



Council Chambers Indigenous art initiative

Blackfoot Confederacy call to artists



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
DATE OF ISSUE: October 20, 2022
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 31, 2023

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BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY CALL TO ARTISTS

The City of Calgary public art program invites artists or artist teams to submit qualifications for the Council Chambers Indigenous art initiative. Over the next few months, we will commission one large textile art piece representing each of the four Nations in Treaty 7, including Stoney Nakoda First Nations, Blackfoot Confederacy, Tsuut’ina Nation, and Métis Nation Region 3.

The art celebrating the first Peoples of this land will be exhibited in City Council Chambers for a period of 10 years. After which, an option to be included in The City’s permanent public art collection will be provided to the artist.

Female or Two-Spirit identifying artists of any gender with all levels of experience are encouraged to apply to create a large textile artwork such as beadwork, quillwork, weaving, felting, applique or another textile. This opportunity is open to local, national and international professional artists of all disciplines with a connection to the Blackfoot Confederacy. Individual artists or artist teams/collectives are eligible. Artists must be from a verifiable Indigenous nation of the Blackfoot Confederacy.

This is the first project of its kind in Calgary.

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: \$20,000.00 CAD
Not including GST
Maximum, all inclusive

Submission deadline: 11:59 p.m. MST
March 31, 2023

Start: Fall 2023
Negotiable re. artist availability

Completion: Fall 2024
Negotiable re. artist availability

Free artist info sessions: November 17, 2022
December 8, 2022
January 26, 2023
February 23, 2023



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CONTEXT

There is an inequity in The City of Calgary public art collection, with very few pieces completed by women, Two-Spirit or Indigenous peoples.

With guidance from the Moh'kinsstis Public Art Guiding Circle and advice from Calgary City Councillors, this initiative will result in art representing four Nations in the Treaty 7 area hung prominently in the place where City Council meets to make decisions. It will serve as a reminder that Indigenous people lived on this land long before Scottish settlers named it Calgary, and that every Calgarian has a role to play in acknowledging the past and working toward a brighter future.

Centering those who should be most protected and honoured in our communities and those who were traditionally the decision makers and knowledge keepers, this call is open to female or Two-Spirit identifying individuals, including transgender men and women and non-binary individuals.

Siksika, Piikani and Kainai First Nations artists are encouraged to apply.

The artist selection committee will include Elders and community members from the Blackfoot Confederacy to help guide the process.



Golden Hour by Stephanie One Spot



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Goals

This project will:

- Highlight women and Two-Spirit artists
- Include Indigenous art into the collection
- Honour the spirit and intent of Treaty 7
- Be representative of Treaty 7 as a whole
- Educate and remind Calgarians we are all Treaty people

Public engagement

To ensure the project is reflective of the Calgary area and its peoples, the artist or artist team will be required to attend and participate in a series of engagements with the public.

Collaboration with City staff

To ensure the project meets its goals and the requirements of the public art program, the artist or artist team will work closely throughout the project with City public art staff as well as other interested parties.

Key dates

Submission deadline:	11:59 p.m. MST Friday, March 31, 2023 *Late submissions will not be considered.
Shortlist interviews:	April, 2023
Finalist interviews:	May, 2023
Engagement:	Summer, 2023
Concept development	August, 2023
Project completion:	October 2023 - October 2024

*Dates are subject to change.

*Timeline is negotiable based on artist availability.

Budget

The artist or artist team receives an all-inclusive, maximum budget of **\$20,000.00 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.

The total budget includes, but is not limited to artist fees, supplies and materials, consultation, artist time for public engagement, travel, insurance and studio fees.



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HOW TO APPLY

Submission package

Eligible submissions will contain:

- a) **Images** (maximum of 20)
One to 20 images of your past artwork. One artwork per image. Collage images are permitted.
- b) A short **description** of your artworks and materials used.
- c) **Letter of interest** or artist statement (maximum of 500 words) (optional)
- d) Your **contact** information (phone number, alternate number and email address)

Please note that artwork concepts (proposals for what your final art will look like) are NOT required at this request for qualifications stage.

How to submit

- Email indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca and attach all the required documents
- Email subject line should include: Council Chambers Indigenous art initiative
- Note that the maximum file size for an email is 10 MB. You may submit multiple emails to ensure all files are received.
- Submissions are accepted in electronic form only.
- Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

References

Three references will be requested for short-listed artists. References should include company name, current contact name including current telephone number, address and email address.

