

Laingsburg, MI
Public Mural 2023
Requests for Proposals
Submission Deadline: February 1, 2024 at 5:00 pm EST

The City of Laingsburg announces a request for proposals (RFP) for a new public art project, funded by the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) implementation funds. City Staff, in partnership with Laingsburg City Council, will oversee the mural process.

The Project:

The City of Laingsburg was granted a Community Development Fellow through CEDAM in May 2023. CEDAM, along with MEDC, allocated funding to help the City implement a placemaking project. With the added capacity and funding, a public art project was identified as a priority. Through discussions, murals were identified as the best path forward.

The City is requesting two to four (2-4) small murals located throughout downtown Laingsburg. The artist can determine locations, along with the number of murals, from the pictures below that are best suited for their artist vision and creativity.

The murals themselves would allow for artist creativity but would also incorporate the theme of **community**. The City of Laingsburg does not currently have any public art located on main street and feels this would be a unique, interactive and fun way to add color and life into downtown. The City believes that the murals will increase our downtown businesses' visibility, bring in tourism and encourage more art to be created in the commercial district.

The Downtown and Mural Locations:

The City of Laingsburg has a lot of history located in the downtown, many of the buildings being close to 150 years old and still holding historic charm. Laingsburg is a small, rural city that fosters community and connection. The downtown offers restaurants, entertainment and a wide range of services. It features a walkable landscape, with a large park on the northside of the commercial district that serves as a community center. There are approximately 10,000 individuals in the Laingsburg school district that travel through downtown Laingsburg on a regular basis. Recent improvements of downtown include: three Match on Main grants, four Face Forward Facade grants through the Laingsburg DDA and the planned construction of a public parking lot. The mural would be one more step in revitalizing the commercial district and bringing new life into the space.



The mural locations are all located in downtown Laingsburg. The City will be working with the business owner(s), to ensure the side of their building is properly maintained and landscaped to

enhance the beauty and visual appeal of the murals. Listed below are building options for the murals with a brief description:

Bonnie Lucille Salon (276 E Grand River)

Bonnie Lucille Salon is an upscale salon located on a street corner that welcomes drivers into downtown. The mural would be located on the east-facing wall of the building. This wall faces a four-way stop and is an “entrance building” into the traditional downtown.



Rose Villa Retreat (115 E Grand River)

This business is a hobby retreat, allowing customers to have a gathering space to get crafty. Located in the heart of downtown, this building is highly visible while driving or walking through town. Rose Villa Retreat’s mural would be located on the top half of the east-facing wall (cream section). This location is located next to the seasonal Laingsburg farmers market.



The Connection (124 E Grand River)

The Connection is a soon-to-be non-profit tutoring center for students in and around our community. This building is located near two popular restaurants and is highly visible. The Connection’s mural would be placed on the white east-facing panels. This building has the option for one or two murals.



Cinders Grill (205 E Grand River)

This business is reopening as an event space and restaurant in the center of downtown Laingsburg. The west-facing side of the building is where the mural would be located. This wall is also located right next to the seasonal Laingsburg farmers market.



Spirit Expressions Dance Studio (105 E Grand River)

This building recently changed ownership and will be the new home of a local dance studio. The mural would be located on the top-half of the west-facing wall (red section). This location would be highly visible when entering from the west side of Laingsburg.



Central Pharmacy (209 E Grand River)

Central Pharmacy is a longtime Laingsburg business located in the middle of downtown Laingsburg. The mural would be placed on the east-facing wall, which faces an open grassy area. This space is used for the Springtime Festival market and offers picnic tables for folks to gather at.

**Laingsburg Community:**

Laingsburg has prioritized placemaking and downtown improvements for many years. Improving outdoor seating, adding wayfinding and historical signs, banners, planting flowers downtown and holding community events. Popular events include: Winterfest, Music and Movie in the Park, Pancake Breakfast, Summerfest and Car Show and Springtime Festival. These actions and events have contributed to a community-centered downtown and steady progress toward attracting more visitors and residents into downtown Laingsburg. The City has many active service groups such as the Lions Club and the Laingsburg Business and Community Association that contribute to the overall beauty of the community.

