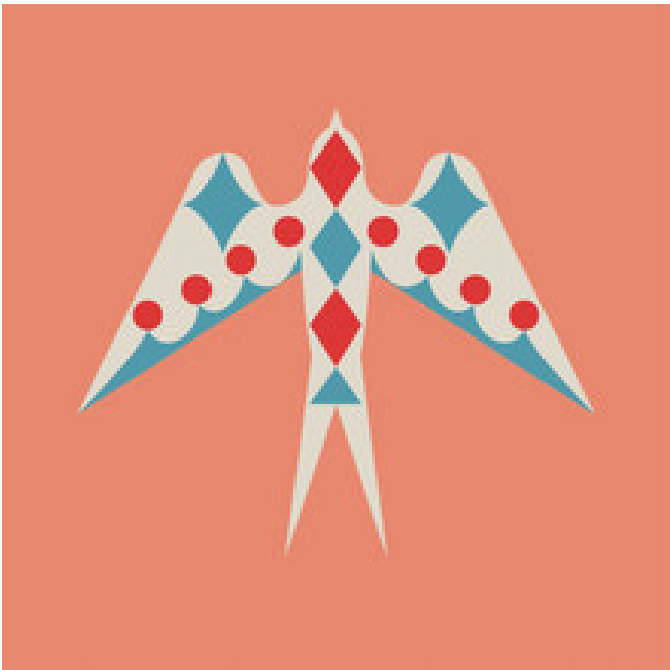


City of La Crosse Arts Board

2. Creative Development Grants

Brekke, Corrie
1014 Glen Echo Rd
Winona, MN 55987, US
6087970654
corriebrekke@gmail.com

Submitted: Oct 1 2025 12:13AM



Evaluations

Overall Rating

85.88

Rating Method: Cumulative
Range: 0 - 125

92

Andrew Sherman
Oct 17 2025 3:40PM

Public Access: 25, Demonstrated Project Planning & Feasibility: 23, Community Importance: 22, Vision, Artistic Goals, & Educational Merit: 22, Do you support moving this application forward?: Yes

"I am in full support of moving this project forward. I believe that by engaging in this project Corrie is engaging in artistic advancement not only of herself but also the community. I believe that the medium of ceramic tiles is unique within the broader community, and its availability to the public makes it an appealing project to fund. Additionally, I believe that Corrie's project budget and timeline demonstrate feasibility; particularly her inclusion of a promise by Clara Gilette to help cover overages that might occur within installation."

100

Zachary Stensen
Oct 19 2025 11:30PM

Public Access: 25, Demonstrated Project Planning & Feasibility: 25, Community Importance: 25, Vision, Artistic Goals, & Educational Merit: 25, Do you support moving this application forward?: Yes

"This is a strong and well-planned project, in terms of the proposal, production plan, and installation

research. I appreciate the innovative approach of creating a ceramic tile mural rather than a painted surface, and I'm confident that Corrie and Landon's collaboration will make a lasting and meaningful addition to downtown La Crosse.

Because Corrie conceived and submitted this proposal, I view it as a great opportunity for her to apply her knowledge of functional ceramics within a public art context, with Landon serving in a collaborative role. However, since Landon has already received funding for two other Arts Board mural projects, it's important to remain mindful of optics and public perception that his work is being continually championed by the Arts Board."

87

Maureen Freedland

Oct 20 2025 1:04PM

Public Access: 20, Demonstrated Project Planning & Feasibility: 21, Community Importance: 25, Vision, Artistic Goals, & Educational Merit: 21, Do you support moving this application forward?: Yes

"First, #10 Project Start Date states Jan. 1, 2025. Is this an error -- should be Jan. 1, 2026? Are we jumping into this at midway or the beginning?

I am supportive this particularly because it will help to define and devote our new downtown Rivoli Arts District. This is significant for the community. I am also favorably inclined because of the mosaic technique which will add to the variety of murals in town and distinguish it from most of our other murals on town. It will be at a location easily viewed by cars.

From her resume, it appears that Ms. Brekke has played a solid role in the promotion of the arts in La Crosse, and this is a basis for supporting her endeavor into another art form."

83

Mary Cate Wesling

Oct 23 2025 5:36PM

Public Access: 13, Demonstrated Project Planning & Feasibility: 25, Community Importance: 20, Vision, Artistic Goals, & Educational Merit: 25, Do you support moving this application forward?: Yes

"I love this concept and believe it would inspire innovation in the arts in La Crosse, as it would be the first of its kind. I want to make sure access in both the Pump House and the RAD are free to the public to encourage attendance."

