

PRESS RELEASE

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De Pere Health Department, Definitely De Pere seeking proposals for “Belonging Begins Here” Mural Project *Assisting State and Local Efforts to Improve Health Through Social Connection*

DE PERE, Wis. — De Pere Health Department and Definitely De Pere are collaborating with multiple community partners to bring a "Social Connection" themed mural to George St. Plaza in Downtown De Pere. George St. Plaza, located between Broadway St. and Wisconsin St. on the east side of De Pere, is already home to art, culture, and many events, including the De Pere Farmer’s Market. The new mural will be on the George St. side of the 101 S. Broadway building.

The Request for Proposals for mural designs opens April 15 and closes on May 17, 2024. Proposals will then be reviewed by a panel, and the top selections will have an opportunity to refine their designs before community voting begins on June 7.

Community engagement will be an important element of the design and process. The finalist will be announced on June 24, with a tentative unveiling on Sept. 5.

For more information on guidelines and to submit a proposal, visit [this link \(click here\)](#).

In 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory on the public health issue of social isolation and loneliness and the healing effects of social connection and community, calling for “a movement to mend the social fabric of the nation.” Social connectedness influences our minds, bodies, and behaviors—all of which may influence our health and life expectancy. Research shows that social connectedness can lead to longer life, better health, and improved well-being.

Mural designs must meet the design theme "Belonging Begins Here," which was born from the Beyond Health Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) objective of Social Cohesion and the work that the group—which includes De Pere Health Department, WELLO, NeighborWorks Green Bay, Brown County Public Health, United Way, City of Green Bay, Brown County Aging and Disability Resource Center, and more—is doing with their campaign around social connectedness. The mural is one element of many planned for the campaign throughout Brown County.

The mural is being funded by the Wisconsin 2024 Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (Objective 7: Social Connections), which also aligns with the CHIP goals.

With social connection as a local and state priority, De Pere Health Department and City of De Pere will be supporting other work around community belonging throughout the year and beyond. Residents can visit the City of De Pere and De Pere Health Department social media platforms to stay up to date and visit the De Pere Health Department's Social Connectedness website at www.deperewi.gov/belong for more information.

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