

An aerial view of the Encinitas Skate Park, showing a large, circular concrete bowl with a central ramp and surrounding paved areas. The park is enclosed by a metal fence.

Call For Artists

Request for Qualifications

Encinitas Skate Park

Call for Artists Opens: October 1, 2026
Submission Deadline: November 20, 2026



**PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL ARTS**

Call for Artists: Request for Qualifications

Encinitas Skate Park Mural (429 Santa Fe Drive)

The city of Encinitas and the Encinitas Friends of the Arts invites artists across Southern California (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura counties) to submit an application (RFQ) for a new mural at the Encinitas Skate Park (Poods). Artists must currently reside in one of the counties listed above.

Encinitas Public Art Mission Statement

Public art in Encinitas tells a story that shifts our moment in an uplifting way, unifies us through new perspectives, and celebrates our unique culture.

Total Project Budget:

\$30,000

Budget Description:

Three (3) qualified finalists from those artists responding to the initial Call for Artists will be selected to provide site-specific proposals by a community-led review panel of stakeholders: consisting of members of the Commission for the Arts, Encinitas Friends of the Arts, local skate community members, local artists and youth. Each selected finalist will be paid an honorarium of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) to provide a site-specific proposal.

Project Timeline:

Call for Artists Opens: **October 1, 2026**

Submission Deadline: **November 20, 2026**

Panel Review Process 1st Round: **December 1-11, 2026**

Request for Proposals Design Phase (three artists): **December 14 through January 8, 2027**

Panel Review Process 2nd Round (RFP): **January 11-15, 2027**

Commission for the Arts & City Council Approval: **February and March, 2027**

Mural Project Details:

This mural will exist within one of the most culturally significant public skate spaces in the region. The Encinitas Skate Park is not simply a recreational facility; it is part of the identity and history of skateboarding in Encinitas and Southern California. The mural should recognize that significance while contributing to the atmosphere and experience of the space today.

The mural will become part of the visual identity of countless skate photos and videos. It will function not only as public art, but as a living backdrop to movement, performance, documentation, and community memory.

The mural should contribute to the feeling of a public skatepark that is open, family-friendly, creative, and community-oriented, rather than hostile, exclusionary, or overly aggressive in tone. Community feedback emphasized that skateboarding itself is collaborative. Every session involves shared space, mutual observation, influence, and collective energy. The mural should resonate with that spirit of shared culture and participation.

The mural should avoid being overly literal or touristy. The goal would be an artwork with enough depth, energy, and visual strength to remain compelling over time. The mural should reflect the layered and collective nature of skate culture itself. The mural should create a sense of excitement and visual presence within the bowl area while remaining sophisticated enough to hold long-term relevance.

The overall goal of the mural is to create a mural that strengthens the identity of the Encinitas Skate Park, reflects the culture and history of skating in Encinitas, enhances the lived experience of the skatepark, inspires skaters across generations and creates a memorable and recognizable visual backdrop tied specifically to Encinitas. The final work should feel as though it belongs uniquely to the Encinitas Skate Park or to “Poods” and could not be transplanted elsewhere without losing meaning.

Primary Audience and Users

The primary audience for the mural is the skate community itself. The work will be experienced most directly by:

- Skaters actively using the bowl and surrounding features
- Young skaters growing into the culture
- Longtime local skaters with deep ties to the history of the park
- Friends, families, and community members who gather around skate sessions
- Photographers and filmmakers
- Online audiences through skate photography, video clips, social media

Vibe and Desired Qualities

The feel of the mural should be:

- Energetic
- Inspiring
- Locally rooted
- Authentic
- Collaborative
- Welcoming
- Contemporary without feeling trendy or disposable

Artistic Direction

Artists may consider the following:

- The long skate history of Encinitas
- Multiple forms of skating culture, including street skating as well as bowl skating
- The pride local skaters feel toward the park
- The role of the skatepark as a community gathering space and a place of progression, creativity and expression

Selection Information and Review Panel Process:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Artistic Quality (40%)
- Alignment with the Site, Encinitas Skate Park (40%)
- Alignment with the Encinitas Public Art Mission (20%)

Request for Qualifications (RFQ):

For this project, a review panel of four (4) to eight (8) stakeholders: consisting of members of the Commission for the Arts, 1 representative from the Encinitas Friends of the Arts, local skate community

members, local artists and youth will review the submissions and recommend a short-list of three (3) artists to develop site-specific proposals. Short-listed Artists will be given further information on the project. Using this information, each artist will develop site-specific proposal(s). Artists may use models, drawings, computer-generated imagery and material samples to communicate their proposals. They must include in their proposals a budget that does not exceed the maximum budget for the project.

The site-specific proposals will be initially reviewed and ranked by the review panel of local stakeholders. The review panel's rankings will be considered by the Commission for the Arts and City Council for final approval of the site-specific proposals. An Agreement will be negotiated between the selected artist and the City of Encinitas, providing the top ranked site-specific proposal. The Agreement provides the artist with guidelines on how to complete the artwork and meet all related costs such as travel, materials, fabrication, transportation, insurance and installation of the work within a mutually agreed time and for a fixed fee. The Encinitas Friends of the Arts, a local 501© (3) will pay the artist directly for services rendered.

Application Requirements (RFQ):

The following documents are required:

1. A current professional resume of no more than 2 pages for each submitting artist.
2. Image Identification (ID) Sheet: A list of exterior mural installations relevant to this project and completed in the last 5 years. You may list a maximum of eight (8) examples and a minimum of five (5). Please include owner contact information, artwork title, medium, year completed and an artwork description.
3. A maximum of eight (8) digital images (minimum of five-5) of completed exterior murals. The images shall be in .JPG format. Image files must be properly labeled each with artist's last name and a number (1-8) assigned per image lest (e.g.: smith 1.jpg, Smith 2.spg) Artist's name should not appear on the actual image. The first five artworks presented should be those that are most related to this call. Provide details, close-ups of large or complex artworks.

How to Apply:

1. Submissions will be made through an online application on the City of Encinitas website:
2. [Artist Opportunities | City of Encinitas](#)
3. As an alternative to email submission, a USB flash drive may be mailed to the following address:
Laurette Garner, Arts Program Manager; 505 S. Vulcan Ave, Encinitas, CA 92024

For Questions, Please Contact:

Any artist requesting additional information, interpretation, and/or clarifications relating to this Call shall make a written request addressed to:

Laurette Garner, Arts Program Manager, email: lgarner@encinitasca.gov

Application Questions

- 1. Contact Information** (Name, Address, Phone and Email)
- 2. Website** (if applicable)
- 3. Facebook** (if applicable)
- 4. Instagram** (if applicable)
- 5. Please provide a short biography written in the third person (100 words minimum, 200 words or less):**
- 6. Please provide an artist statement for the submitted artwork (100 words minimum, 200 words or less):**
- 7. Submission Attachment(s):**
 - a. Resume of CV
 - b. Image ID Sheet
 - c. **Upload Images:** Up to 8 and no less than 5

Description of Mural Site

The proposed mural site is located on the back wall of the bowl area at the Encinitas Skate Park. The wall faces southwest and is illuminated by the late afternoon and evening sun. The wall size is roughly five (5) feet in height and seventy-nine (79) feet long.

Google Map of Encinitas Skate Park: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Xti4SJGwDuHx2nU6>

Encinitas Skate Park Images