The City has also worked toward and gained a Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification in 2019. Being a part of the RRC program and engaging with MEDC has provided the community with many opportunities.

Project Plan:

City Staff in conjunction with the City Council will be responsible for issuing the RFP to seek out local Michigan artists in the mid-Michigan area to create new murals with a theme of community, authentic to Laingsburg, to display for the enjoyment of everyone who visits our City. All art will need to be pre-approved by the City Council and building owner before the painting begins.

Project Timeline:

Submittal Deadline: February 1, 2024 at 5:00 pm EST

Artist chosen and Notified: early March 2024

Fabrication and Installation: April to early June 2024

Project Completion and Unveiling: End of June 2024

Artwork Criteria:

The art piece should permanently endure on the site. There are no minimum or maximum sizes for the art pieces, however they should convey community and connection in downtown Laingsburg. The selected art will convey an inclusive message that is specific to Laingsburg's community and culture.

Review and Selection Process:

The City of Laingsburg Staff will review the submissions and select the finalist based on materials submitted. Selection will be forwarded to Laingsburg City Council for final approval and be based on the following criteria:

- Artist's consideration of and experience in creating artwork of this size and scope
- Artist's professional experience represents a developed and successful history of site-specific public art projects of a similar scope as demonstrated by visual documentation
- Ability to understand sense of place and design in a context sensitive manner as demonstrated by visual documentation
- Willingness of the artist to consult and work with the design and construction teams to successfully integrate the work into the site and meet any construction requirements, schedules and deadlines.
- Ensure that the artwork will be of a permanent nature, does not require excessive maintenance or repair costs and meets public safety issues and Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Artwork must not be obscene in nature.
- Artist's location (within City of Laingsburg, within mid-Michigan region, within Michigan)
- Feasibility: Is the budget, timeline, and project execution realistic? Are the proposed designs ones that can be completed within budget and according to project guidelines? Has the artist demonstrated strong understanding or background in the media they propose to use?
- Artistic merit: Does the art piece reflect values of inclusion and diversity? Is the design aesthetically pleasing? Is it appropriate for the context of Downtown Laingsburg?
- Professional presentation: Are documents written in a professional manner, free of grammatical errors? Does the presentation adequately describe the process and final installation?

Artist's Commissioned Work Agreement:

The selected artist/team will enter into a two-party Agreement between the City of Laingsburg and the artist/team to complete a transfer of ownership. The art piece will become the full property of the City of Laingsburg and the property owner(s) at the time of installation. The selected artist/team will be required to provide General Liability and other insurance as specified in the agreement.

Submission Information:

Material for Submission-

- One pdf must include
 - Name/ mailing address/ phone number/ email address/ brief bio
 - A resume and/or CV that includes relevant creative or professional work
 - A list of three professional references
 - A statement of 500 words or less, that discusses your unique qualifications, reason for interest in this project, and statement regarding concept of the proposal

- Conceptual/rough sketches of the proposed art pieces on the building outlines (attached below)
- Project budget, including itemized breakdown of costs
- Estimated time necessary for completion

Deadline: All application materials must be submitted electronically by 02/01/2024 at 5:00 pm EST

