

Bow to Bluff

Community Art Projects

CALL TO ARTISTS



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
DATE OF ISSUE: April 11, 2022
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 2, 2022

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CALL TO ARTISTS

The City of Calgary is designing improvements to the corridor along the Northwest c-train line between the Bow River and McHugh Bluff. In response to community request, two community art projects are being commissioned for the region: a mural for the active living area (above the skate spot) underneath the bridge over Memorial Drive and a series of artworks along the LRT sound barrier fencing that runs parallel to the 9th street corridor from 1st- 5th avenues NW.

Artists with community-based art and community engagement experience are encouraged to apply. This opportunity is open to local, national and international professional artists of all disciplines. Individual artists or artist teams/collectives are eligible.

The City of Calgary recognizes and values [diversity and inclusion](#); and unique dimensions of diversity including race, ethnicity, gender, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, work style, communication style, learning preferences and others.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Budget: \$145,500 CAD
(Not including GST)

Submission deadline: 4:00 pm MST
Monday, May 2, 2022

Start: May 2022

Completion: Fall 2022

QUESTIONS? PLEASE EMAIL ARTB2B@CALGARY.CA



CONTEXT

Bow to Bluff began as an independent, citizen-led initiative in 2011 focused on transforming the public corridor along the Northwest LRT line between the Bow River and McHugh Bluff into a great public space. After more than ten years of engaging and working closely with the community, construction has now begun on a series of improvements to the area. More information about the Bow to Bluff redevelopment can be found here:

<https://www.calgary.ca/csps/parks/locations/downtown-parks/bow-to-bluff-urban-design-framework.html>

The starting point for the corridor design and engagement conversation was the Urban Design Framework that was developed by the community. The goal of this engagement was to confirm the vision, design priorities and revitalization projects that were outlined by the community in 2011, and again in 2017, to obtain more specific details on the types of programs and design elements desired by the community. Full details of this engagement can be found in the July 27th 2017 “Bow to Bluff Public Realm Plan Report Back // What we Heard.”

Many elements of this report reference the community’s desire for art projects. Key feedback related to this project include:

- One of the eight recommended actions was to include **more community art**
- Of the 13 sub-projects proposed, the top five priorities for construction included the **LRT Fence** as well as the **Active living park and Memorial Drive**.
- Additionally, the top five elements and programs included having a **Mural /community art**

In response to this feedback, Bow to Bluff is commissioning artworks for two of the sites along the corridor:

1. A Mural for the underside of the Bridge above the Skate spot at Memorial drive; and
2. A series of artworks along the LRT sound barrier fencing that runs parallel to the 9th street corridor from 1st- 5th avenues NW.

The artist(s) selected for this project will be required to create a concept for both the Bridge Mural site and the LRT sound barriers. The concept should carry a visual theme or story up the length of the site.

The artist(s) will be asked to design and implement a project-specific engagement process that will inform the design of the artwork in a meaningful way in order to meet the needs of the various communities involved and garner support of the artistic product. Artistic teams and/or the provision mentorship opportunities which will a broader spectrum of engagement are considered an asset to this project.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Interested artists will develop a project concept which will focus on improving the vibrancy of the public realm through placemaking that involves community art.

The proposed art should provide a unique a creative way to meet the objectives outlined by the Bow to Bluff team at both sites. Considerations include:

- In recognition of **Truth and Reconciliation**, and that this treaty seven land along the Bow river is important to Indigenous history, respectful land considerations must be included in the artwork and the planning; consultation with an Elder or Knowledge Keeper is required.
- **Reflecting the history of the region in the artworks.** The selected artist will be required to work with the Heritage Committee as well as an historian in order to incorporate historical elements into the Concept design.
- **Community Participation in the development of the art concept and the making of the art itself.** The artist should

look for meaningful participatory engagement opportunities when developing the concept. This includes attentiveness to the residential community that borders both sites as well as the broad cross spectrum of audiences and user groups by helping to improve the pedestrian experience, ensure safety and highlight high traffic areas such as crosswalks and gathering spaces. Additionally, the Business Improvement Area is adjacent to both sites, and is a key stakeholder for the area.

