

ADDRESS: 321-23 CHESTNUT ST

Proposal: Install mural

Review Requested: Final Approval

Owner: National Liberty Museum

Applicant: Brenden Garza, National Liberty Museum

History: E.W. Clark Bank, National Liberty Museum

Individual Designation: 6/30/1970

District Designation: Old City Historic District, 12/12/2003

Staff Contact: Heather Hendrickson, heather.hendrickson@phila.gov

OVERVIEW: This application proposes to install five rectangular murals on the east facade of the National Liberty Museum as part of an institutional revival and in preparation for the America 250th celebration. The murals would symbolize and highlight the museum's mission and values and activate this walkway that leads to the Ben Franklin Museum.

The five rectangular spaces where the murals would be installed were originally windows when the building was the E.W. Clark Bank. Those windows were infilled with brick at some point after 1959. The murals would be placed on the brick infill panels. The National Liberty Museum has chosen the mural artist Carrie Kingsbury of Promiseland Murals. The artist is proposing to use the parachute cloth method, painting with Nova Color Acrylic paint with an anti-graffiti coating and adhering the mural panels to the wall with a gel adhesive.

SCOPE OF WORK: Install five rectangular mural panels.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW:

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines include:

- *Standard 9: New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval, with the staff to review details, pursuant to Standard 9.





Figure 1. Photo taken 11/18/1959. source: Phillyhistory.org, Philadelphia Department of Records.



National Liberty Museum

321 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106

February 6, 2026

Mural Project Cover Letter

To Whom It May Concern,

The National Liberty Museum (NLM) is writing to present an overview of our proposed mural project for the side of our historic building. NLM is in the process of an institutional revival, and as part of this process, we wish to utilize the wall on the side of our building to display a set of murals that symbolize and highlight the museum's mission and values. This wall is also located next to a walkway leading to the Ben Franklin Museum, and our museum is eager to activate this wall in order to attract further visitors. Finally, as the city aims to revitalize Old City through the 250th and the construction of the Commerce Connector, we'd be thrilled to play a small role in beautifying views along Old City walkways for residents and tourists alike.

Our museum is collaborating with an experienced mural artist, Carrie Kingsbury of Promiseland Murals, who has painted a wide variety of murals in the Philadelphia region and has worked with Philadelphia Mural Arts. She is intending to utilize the parachute cloth method common to murals throughout Philadelphia.

Regarding the installation itself, we'd like to have a permanent installation on the side of our building, but given the historic designation of the building, we are open to discussing alternative installation methods with the Historical Commission.

We'd like to thank the Philadelphia Historical Commission for considering our proposal, and we look forward to working with the Commission to ensure the preservation of our historic building.

