles like abstract, futurism, pointillism, avant-garde, and styles that go beyond realism.

Budget:

- Artist honorarium = up to \$8,000, depending on the design detail and scope
- inclusive of all materials, equipment, labor, and installation costs
- Artist is expected to prep the wall for installation, create and install original artwork, apply SC logo in bottom right corner of design, apply a UV sealant, pay for all supplies including: paint, materials, brushes, drop cloths, ladders, etc

Target Population: Students, faculty, staff, residents, visitors and the general public

Submission Requirements:

- Submit up to 3 design renderings (jpegs) focusing on the theme
- Recommended overlaying your design on the wall image for optimal viewing
- Submit bio, website link and samples of artwork
- Submission via google form required: <https://forms.gle/jaJZToJHrc8cuWyV7>

Public Art Maintenance:

- All attempts will be made to contact the original artist for repair and maintenance, if not available in a timely or affordable manner, the property owner will hire a professional.

Timeline:

- Deadline for Proposals: February 20, 2026
- Installation Window: March 6-15, 2026

The success of design will be determined by three key measures:

- ### Guidance:

In partnership with Steamboat Creates, this project will bring together creative activities from established and/or emerging artists utilizing techniques of urban art, street art, painted murals or installations.

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cmc labyrinth
sky books whimsy topo lines simple
labyrinth diversity trails waterways
colorful stars journey rivers
trail paths river growth
geography abstract community joy aspens
sunset western contemporary dragon spine sunrise
waterfall maze geometric pathway
seasons canyons



SUMMARY:

Colorado Mountain College: Stairwell Mural - Academic Building

3rd floor looking to 2nd floor



Artist Honorarium: \$8,000
***includes materials all cost for your complete installation.**
Theme: Joy in the Journey
Deadlines:
Call for Entry: February 20, 2026
Installation: March 6-15, 2026
Submissions:
<https://forms.gle/jaJZToJHrc8cuWyV7>

Stairwell wall dimensions:
Sides: 324"L x "76"T
Front: 103"L x 76"T
*glass will be removed prior to installing the mural

Description:

In the early '90s, Professors George Tolles and Terry Hunter built a labyrinth maze at the Steamboat campus encouraging contemplative walking. Similarly, this stairwell space invites contemplation as you descend from the 3rd floor which is focused on social activities down to the 2nd floor where classrooms and administrative offices reside.

The curatorial committee would like to see abstract designs that are colorful and visually interesting that embody the spirit of growth and innovation. incorporates graphic elements native to the campus—such as pathways, trails, maze-like patterns—and evokes the spirit of growth and innovation. Designs should be colorful, interesting and enhance the space in a compelling way.



2nd floor looking to south



2nd floor looking to north west



2nd floor looking to north