- **There is a large graffiti community that lives and works in Hillhurst/ Sunnyside** and working to engage the support of this group is an important part of the concept development, particularly at the Bridge Mural site. Engaging this group, as well as the skateboarding community will assist in the success and longevity of the artworks.

Proposed artworks are expected to have a lifespan of 5-7 years and a full maintenance manual will be required at the completion of the project. The proposed artworks will be reviewed by the project team for any safety or technical concerns prior to approval.

Goals

This project addresses the need to enhance public realm and infrastructure to meet the needs of an established neighborhood through the:

- Completion of a large-scale mural on the bridge overpass as well as a series of artworks along the LRT sound barrier walls.



- Engagement and support of the community in the design of the mural.
- Artworks that are well-made and durable in order to stand up to weather, vandalism and last as long as possible.

Public engagement

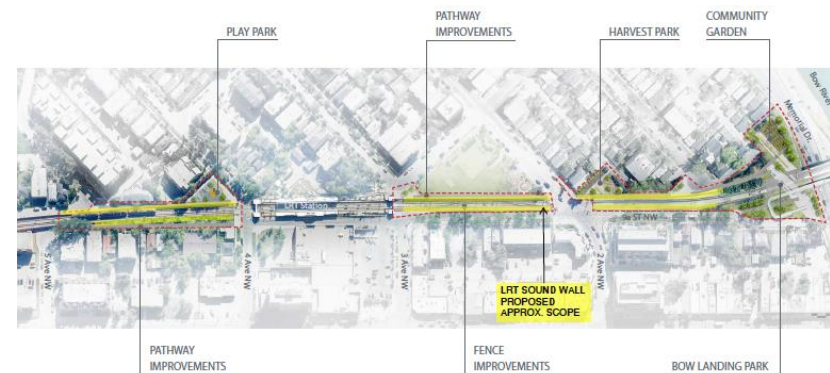
Engagement allows an artist to create a project that has a deeper meaning and connection to the community than just “décor” making it a project that they are proud of and respectful towards for years to come. The selected artist(s) will be required to consider these major areas of community engagement:

- Communities of geography- those who are adjacent to the site as residents and businesses of Hillhurst Sunnyside;
- User groups such as drivers, cyclists, gardeners and pathway users;
- Communities of interest- specifically the skateboard and graffiti communities; and
- Diverse populations, with specific attention to the local Indigenous Community- including Indigenous history and truth and reconciliation as a factor in the programming and design.

Project Specific Community Engagement is a requirement for the project and should inform the concept development in a meaningful way.

Collaboration with City staff

The artist(s) will work closely with members of the project team, which includes but is not limited to: Public Art Program staff, a Project Manager and representatives from the key stakeholder groups such as Transportation, Parks, Roads and the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association.





KEY DATES

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Submission deadline: | 4:00 pm MST on Monday, May 2, 2022 Late submissions will not be considered. |
| Project Initiation: | May 2022 |
| Engagement: | June 2022 |
| Concept development | Summer 2022 |
| Project completion: | Fall 2022 |

The timeline is negotiable based on the availability of the artist, however the project must be completed in full prior to the end of 2022.

BUDGET

The artist or artist team receives an all-inclusive, maximum budget of **\$145,500.00 CDN** (not including GST). The successful applicant is paid based on deliverables as per their Scope of Work contract.

The artist/artist team is responsible for their project budget.

