

DAVID NAJIB KASIR

Friedman Alley Mural Proposal

[David Najib Kasir](#), a Milwaukee-based award winning painter whose work is comprised of personal narratives and cultural history or events. In recent years, Kasir's work draws on stories from his Middle Eastern heritage. As an artist born here, Kasir reveals his cultural identity in paint and designs to that celebrate Arab identity and life, in hopes of helping develop an understanding of the millions of voiceless Arabs now living as American immigrants under negative narratives.

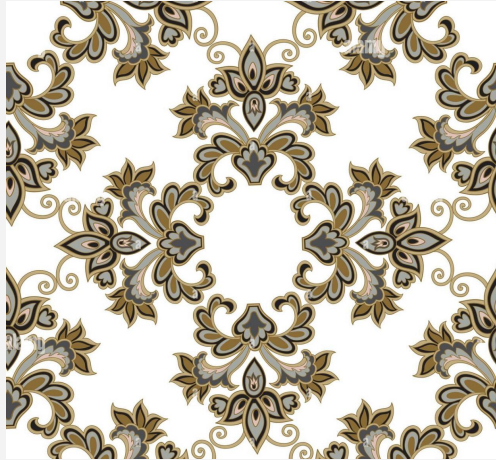
By using beautiful traditional Arab designs called Zellige to dress the figures, while surrounding them in Arab floral patterns, Kasir shows the historical beauty of a culture and families who hold on to it and each other as they migrate to new surroundings.

Kasir has exhibited works in galleries & Museums as well as created murals throughout the US. With acclaimed work published and reviewed, as well as winning and being a finalist for many awards, including being named 2026 Artist of the Year by Milwaukee, as well as being featured as a New American Paintings magazine featured artist. Kasir has a BFA in painting from Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (2001) .



Representation in America is important. A midwest city like Waukesha should have an understanding of this and be a leader in showcasing people of all colors, ethnicities and cultural/religious backgrounds especially in it's downtown area. Refugees and Immigrants have been at the heart of my work for the past decade. Immigrants and Refugees are our friends and neighbors who are now and will always be a part of America's story as well as Wisconsin's. They are new Americans who should feel invited into a neighborhood of retailers & shops to help the local economy. In my proposal I seek to show representation of a culture of people who are often under or misrepresented. I'm an artist who is the son of a Syrian mother and Iraqi father. I understand what a public work of art can do for others in feeling seen outside their homes. I've created work in my studio for audiences to grow a better understanding of people who were once my neighbors or neighbors to my mother's country. I intend to encase figures in Arabic Zellij (mosaic tile work) patterns not as a backdrop to the figures, but as a means to give them a profile through which the patterns represent their culture and invite others to see themselves in. The cultural patterns that these figures hold on to, as they have integrated themselves into the new patterns of Wisconsin & midwestern American culture. My mural will depict a Wisconsin immigrant business owner and her family, to showcase how we help build economy, employment and community. I propose to create a 12x12' painting on panels. But if the Friedman commission would prefer me to work on the wall itself and outside that 12x12' perimeter, I would be willing to work those details out. I know I can create a beautiful mural that will make the city and community proud. My past public works have received attention beyond the streets and city they have been painted on.

Arabic Floral Design Pattern References



-Painting Proposal & Fabrication

For mural area 1, I propose to create a painting portrait of a local Wisconsin immigrant family that is also a business owner. I will create these paintings using a similar family portrait style with figures encased in an environment of Arabic Mosaic Designs as seen in my past work references shown on page 4 and in my sketches for these proposed compositions shown on page 5. I will paint on six 4x8' & 1 4x4' 3mm composite panels to be mounted on the building. The Arabic Floral Design Pattern References seen above will serve as inspiration for the Arabic Mosaic Designs the figures will be held in. The paintings will wrap around the edges of the panels as I've done in past works so they can be enjoyed from all angles. I am applying for Mural Area Two, fitting my square 12x12' proposal to your 14x13' wall space.

