



***City Council Memorandum***

**To:** Mayor Fasbender & City Council Members

**From:** Lee Stoffel, Communications Coordinator

**Date:** February 12, 2020

**Item:** Recommendation from the Public Arts Task Force

**Council Action Requested:**

The Arts Task Force is recommending approval of a proposal submitted in response to a call for artists for a public mural to be located on the rear-facing wall of Hastings Family Service, facing Levee Park.

**Background Information:**

In the fall of 2019, the Public Arts Task Force (PATF) issued a call for public art proposals for a public mural to be located near Levee Park. A willing partner was found with Hastings Family Service, to locate the mural on the rear-facing wall of their building. This location was considered ideal because of the proximity to the Rotary Pavilion and the high level of traffic and visibility in and around the park year-round.

The task force received 14 proposals from a number of high-caliber and experienced muralists. The Task Force partnered with Hastings Family Service and members of both THRIVE and HPAAC to review each proposal. The PATF is recommending approval of the design submitted by the artist team of Daniela Bianchini and Pablo Kalaka. Submission materials are attached. This design was chosen because it most closely embraced the theme, "Our Growing Diversity, Welcoming the Future". In addition, the vibrant colors, relevance to Hastings, unique design concept, and artists impressive body of work all played a part in the decision.

This mural will be the third piece of public art commissioned by the Public Arts Task Force.

**Financial Impact:**

There is \$20,000 included in the 2020 budget. These funds were carried over from 2018 and 2019.

**Advisory Commission Discussion:**

This is a recommendation from the Public Arts Task Force, an advisory group of residents.

**Council Committee Discussion:**

n/a

**Attachments:**

- Artists Bios and samples of previous work
- Submission Form
- Proposal Concept and Description

**Artist Biographies – Hastings Mural Project 2020**

**Daniela Bianchini** was born and raised in Argentina. She was given the opportunity to come to the United States at the age of 19 and fell in love with Minnesota. She has been living here since then and she definitely considers it home. Daniela has worked in several art mediums but her love and passion is with mosaics. She is very enthusiastic about composing a work of art by bringing many pieces together. She feels it is very much like life itself composed by mosaic pieces of experiences, places, people, colors, etc. Her main goal is to bring art and mosaics to the community. She believes in public art as something available for everyone to feel inspired. Daniela has worked in partnership with different organizations in Minnesota such as, with East Nokomis Neighborhood Association, Circulo de Amigos Childcare Center, Centro Tyrone Guzman, the University of Minnesota, CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio), the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance, etc.

Daniela likes to see her work as interpretations; either working in partnership with other artists and interpreting their work into mosaics or capturing the essence of ideas, of communities, of surroundings and developing works of art that beautify spaces. Her extensive work history shows

she is capable of completing mayor projects, from 90 feet x 21 feet murals as in the first Mural festival of Minnesota in September of 2019 or 46 mosaic art works for downtown Saint Paul in the summer of 2019.

Website: <http://www.mnartists.org/danibianchini>

Facebook: [@danielabianchiniarg](#)

**Pablo Diego Perez Riesco (aka Kalaka)** was born in Santiago de Chile in 1975 and because of the Military Dictatorship he is exiled with his parents to Venezuela, a country where he grew up and lived. Pablo is a painter and a muralist. He has participated in many mural art festivals, such as Kosmopolite, Paris, 2008; Karupana, Carúpano, 2013, Cromasur, Bogotá, 2015, La Puerta del Sur, Santiago de Chile, 2018, among others. He has a university degree at the UCV and the illustration and painting career in Barcelona, Catalonia. Pablo has exhibited in Caracas, Barcelona, Santiago de Chile and Minnesota. He has painted murals in several countries such as Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, Catalonia, Germany, France and the United States.

Pablo throughout his career as a muralist has learned and understood that communities wherever they are have similar dynamics and necessities. He always requests permission and engages with the community where he paints. He gets to know the people and allows them to get to know him. Pablo believes that art should be in public spaces giving beauty and meaning to the environment. The public realm is his natural space and it provides a permanent challenge for him. He wants to respect the surroundings, the people, and the historic moment of the time while flowing with his pulsating creative passion. The most important part of these interactions with the community is the exchange of love. The love he gives through his art in community spaces and the love he receives from the community while he paints.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/elkalaka/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pablokalaka/>

**Bianchini/Kalaka Proposed Piece:**



We are approaching our piece with several subjects in mind. We want to attempt an overall perspective of Hastings evolving and thriving through time. The changes in seasons from spring through migrating birds give us a sense of moving forward, into the future. The surrounding nature represents Hastings with its flora and fauna. We want to embrace the importance of our environment. The grandmother figure brings the knowledge to this process and the importance of the past. The family represents the growing diversity of the city. Our characters vary in ethnicities. We want the characteristics of their features to be open to interpretations of different races accounting for the inclusion and acceptance of the way societies are composed nowadays.

The monarch butterflies represent migration which is a big component of the growing diversity. The child acknowledges the importance of water and carries it with her. The water of the Mississippi and the St. Croix rivers; the water that is her history and her future. She will bring the future to the city. Our children and future generations bring us hope. The sun in the background also represents that hope for a bright future.

This mural makes us think of the inevitable changes and cycles of life. We hope to awaken a feeling of understanding for those cycles to embrace and welcome the future.

*Our mural will be painted and adorned with details in mosaics.* We will use high quality Nova Color paints suitable for outdoor murals and varnish to protect the mural and promote its durability. The mosaic pieces will be made of stained glass and mirrors. This part of the process is done in our studio and the mosaics are secured to a mesh. When ready to install and adhere to the wall, the mosaic pieces will be secure with appropriate thinset and sealed with grout. All materials are suitable for outdoor use and will endure the harsh Minnesota winters without problems. No maintenance will be required for this mural.





Daniela Bianchini  
Pablo Kalaka



Daniela Bianchini

Part of the series “Beautify Saint Paul 2019”

Commission by the Downtown Alliance

Series of 12 receptacles (40 mosaics total)

**Reference:**

Tricia Schweitzer

Program Director - Arts & Archives

Student Unions & Activities | [sua.umn.edu](http://sua.umn.edu)

Office for Student Affairs | [osa.umn.edu](http://osa.umn.edu)

University of Minnesota | [umn.edu](http://umn.edu)

[schwe030@umn.edu](mailto:schwe030@umn.edu) | 612-625-7281

<https://campus-climate.umn.edu/content/global-u-mosaic-art-piece>

Experiences:



Daniela Bianchini

Participation in Chroma Zone Festival 2019

Mural Festival Saint Paul, MN

85 ft x 21 ft

Acrylic paints and mosaics mirrors and fused glass





Kalaka - 2019

Barbara Barker Center for Dance: Lobby Mural

University of Minnesota

28 ft x 20 approx.



Kalaka – 2018  
Mercado Central, Minneapolis, MN  
50 ft x 25 ft approx.

**Reference:**

Carl Flink  
University of Minnesota Professor  
111A Barker Center  
612-625-6992  
[flink003@umn.edu](mailto:flink003@umn.edu)