100

Paige Shafrath

Oct 26 2025 11:53AM

Public Access: 25, Demonstrated Project Planning & Feasibility: 25, Community Importance: 25, Vision, Artistic Goals, & Educational Merit: 25, Do you support moving this application forward?: Yes

"VISION, ARTISTIC GOALS, & EDUCATIONAL MERIT
5, 5, 5, 5, 5 = 25

DEMONSTRATED PROJECT
PLANNING & FEASIBILITY

5, 5, 5, 5, 5, = 25 (\$1,100 for both Landon + Corrie doesn't seem like a lot for the time it will take to complete this project.) Is there any other way to support their labor costs?

COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE

5, 5, 5 (love the idea to use pottery/textiles for a mosaic), 5, 5 (love the mention of who will be able to access the finished work)

PUBLIC ACCESS

5, 5, 5 (Art Board, Art Club, RAD, Pumphouse involved in project), 5 - I love the idea behind this so much, it'd be fun to pitch it to some creative pubs to pick up the story."

48**Christine Kahlow**

Oct 26 2025 2:39PM

Public Access: 23, Demonstrated Project Planning & Feasibility: 8, Community Importance: 8, Vision, Artistic Goals, & Educational Merit: 9

"im ambivalent to say yes but do not like to say no. would prefer to leave this one up to others."

92**Eva Black**

Oct 27 2025 11:48AM

Public Access: 25, Demonstrated Project Planning & Feasibility: 19, Community Importance: 23, Vision, Artistic Goals, & Educational Merit: 25

"Will be great to have a new style of mural downtown. Question about inclusion of a "free event?" Or a way to include the community's engagement/participation?"

85**Jennifer Morris**

Oct 27 2025 12:43PM

Public Access: 25, Demonstrated Project Planning & Feasibility: 20, Community Importance: 15, Vision, Artistic Goals, & Educational Merit: 25, Do you support moving this application forward?: Yes

"This is a thoughtful proposal. Personally, I would love to see a sculptural piece added to La Crosse's collection of murals. I echo Zach's concern that we should be careful of too often supporting any one artist's work. However, as Corey is the applicant, and based on the strength of the proposal, I support moving it forward."

Section 1 (CDG) - Contact & Project Information

1. Name(s)/Organization

Corrie Brekke

2. Mailing address

1014 Glen Echo Road
Winona, MN 55987

3. Email address

corriebrekke@gmail.com

4. Phone number

(608) 797-0654

5. Website (optional)

6. Biography

Corrie Brekke is a ceramic artist with over 20 years of experience in functional and sculptural clay work. She holds an Art degree from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, and has been active in the local arts community. For 15 years, she owned The Root Note, a coffee shop supporting local music, art, and events. Corrie's work blends craft, storytelling, and public engagement. She is expanding into handmade ceramic murals and beginning a collaboration with Landon Sheely, a self-taught muralist whose commitment to kindness and activism enriches their joint work.

7. 1-2 Page Resume or CV



8. Project Title

City Sentinel

9. Brief Project Description

"City Sentinel" is a large-scale ceramic tile mural by Corrie Brekke, created in collaboration with Landon Sheely. Featuring a mosaic-style image of a bird, the piece is composed of individually glazed and arranged tiles, bringing handcrafted texture and quiet presence to the heart of downtown La Crosse.

10. Project Start and End Dates

Start Date: January 1, 2025

End Date: May 31, 2026

11. Requested Funding Amount

2500

12. List of Participants

Landon Sheely

13. Conflicts of Interest

None

14. Previous Funded Projects

No

15. Are you a non-profit that is registered in the City of La Crosse?

No

16. Federal Tax-Exempt Status

Section 2 (CDG) - Project Description

1. Project Location

Creation: Pump House Regional Arts Center, La Crosse, WI

Installation: Rivoli Arts District building, 4th Street, downtown La Crosse, WI

2. Project Description

City Sentinel is a large-scale ceramic tile mural that I'm creating in collaboration with Landon Sheely. The mural is made up of hundreds of individually crafted, glazed, and kiln-fired clay tiles arranged in a mosaic style to form a striking image of a bird. Measuring about 8 feet by 8 feet, it will be installed on the exterior wall of the Rivoli Arts District building in downtown La Crosse, facing both the sidewalk and an alley that's planned to be renovated into a more community-friendly public space.

