

# Frank Campagna

## Qualifications for Gateway Replacement Project

I have worked in the Deep Ellum area of Dallas since July of 1981. In this time I have created at least one thousand pieces of public art. All have been privately commissioned, and most offered 100% artistic freedom. I enjoy working with my clients and appreciate collaborating with them to insure each job is done to both parties satisfaction. Much of my success is due to referrals and the artwork produced. When I first started out several mentors inspired and helped guide me. With this in mind, one of my priorities has always been to 'do unto others' and pass my knowledge and experience forward to aspiring artists.

My time in Deep Ellum has allowed me to work with fellow artists on several large scale public art projects. These include Walk on Walls - (1992, 1993, 1994) where we painted the sidewalks throughout the Deep Ellum area with approximately 20 - 40 artists involved with each execution. The Deep Ellum gateway project Tunnelvisions - (1993, 1994, 1999, 2001) is another. This one day painting of the Good Latimer tunnel utilized approximately 50 artists in each execution. All projects have been cosponsored by business and property owners. At this time I am coordinating a neighborhood heroes mural series that will involve approximately 20 artists. As with any project I take on the participants always receive monetary and / or promotional compensation.

I have also worked hard to put myself in the position to offer artists exhibition opportunities. I sat as a board member and occasional curator at D.E.C.A. a.k.a. the Deep Ellum Center for the Arts in 1999 / 2000. I co-founded Kettle Art in November of 2005 and act as the gallery's creative director. Our basic mission is to nurture regional Texas artists and present them with exhibition opportunities. Coming this June, we will begin representing our local talent in other cities such as N.Y.C. The gallery also hosts lectures, workshops, and calls for artists, including a recent DART Gateway presentation.

Since the Gateway project's inception, I've put plenty of thought into what this opportunity could become for the community. Much like a blank canvas, the possibilities are limitless. I am aware of concerns that this project may be too sterile and not edgy enough for the area. My belief is that no matter who takes the prize and is selected, there will be critics. Such is the nature of public art. I appreciate DART's willingness to be open minded in this selection process and if selected, am confident of handling any criticism that may come our way. On a final note, due to priceless street credibility my works are rarely if ever defaced.

I am not an engineer or an architect. I have none in mind, nor do I prefer any one over another. The possibility of working with DART and any consultants I may be asked to work with I see as an extension of what I have been doing in this neighborhood for most of my life. Simply put, this is a commission with a client that happens to be DART. Granted, the budget for this project may be larger than any I have with worked before; but with 30 years experience I feel certain we can bring this project to a successful conclusion.

Thank you for this opportunity to once again be of service to Deep Ellum and the City of Dallas.

Respectfully,

Frank