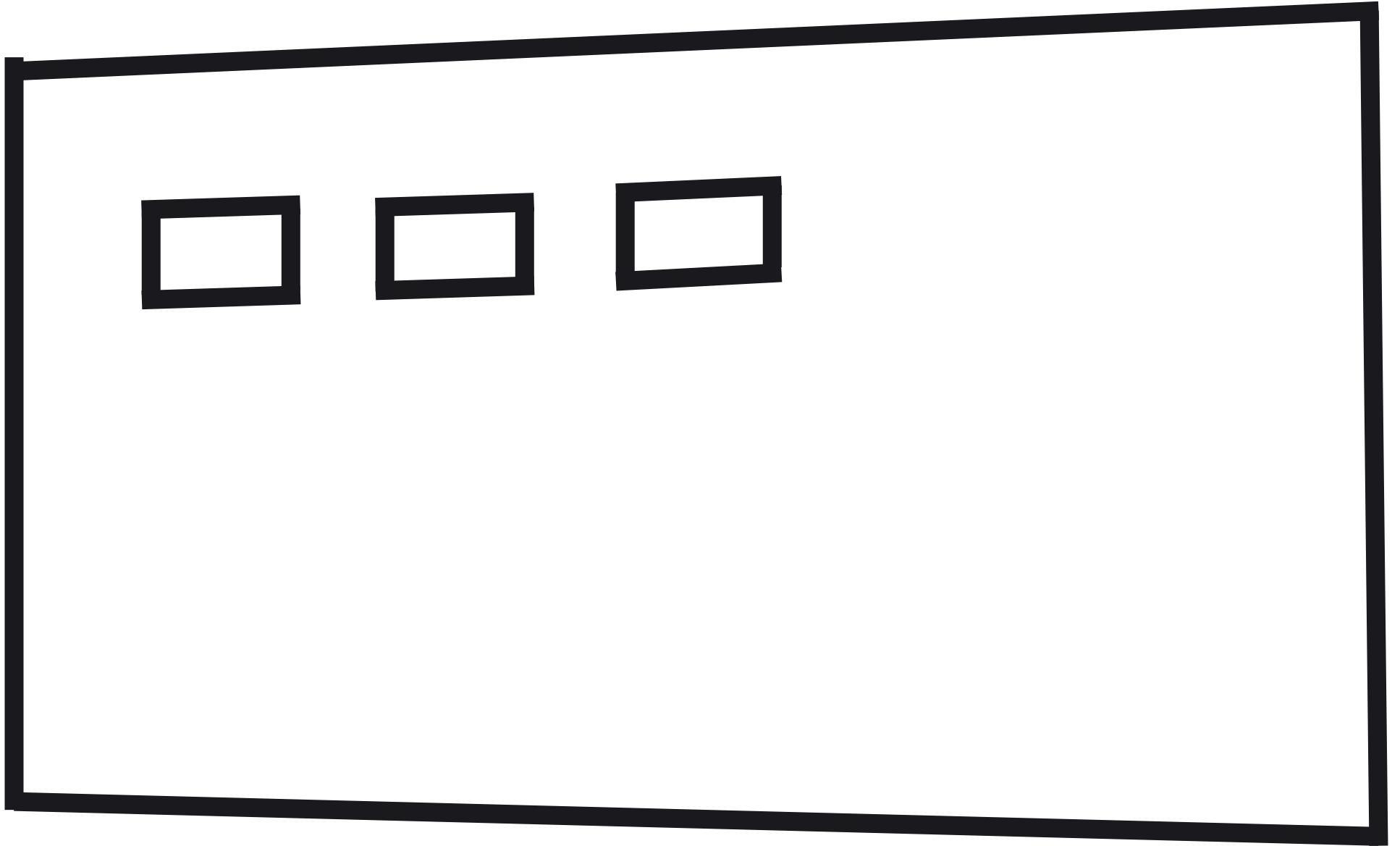
Contact: Submit applications to Olivia Graham, fellow@laingsburg.us

Laingsburg City Hall: (517-651-5374)