-Installation Method, Timeline & Maintenance

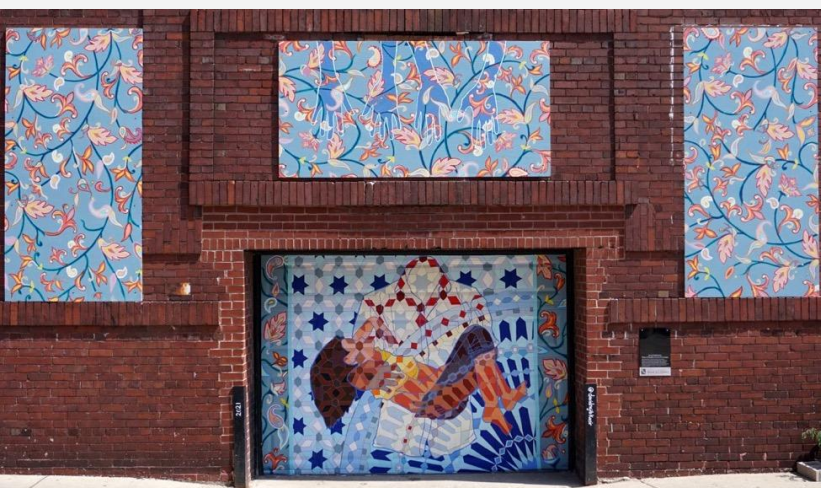
The paintings will be hung using a lift team that I assume the Friedman organization would handle. I will paint the 4 & half panels in my studio. The detail of my work will require at least 2 months (or more) of work for a total fabrication in composition & designs. I have a artist residency and gallery show in Vermont & NYC, planned in the month of April. I would prefer to start this project as soon as possible in February, so it could be completed by the end of May. Once work is completed, I will apply anti graffiti coat for protection & maintenance.

-Updated Modification on Proposal

I see the mural size has changed. I would be willing to adjust my composition and include more families and patterns to cover the whole building proposed for a more dynamic and engulfing mural, or I would be willing to collaborate with an artist (also chosen) and integrate our styles together. I just fully believe in showcasing an immigrant family and the positive they represent, because we live in a time of negative narratives that plague them. If my idea and vision is chosen, we can work together and adjust the proposal to fit the building and community.

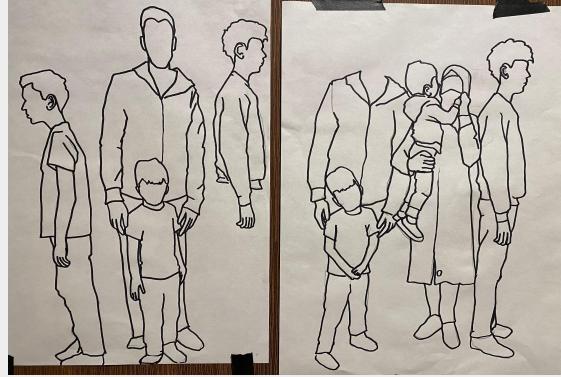


Past Public Work References

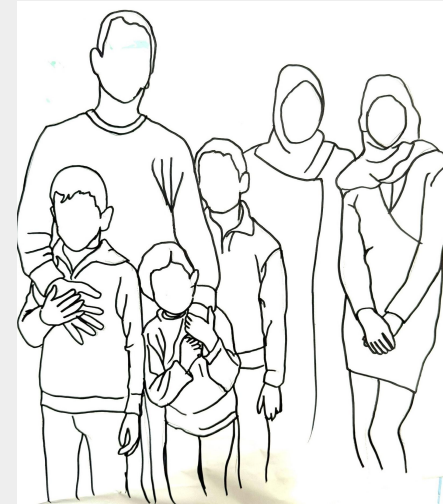




Photos & Drawing Samples



Above is a sample of a family I painted for the Baird Center in MKE. Below is a different sample of a family I would find, paint and display in a similar style. The painting will show family & welcoming of community. I have reached out to an Arab Wisconsin business owner (Safadi Coffee).



