



LAWRENCE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

July 2, 2018

On April 23, 2018, the Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees wrote a letter in support of the Wak'ó Mujeres Phụ nữ Womxn Mural. That letter expressed support of the project, openness to the location on the south wall, and acknowledgement that as a city building, the approval of the location of the mural is ultimately the City's decision.

Recently, the city staff recommendation to the Historic Resources Commission and City Commission noted that "the proposed application method for the project has the potential to irreversibly damage the character defining board formed concrete element for the city owned library building." This statement from city staff causes concern for the Library Board with the direct application of the mural to the concrete.

To learn more about how other cities have handled situations similar to ours here in Lawrence, library staff reached out to Mural Arts, the city department in Philadelphia in charge of developing and maintaining over 4,000 public murals throughout Philadelphia. Staff learned about Mural Arts from the presentations given by the Womxn of Color mural team at the library. Given our community's specific situation of a new city building and the various architectural awards it has won, their recommendation is for the mural to be painted on panels, recognizing minimal damage from anchoring to the building will be necessary.

Therefore, the Library Board of Trustees writes this letter to express continued support for this mural project but with the recommendation that the mural must be painted on panels if the City Commission determines that the location of the mural will be the south wall of the library. We are hopeful that the mural team and city commissioners can strike a compromise that works for all concerned parties.

Kevan Vick
Chair, Library Board of Trustees