Thank you,

The Staff of the National Liberty Museum

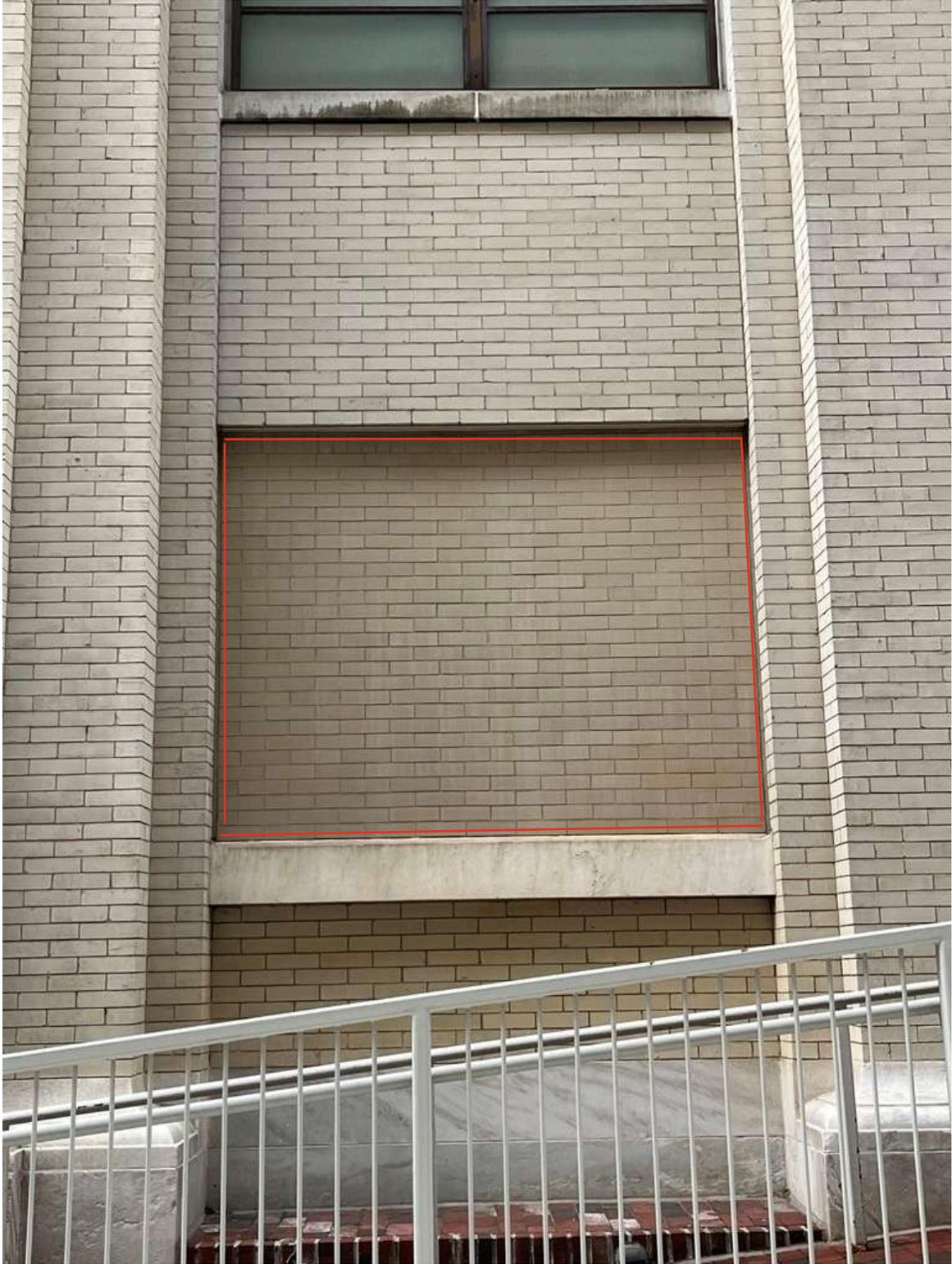
Annotated Photographs

Each brick panel is an equal size, of 7 ft 6 in W x 5 ft 10 in H. Our museum intends to fill the full space of each panel with a small mural.