The concept behind City Sentinel focuses on themes of watchfulness, resilience, and connection. The bird symbolizes a quiet guardian of the urban environment, a sentinel observing the flow of community life, nature, and change. Through the handcrafted tiles, I want viewers to engage with both the craft itself and the story it tells. The mosaic technique highlights texture and subtle color variations, reflecting the layered complexity of nature and city life.

The artistic process starts with design and development, followed by forming, glazing, and firing each tile at the Pump House Regional Arts Center. Landon and I will work closely together to make sure the design comes together cohesively and that each tile is crafted with care. After firing, we'll transport and carefully install the tiles on the Rivoli building's wall, turning the space into a permanent public artwork that the community can enjoy every day.

The installation site holds both historical and cultural significance. The Rivoli building is a protected historic structure, which means murals cannot be applied directly to its brick exterior. However, with the support of City Arts Coordinator Jacqueline Marcou, who has consulted with Tim Acklin from the City Planning Department, I have received preliminary approval to mount the mural using a protective layer. This approach will preserve the integrity of the building while allowing for the display of permanent public art.

This project is an important step in my artistic growth, as it allows me to expand from mostly making functional pottery to creating large-scale public art. The mural also supports ongoing efforts to revitalize the Rivoli Arts District and the adjacent alleyway, helping to create a more vibrant and welcoming downtown.

Public visibility is a key part of the project's impact. The creation process at the Pump House will offer informal chances for people to see ceramic art in progress, and once installed, the mural will be a daily sight that encourages reflection on the relationship between art, place, and community.

In summary, City Sentinel is a meaningful project that bridges craft and public art, personal practice, and community engagement. With support from the ARTS Board Creative Development Grant, Landon and I will bring this ambitious work to life, creating a lasting addition to La Crosse's public art scene and inspiring connections between art, nature, and urban life.

3. Project Execution & Timeline

January – March 2026: Design development and tile production. Landon and I will finalize the mural design and begin forming, glazing, and firing the individual tiles at the Pump House Regional Arts Center.

April 2026: Continued tile production, kiln firings, and preparation for installation. We will ensure all tiles are complete and ready for transport.

April 2026: Finalize installation logistics, including securing materials and planning the mounting process.

May 2026: Installation of the mural on the Rivoli Arts District building wall, weather permitting.

June 2026: Public unveiling event and project documentation to celebrate the completion and community engagement.

4. Required Materials

Ceramic clay

Glazes

Kiln access and firing supplies

Tile forming tools

Grout and adhesive materials for installation

Mounting hardware and backing materials

Transportation supplies (boxes, padding) for moving tiles

Cleaning and finishing supplies

5. Durability & Maintenance Plan

Mural will be maintained by the building owner.

6. Plans for Removal

7. Target Audience

The primary audience includes local residents, visitors to the Rivoli Arts District, and the broader La Crosse community interested in public art and ceramics. They will be engaged through visible public installation, informal studio visits at the Pump House during tile-making, and a public unveiling event. Social media updates and local outreach will keep the community informed and involved throughout the project, encouraging ongoing connection with the mural and its themes.

8. Under-Served Audience (optional)

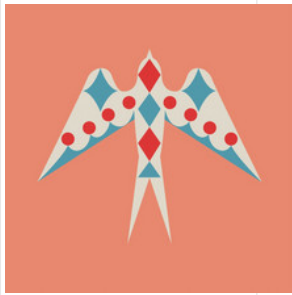
The mural will be installed in a highly visible, public area of downtown La Crosse, ensuring access for individuals who may not typically engage with gallery-based art, such as low-income residents, youth, and passersby. Its creation at the Pump House also invites informal engagement with the artistic process. By placing handmade, meaningful art directly in a community space, the project makes art more accessible and inclusive to all.

9. Artistic Goals

This project helps me expand my artistic practice by moving from functional pottery to large-scale public art. It allows me to explore new techniques in ceramic mosaics and create a lasting, site-specific work that connects

craft with community. Collaborating with Landon also deepens my creative process and supports my goal of making art that engages and inspires people.