Budget

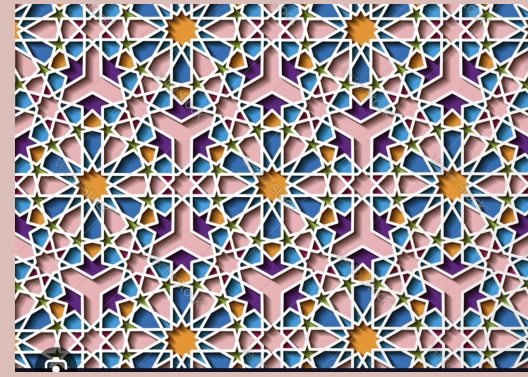
6.5 - 4x8' 3mm Panels	\$325.00 each (\$50.00)
Paint, Brushes & Materials	\$600.00
Studio Expenses	\$1,100.00
Documentation of Work Process	\$300.00
Photography of Families	\$500.00

Travel	\$100.00
Copyright of Work	\$200.00
Artist Design Fee	\$2000.00
Transportation of Work to Site	\$200.00
Painting of Work Fee	\$15,500.00
TOTAL	\$20,325.00

Materials

- 5 sheets of - 3/4in x 4ft x 8 ft PureBond Birch Plywood
- 10 2in x 4in x 96 in (2x4"s)
- Vectorizing Images/Designs
- CNC Machine (to cut and shape plywood panels)
- Nova Color Paint - #187 Pyrrole Red
- Nova Color Paint - #129 Quinacridone Red
- Nova Color Paint - #118 Titanium White
- Nova Color Paint - #134 Raw Titanium Matte
- Nova Color Paint - #182 Medium Green
- Nova Color Paint - #142 Blue Green
- Nova Color Paint - #105 Cobalt Blue
- Nova Color Paint - #106 Indian Yellow
- Nova Color Paint - #150 Peach Tone
- Nova Color Paint - #146 Cadmium Orange
- Blick Studio Oil Color - Buff Titanium
- Blick Studio Oil Color - Burnt Sienna
- Blick Studio Oil Color - Burnt Umber
- Blick Studio Oil Color - Cadmium Orange
- Blick Studio Oil Color - Cadmium Red Deep
- Blick Studio Color - Cadmium Red Light
- Blick Studio Color - Cadmium Yellow Deep
- Blick Studio Color - Cerulean Blue
- Blick Studio Color - Cobalt Blue
- Blick Studio Color - Dioxazine Purple
- Blick Studio Color - Emerald Green
- Blick Studio Color - Light Blue
- Blick Studio Color - Naples Yellow
- Blick Studio Color - Primary Magenta
- Blick Studio Color - Permanent Light Green
- Blick Studio Color - Titanium White

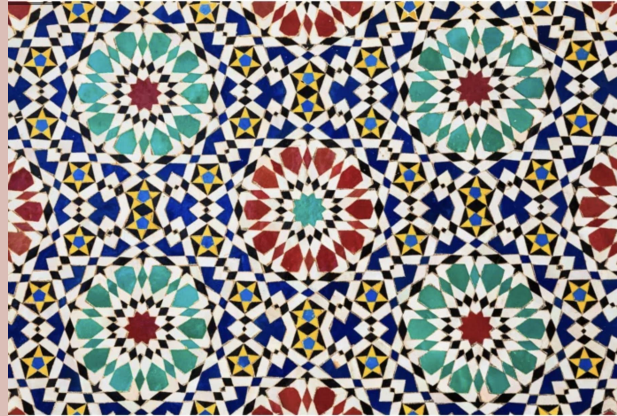
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and neighbors who have now**



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well as Wisconsin's.**



Moroccan Design Samples



They are Americans.