Alternatively, references could include elders and community members familiar with the artist's work.

The City reserves the right to contact references without prior notification. References from City of Calgary staff members will not be counted as part of the required references.

Artist teams

If applying as a team:

- Identify the project lead and team members;
- Describe how the team will be structured including the role of each team member;
- Provide the percentage of time dedicated by each team member;
- Indicate the location where staff will be based.

Questions and clarifications

Submit all questions in writing to indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca prior to 4:30 p.m. MST on March 27, 2023.

Free artist information sessions will be held on November 17, 2022, December 8, 2022, January 26, 2023 and February 23, 2023. Email indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca for times and locations. Attendance is **not** mandatory in order to qualify for this opportunity.



SELECTION PROCESS

Step 1 - Shortlisting

All eligible submissions are reviewed by a selection panel consisting of two community members from the Blackfoot Confederacy, three Elders from each of the Blackfoot Confederacy Nations and one Moh'kinsstis Public Art Guiding Circle member. The selection panel will shortlist artists or artist teams based on how their submissions meet the evaluation criteria below (rated out of a possible 100 points):

Step 2 – Finalist interviews

Shortlisted artists or artist teams will be invited to an in-person or online interview with the selection panel. Finalist(s) will be selected based on the evaluation criteria.

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 Indigenous background and practice will contribute to this project
- Knowledge of or connection to the Blackfoot Confederacy and area
- Textile experiences and understanding

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: 40 points

- Demonstrated artistic excellence in contemporary art and textile practice; demonstrated flexibility of practice; responsiveness to contextual opportunities

D. Public art experience: 10 points

- Responsiveness to community engagement; understanding of the project's context in the community
- Previous public art experience is an asset



ABOUT CALGARY

The Calgary area where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet is a place of confluence where the sharing of ideas and opportunities naturally come together. Indigenous peoples have their own names for this area that have been in use long before Scottish settlers named this place Calgary. In the Blackfoot language, they call this place Moh'kinsstis. The Stoney Nakoda Nation refer to the Calgary area as Wíchíspa Oyade and the people of the Tsuut'ina nation call this area Guts-ists-i. The Métis call the Calgary area Otos-kwunee.

We would like to acknowledge that this project will be located on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta. This includes: the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai, along with the Blackfeet in Montana, collectively known as the Blackfoot Confederacy; the Îethka Nakoda Wícastabi First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation. The city of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. We acknowledge all Indigenous urban Calgarians, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, who have made Calgary their home.¹

One of the guiding principles of the Public Art Program is to share, and provide a voice to, the historical context of Calgary; honour that information, and include and embed it in the work going forward. To learn more, watch the video: [Calgary Foundation Land Acknowledgement \(Full\)](#) on YouTube.

1. Moh'kinsstis Public Art Guiding Circle

THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The Public Art Program's mission is to provide a responsive public art program from which The City, Calgarians and artists collaborate, exchange perspectives and explore familiar and unimagined situations, subjects and opportunities, as they relate to our evolving relationships with our shared history, place and community.

Established in January 2004, the Public Art Program ensures the allocation of 1% for the portion of eligible project capital costs over \$1 million up to \$50 million; and 0.5% for the portion over \$50 million to public art.

The Public Art Policy outlines the diversity of public art opportunities as: discrete, semi-integrated, integrated and temporary works, and allows for artists on design teams, community-based public art, and special projects such as artist residencies.

The City of Calgary is gradually transitioning key components of public art program operations to [Calgary Arts Development \(CADA\)](#). During the transition period we are working closely with CADA on community programming, calls for artists, community engagement and the procurement of new public art. The full transition will be complete in 2024. Selected artists and artist teams may be asked to work with both organizations throughout their project. The City and CADA are committed to working with artists and Calgarians to creating a positive, meaningful and enriching program for the future.

For more information about the program, visit www.calgary.ca/publicart.



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WORKING WITH THE CITY

Prior to confirmation of award, the selected artist or artist team 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;
- Sign a City of Calgary Artist Agreement which includes Artist General Terms and Conditions.

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: email indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca

How to submit: email indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca

There will not be any public opening of submissions.

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

Submissions must be provided in English.