Media



"City Sentinel -Mural Design (In Progress)"

Media/Materials:
Size:



"IMG_7049"



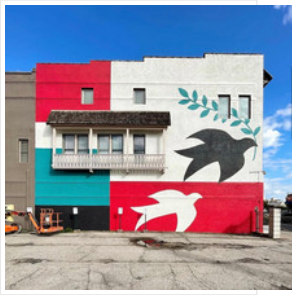
"Bowls"

Media/Materials: Ceramic
Size:



"Corrie Brekke"

Media/Materials:
Size:



"Mural on Main St"

Media/Materials:
Size:

Landon Sheely



"Landon Sheely"

Media/Materials:
Size:



"Ceramic Cups"

Media/Materials: Ceramics
Size:



"Landon Sheely"

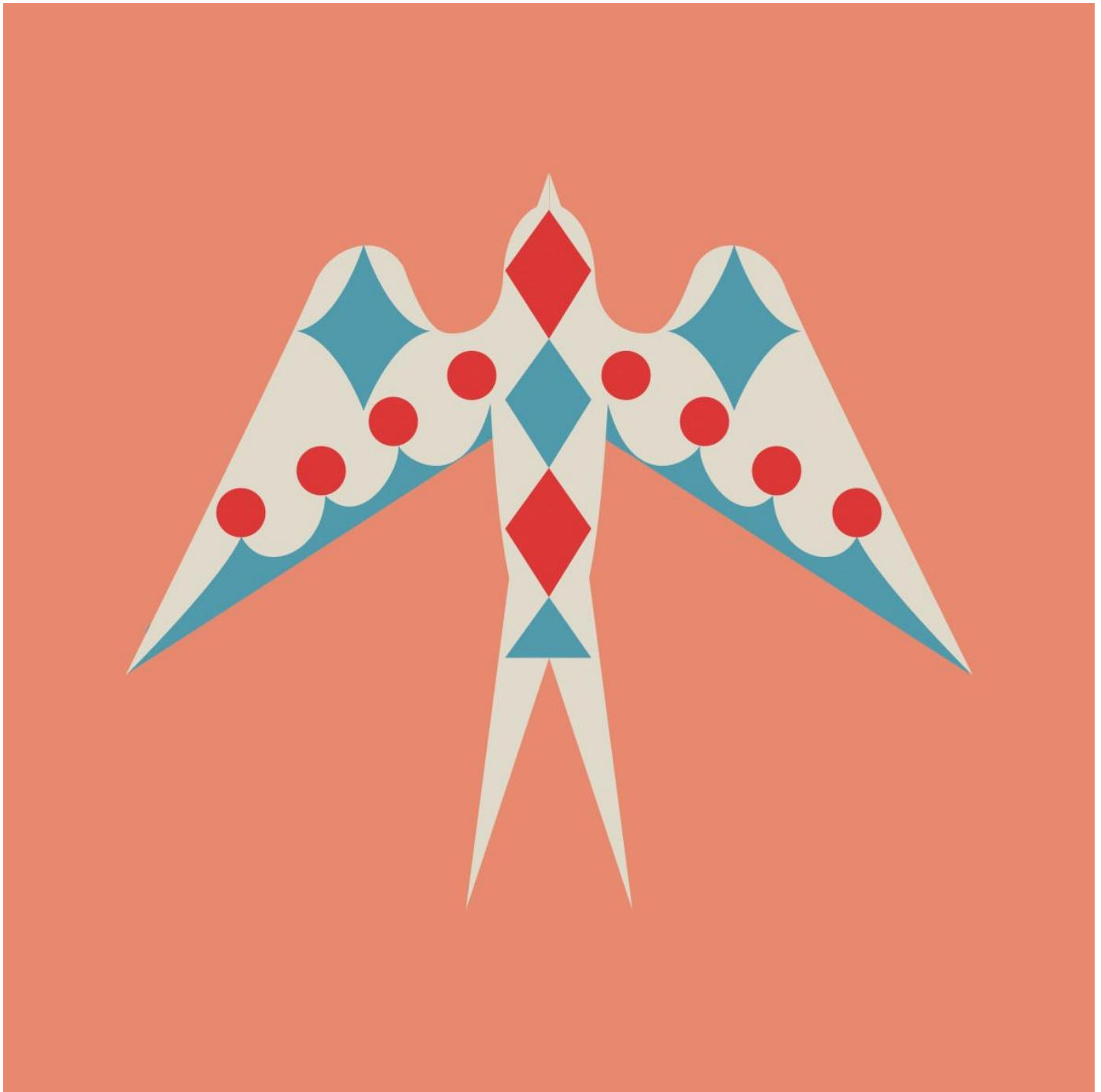
Media/Materials:
Size:

Project Budget

Provided by Applicant

Budget Overview		
Category	Description	Amount
Office and Travel	Business trip, flights, hotel accommodations	\$1500
IT/IT Support	IT equipment, software licenses, training fees	\$2000
Marketing Materials	Graphic design, printing, promotional materials	\$800
Food & Drink	Client lunches, team dinners, catering services	\$1200
Total		\$5500

These tables provide a clear overview of the financial data, highlighting key metrics and trends. The data is presented in a structured and easy-to-read format, allowing for quick analysis and decision-making.