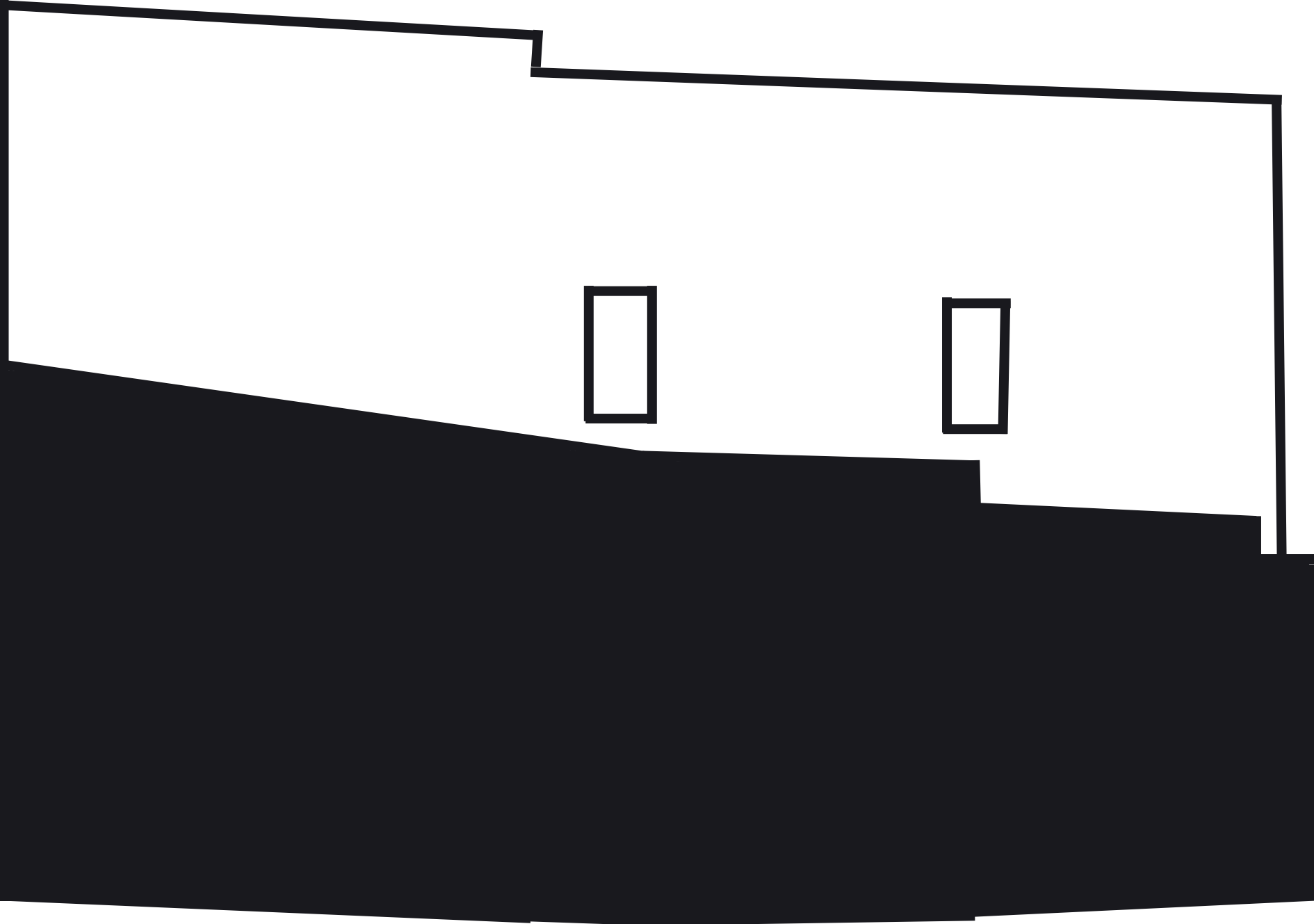
Website: www.laingsburg.us

The City of Laingsburg reserves the right to reject any or all applications, to reissue the Call for Entries, or to terminate the selection process or project at any time without prior notice.