This includes all costs associated with the creation and implementation of the art project, including but not limited to:

- a. Artist fees (including administration and studio expenses)
- b. Travel
- c. Research
- d. Materials and equipment
- e. Fabrication and installation
- f. Transportation/shipping
- g. Community engagement



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HOW TO APPLY

Submission package

Eligible submissions will contain:

1. **Letter of interest** (maximum of 500 words)
The artist's reason for interest in this project;
 - a. The artists intended vision or approach for this project;
 - b. Explanation as to how the community will be integrated into the process;
 - c. Identify experiences of similar scope and scale that shows the artist is suitable for this project;
2. **A current resume / Curriculum Vitae** with applicable examples of work in related areas, educational experience and contact information;
3. **Images (Maximum of 10)**
Up to 10 images of past work. One artwork per image. Include an image list with brief description of the commission, title and date of each work, and information on project partners, where applicable.
4. **Two professional references** who can speak to the artistic, collaborative and community experiences of the artist. Contact information must be included. Reference letters are not required.
5. **Ensure your submission package responds to the Evaluation Criteria in the Selection Process section.**

The submission package will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria on the following page.

Questions and clarifications

QUESTIONS? PLEASE EMAIL artb2b@calgary.ca

Submit all questions in writing to artb2b@calgary.ca prior to 4:30 PM MST on Monday May 2, 2022.

How to submit

Email artb2b@calgary.ca

- and attach all the required documents in a single email.
- Email subject line should include **Bow to Bluff Community Art projects**.
- Note that the maximum file size for an email is 10 MB.
- Submissions are accepted in electronic form only.
- All submission files must be compatible with a PC.
- Links to posted media or content will not be viewed. All content must be contained within the email.
- Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

References

References should include company name, current contact name including current telephone number, address and e-mail address. The City reserves the right to contact references without prior notification.

Artist teams

If applying as a team, identify the project lead and team members; and describe how the team will be structured including the role of each team member.



SELECTION PROCESS

Step 1 – Artist Selection

All eligible submissions are reviewed by a selection panel consisting of 3 arts professionals, 3 community members and 1 City business unit representative. The selection panel will select artists or artist teams based on how their submissions meet the evaluation criteria below (rated out of a possible total 100 points):

The selection panel has the right to not award any of the submissions, and The City reserves the right to cancel/reissue this opportunity at any time.

Evaluation criteria

- A. Understanding of the project: 30 points
 - Why this opportunity appeals to the artist
 - How the artist's background and practice will contribute to this project
 - Knowledge of or connection to Calgary and/or the project's place
- B. Project experience: 20 points
 - Experience in working to a schedule; demonstrated ability to deliver a project on time
 - Demonstrated ability to meet a set budget / deliver a project on budget
 - Demonstrated ability to collaborate with project teams, other stakeholders and engage with the public
- C. Artistic practice: 20 points

- Demonstrated artistic excellence in contemporary art practice; demonstrated flexibility of practice; responsiveness to contextual opportunities
- D. Community Engagement experience: 30 points
 - Demonstrated, relevant experience in effectively working with the public to develop a project
 - Responsiveness to community engagement; understanding of the project's context in the community



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ABOUT CALGARY

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge Moh'kinsstis, and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot confederacy: Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, as well as the Îyâxe Nakoda and Tsuut'ina nations. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3 within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. Finally, we acknowledge all Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work and play on this land, and who honour and celebrate this territory.

This sacred gathering place provides us with an opportunity to engage in and demonstrate leadership on reconciliation. Thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to join our team on the lands of Treaty 7 territory.



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WORKING WITH THE CITY

Prior to confirmation of award, the selected artist will be required to:

- Confirm status as a company (or sole-proprietorship);
- Confirm a Commercial General Liability (“CGL”) insurance policy for bodily injury (including death) and property damage in an amount of not less than TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000.00) inclusive limit for any one occurrence;
- Complete a Scope and Fee contract defining project deliverables and payment schedule.

ADMINISTRATION

The commissioner for this project is:

The City of Calgary
Box 2100, Station M, Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2M5
Mail code #63

Contact for questions: artb2b@calgary.ca.

How to submit: email artb2b@calgary.ca.

There will not be any public opening of submissions.

There is no cost to the applicant to provide a submission.

Submissions must currently be provided in English.