

Ceramic Tile Mural Proposal by [Monica Jahan Bose](#)



“On the Move” [working title], rough sketch by Monica Jahan Bose

Summary: Hundreds of hand-painted ceramic tiles will transform the dark, graffiti-covered stairwell behind the Courtyard Marriott adjacent to the NOMA Metro Station’s Florida Avenue entrance. The stairwell and elevator lead to the Metropolitan Branch Trail, which is full of walkers, joggers, and people riding bicycles and scooters. Bose proposes to create two similar murals, sort of a diptych, to cover both levels of the stairwell. The adjacent areas will be covered with additional white tiles. The walls around the elevator door will also be tiled.

The murals will be inspired by the Metropolitan Branch Trail and include silhouetted figures that could be any age, gender, or race. The colors will be predominantly blue and white, keeping with centuries-old wall tile tradition. The bottom row of tiles on the murals will be an alternating woodblock design of a foot and a bicycle, referring to walking, running, and biking. The top row of tiles will be alternating with Bose’s woodblock design of the Capitol and a solar panel sun image, speaking to DC as a green city. These border tiles will be painted by hand using stencils. Bose will hand paint the figurative scenes directly on tiles using ceramic glazes with paint and brush. The image above is a rough sketch only and will be developed further.



Upper level current view



Lower level current view



Visualization of tile mural on Upper Level; lower level will be similar



Border tiles will be based on these four of Bose's woodblock designs transformed into stencils and handpainted with ceramic glaze.

Durability:

Unlike painted murals, ceramic tiles are graffiti-resistant. We will use high quality outdoor ceramic tiles and glazes that are weather resistant. Graffiti and paint can easily be removed from these tiles with isopropyl alcohol. They will last for decades.

Public engagement:

Bose would produce two workshops with youth and other residents of the community to create poetry and art on sari fabric, using woodblock, writing, and painting. Select lines of poetry would be incorporated into the tiles. The saris will be used to create a temporary installation on the opening day for the tile murals. We can also work with youth on some of the border tiles and additional tiles for the wall near the elevator.

Monica Jahan Bose's prior work:



"Rising", 2025, Kalorama Triangle Alley

Bose is an award-winning DC-based artist focusing on sustainability and human connection with the outdoors and the environment. She has been awarded many public art projects, and her work and archives are in the [Smithsonian collection](#). The proposed mural is inspired by textile sari design and is part of her ongoing project [Storytelling with Saris](#).



Detail of "Rising" tile mural



"I'll Hoist the Sail," Painting in Smithsonian Collection

More information on artist:

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[Video excerpt on "Warming Waters" public art project](#)