Bonnie Lucille Salon



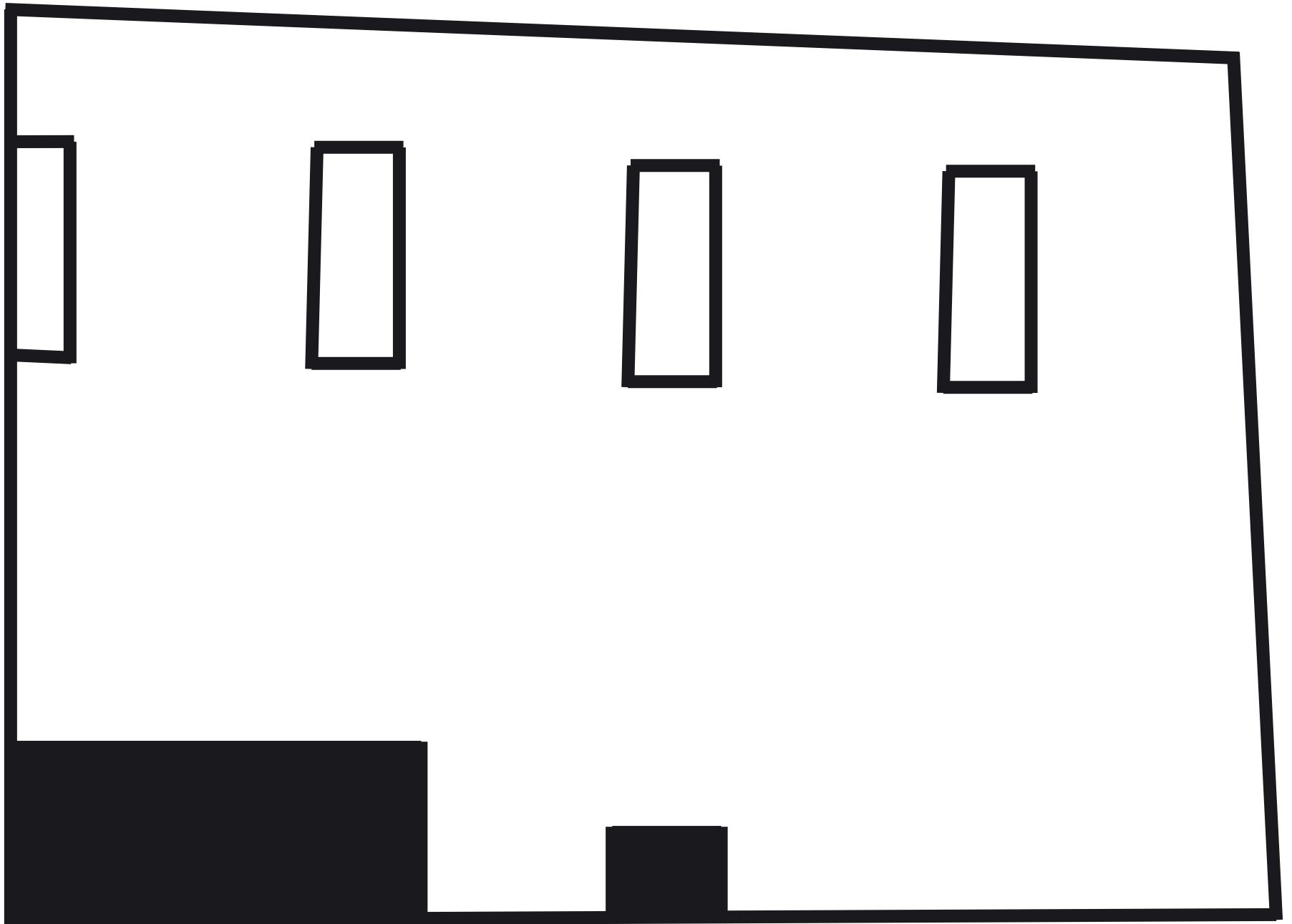
Rose Villa Retreat