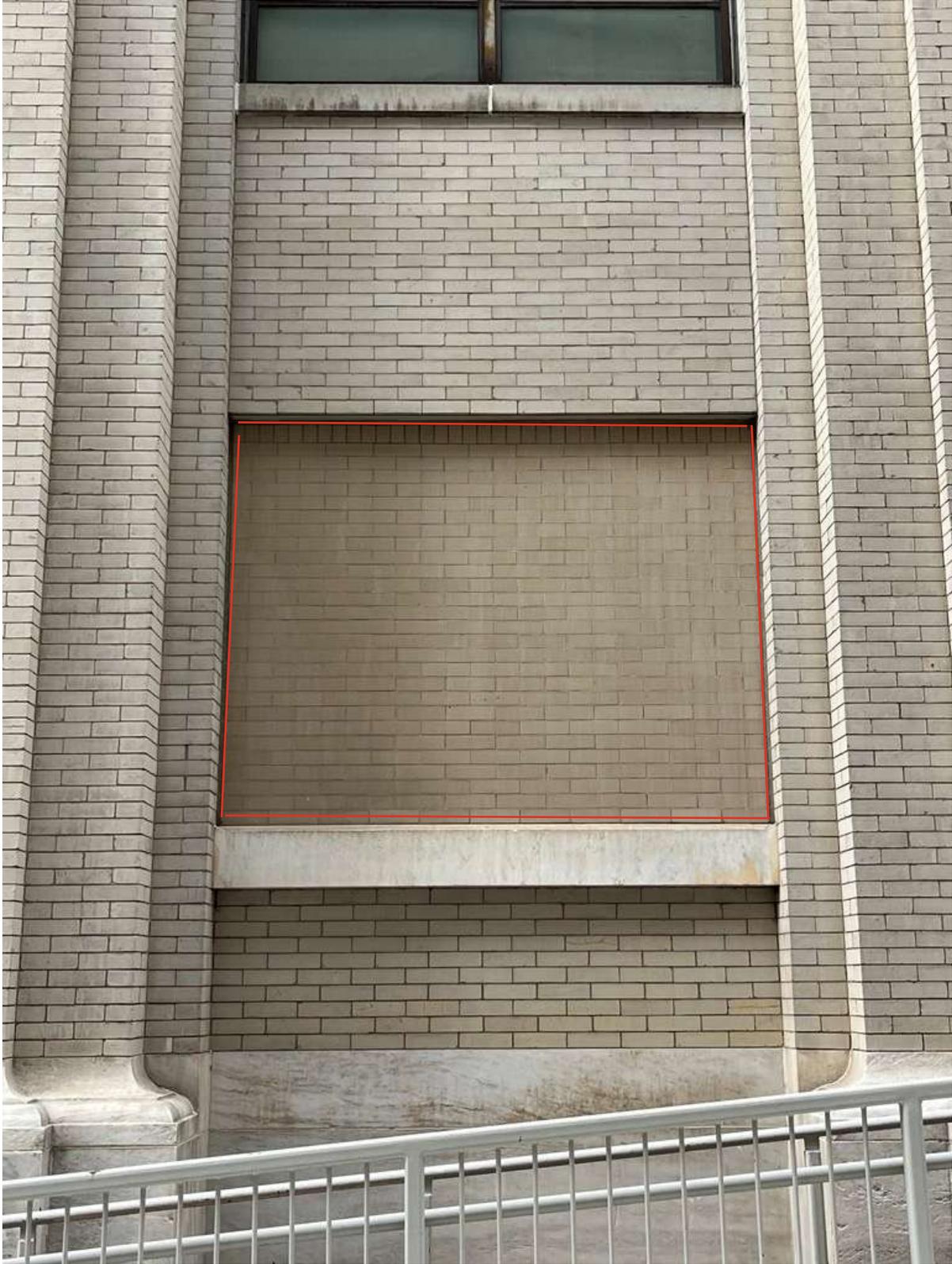
View of 5 Panels:



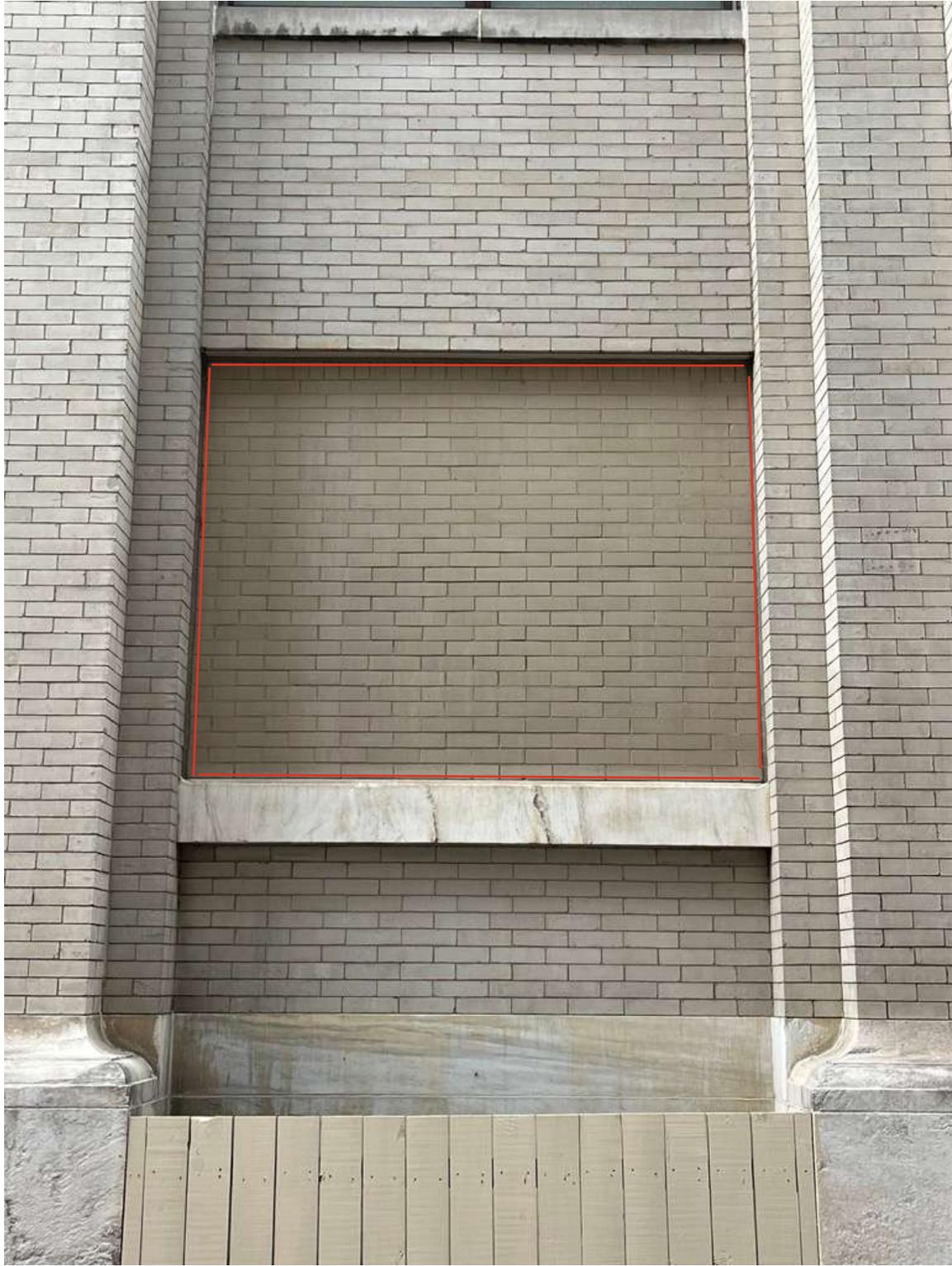
Panel 1:



Panel 2:



Panel 3:



Panel 4:



Panel 5:



Method

The technique used for this mural, per the artist, is the parachute cloth technique, used in many murals throughout Philadelphia. A thin canvas material called poly tab will be hand painted, coated in anti-graffiti clearcoat, and permanently installed on the wall with a gel adhesive. The paint used will be Nova Color Acrylic paint.

Shelf Life of this material is 2 years from the date of manufacture (see batch number for manufactured date).

Clean Up

Uncured material can be removed with a water. Cured material can only be removed mechanically. All empty containers must be disposed of according to local, state, and federal regulations.

Approvals & Qualifications

OEHS Chemical Evaluation Program	Approved
LAUSD Anti-Graffiti Architectural Specification	Approved
Los Angeles Research Report	#RR 25060
USGBC - LEED Points	Up to 3 Points

Test Data

ASTM D-3960 VOC Levels	<20 g/L
ASTM E-514-86 Wind Driven Rain	98.7% Leak Red
Water Vapor Trans ASTM D-1653-71	100% Vapor Perm
Water Pen Fed Spec SS-W-110C	75% Min Req 96.8% Leak Red Chloride Ion
Salt Pounding NCHRP No. 244 Series IV No. 244 Series IV	95% Red 83% Red
Scaling Resistance ASTM C672/C672	100 Cycles - No Scaling
Exposure to deicing chemicals 100 Freeze Thaw Cycles	Visual Rating - 0
Water Abs CMU ASTM C140-75	98.6% Effective
ASTM G-53/G 154 Accelerated Weathering 8000 Hours	No blistering, chalking, gloss or color changes
ASTM C-1262 Freeze, Thaw Resistance 100 cycles	Cracking none; adhesion loss none
Surface Burning ASTM E84	Flame Spread 0, Smoke developed 0
ASTM D-638 - Elongation	150%
ASTM D-412 Tensile Strength	6150 PSI
ASTM D523 (Gloss)	90°
ASTM D523 (Matte)	3°-6°
Maximum scrub Cycles	135
ASTM B117 Salt Fog	3000 Hours/No Effect
ASTM D530 Hardness Pencil 2 weekst	2H
ASTM D412 Elongation	150%
ASTM D412 Tensile Strength	6050
ASTM D522 Mandrel Bend Test	No coating loss at 180° rotation
ASTM D968 Sand Abrasion Resistance	5-65 Liters
ASTM E96 Water Vapor Transmission	100% Vapor Perm

Safe Handling

Use product only with adequate ventilation and/or an appropriate cartridge type respirator. Avoid contact with skin and wear protective gloves. Read the Safety Data Sheet before using.