"City Sentinel -Mural Design (In Progress)"



"IMG_7049"



"Bowls"



"Corrie Brekke"



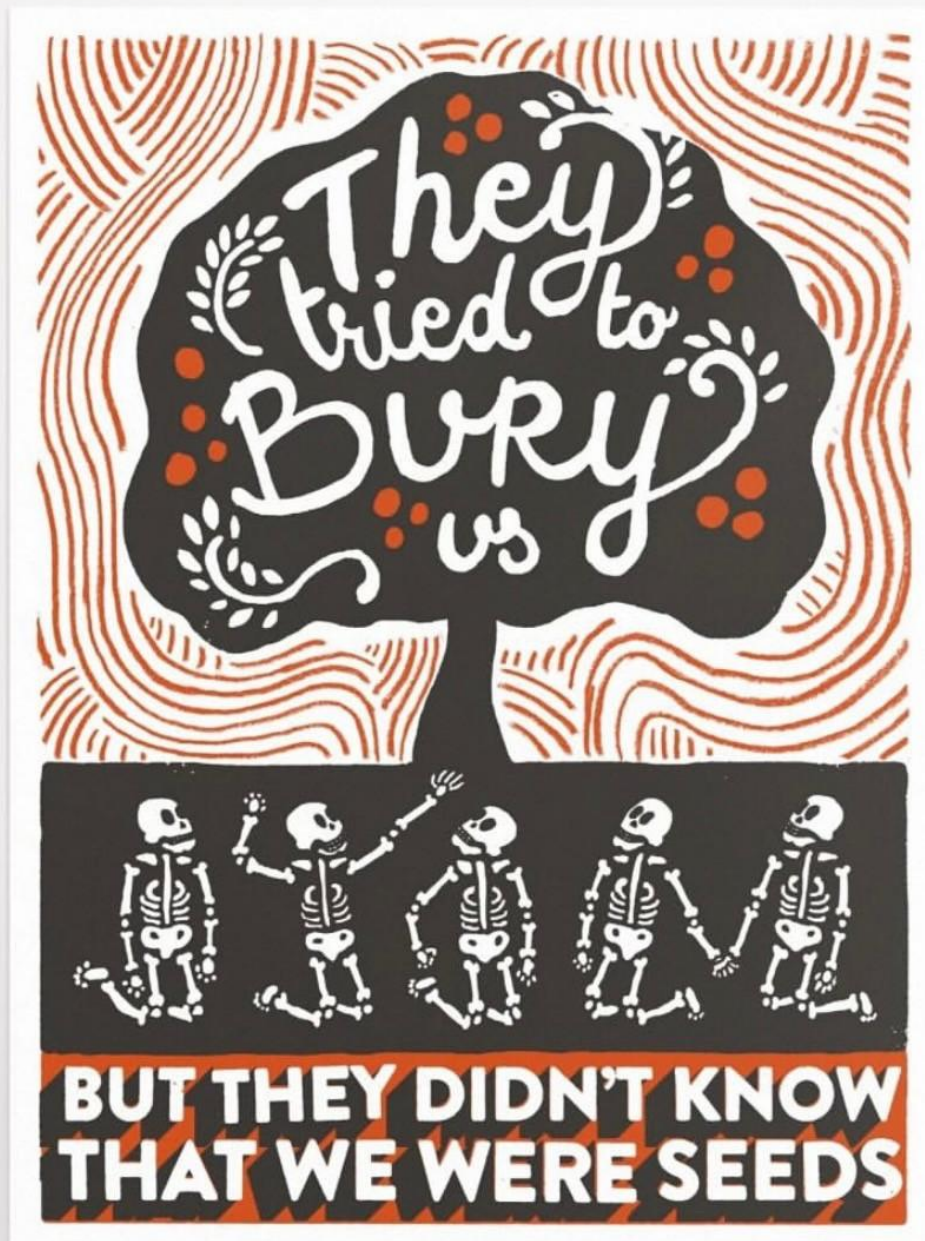
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