

Frequently Asked Questions

Bricks and Murals Westerly-Pawcatuck

1. What is Bricks and Murals (BAM)?

Bricks and Murals is a Rhode Island non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing historic downtown Westerly, RI and Pawcatuck, CT by funding and maintaining originally designed large outdoor murals, which showcase the culture and history of the region. The project is inspired by Walldog art festivals, which occur annually all over the country. Learn more at www.bricksandmurals.org

2. What is the goal of BAM?

The goal is to raise \$160,000 in order to fund the painting of 15 large outdoor murals in downtown Westerly, RI and Pawcatuck, CT. The murals will be done in teams led by Walldogs, working with local artists. The murals will feature regional cultural and historic themes. A maintenance fund will be created in order to preserve the murals. There will be annual events to celebrate the murals and build the maintenance fund.

3. Who are the Walldogs and what part do they play in Bricks and Murals?

“The Walldogs” are highly skilled sign painters and mural artists from all over the globe, who have volunteered their time and talent, since 1993, to more than 26 towns to paint 548 murals of local history and to preserve the art of sign painting. Local Walldog, Cam Bortz, celebrates 20 years as a member in 2017.

4. When will the murals be painted?

The murals will be painted during the Bricks and Murals Festival from September 13 – 17, 2017. On day one, artists will project the mural designs on building walls or panels and trace the mural outlines. The color and content of the murals will be completed during the remainder of the festival.

5. What is planned for the September 2017 Festival?

The five-day festival will feature real-time painting of murals that will be accessible for public viewing at no cost. There will also be daily live music, a downtown food stroll, trolley rides, children's activities, an art show and auction with chances to win prizes, and an exciting winner-take-all raffle.

6. How will this project benefit the Westerly-Pawcatuck community?

As downtown Westerly-Pawcatuck continues to grow as a regional arts and education center with dining and shopping, Bricks and Murals will enhance economic growth. As an artistic and economic driver, the murals will draw residents and visitors to downtown Westerly-Pawcatuck to enjoy year-round public art, attracting new businesses and spurring economic development of the downtown. By increasing spending at local shops and restaurants.

7. How did Westerly-Pawcatuck get chosen for a Bricks and Murals festival?

In 2013, Cam Bortz, a local 20-year Walldog veteran, interested Westerly resident Jean Gagnier in bringing the Walldogs to

downtown Westerly-Pawcatuck. The duo traveled to Mid-Western communities that had hosted successful Walldog festivals. During the 2015 Delevan, Wisconsin Walldog festival, Bortz presented the idea of an East coast event to his fellow Walldogs. It was received with interest and enthusiasm as the first New England Walldog art festival.

8. Who is getting paid during the Bricks and Murals festival?

The Walldog project leaders and assistant project leaders for the murals will be paid a stipend to design the murals and oversee their execution during the five-day festival from September 13-17, 2017 in Westerly-Pawcatuck. No one else, including other artists will be paid during the planning and implementation of the festival.

9. How can a local artist participate in Bricks and Murals?

Visit www.BricksandMurals.org and complete an artist registration form to get involved.

10. How can I get involved or volunteer with Bricks and Murals?

Visit www.BricksandMurals.org to learn more or visit our Facebook page – “Bricks and Murals Westerly – Pawcatuck” to learn how you can get involved and message us there. You can also write to bricksandmurals@gmail.com and attend a future planning meeting.

11. How can I donate to Bricks and Murals?

Visit www.BricksandMurals.org and donate online using a credit or debit card. To donate via check or cash contact bricksandmurals@gmail.com Participating local businesses have donation paint cans on display. Look them to donate while you are shopping or dining in downtown Westerly-Pawcatuck. You can also register for future events and buy raffle tickets to benefit Bricks and Murals. Stay posted to the Web site.

12. When is the next BAM event?

The Bricks and Murals Westerly-Pawcatuck Facebook page and Web site are frequently updated with events and news. Stay posted at www.bricksandmurals.org