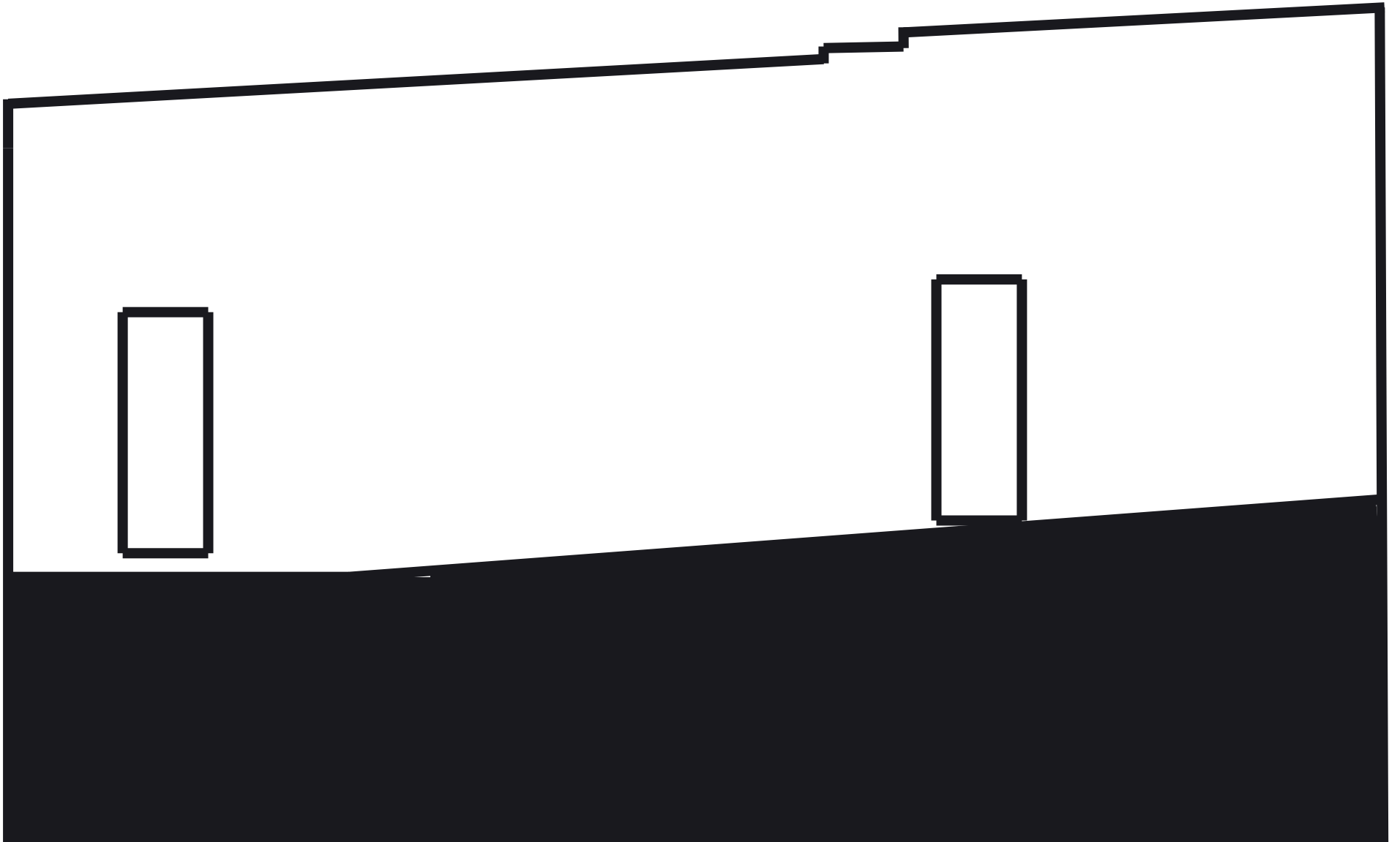
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