



# Call to artists

Mural project  
Northeast public art initiative

*Our Window* by AJA Loudon and students



## Call to artists

Date of issue: February 15, 2023  
Submission deadline: March 31, 2023

# Northeast public art initiative mural project

## Call to artists

The City of Calgary is now accepting applications for a mural project in northeast Calgary. Artist teams, artist collectives or individual artists who are interested in creating a mural on a unique surface are encouraged to apply.

This project is open to all artists who work, live, play or have strong ties to northeast Calgary. We encourage submissions from groups that are typically underrepresented including Indigenous and Racialized individuals, LGBTQ2S+ identifying individuals, Francophone, deaf persons, and persons with disabilities.

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, newcomers, immigrants, and others.

### Artist information sessions

Two free, online information sessions will be held to support artists who are interested in applying, and to answer questions about the submission process. Attendance is optional. Register for your preferred session using the links below.

[Thursday, March 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.](#)  
[Thursday, March 17 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.](#)

### Budget

An all-inclusive budget of \$75,000.00 CAD maximum is available for this project, including GST. One artist or artist team will be hired from this call.

### Submission deadline

4:59 p.m. MST, Friday, March 31, 2023

### Project start

May 2023

### Project completion

September 2023



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## Context

The City is working on an exciting initiative that will bring several public art projects to Calgary's northeast communities.

The [Northeast Public Art initiative](#) has multiple phases and is expected to be completed in 2024. It includes opportunities for the creation of public art in the form of bike racks, benches, picnic tables, mini-galleries, banners, sculpture, mural, community events and a documentary that will feature hired artists, community members, Indigenous Elders and Elders from culturally diverse groups in northeast communities.

In November 2020, City Council directed Administration to explore public art opportunities in Ward 5, with an emphasis on replacing the gap left by the removal of the *Wishing Well* at the Genesis Centre and further compensating for a historically inequitable distribution of public art funds in these communities.

This initiative is intended to provide more opportunities for artists that live, work, and play or have strong ties to the northeast communities. It will support the local economy and provide opportunities for the community to come together and create amazing spaces.

Some of the languages spoken in this area include, but are not limited to, Punjabi, Chinese, Urdu, Vietnamese and Arabic. We are inviting members of these communities, and others, to submit applications for these projects as they are released.

Calls for artists are posted at [calgary.ca/artistopportunities](http://calgary.ca/artistopportunities) and in our monthly [public art newsletter](#).

## Project description

This mural call is an opportunity for artists, artist teams or collectives to paint murals on the bridge piers at the 64 Avenue NE pedestrian overpass.

The City is looking for artists who are interested in engaging with youth and other members of the community to develop their artistic concept for this location.

Each bridge pier can have its own mural, but the murals should relate to each other, and should have a cohesive design that has meaning to the community.

## Goals

This project will:

- Support local artists, businesses, and organizations.
- Enhance our northeast neighborhoods.
- Reflect the people who live in the communities where the art is located.
- Involve local youth in the engagement process.
- Provide support for public art projects by professional artists at any level of experience.
- Encourage a diverse representation of artists, art practices, ideas, and topics.





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## Location

The murals will be painted on piers/pillars supporting the [64 Avenue NE pedestrian bridge over Metis Trail](#). The bridge is a prominent piece of infrastructure that connects McKnight-Westwinds CTrain Station with the industrial/ business complex that houses businesses and organizations.

This location is a highly visible spot in the northeast and has several touchpoints with the public. The overpass is used by pedestrians, transit riders, and seen by thousands of Calgarians city-wide as they commute along one of Calgary's major roadways.

A mural at this location will have a broad and lasting impact on the surrounding area and will become a landmark for visitors and residents alike.





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## Public engagement

To ensure the project is reflective of northeast Calgary and the people who live there, the artist or artist team will be required to lead a series of engagement activities with the public, with a focus on local youth. Artists will be encouraged and supported in connecting with youth and youth organizations in the area and will draw inspiration for their concept from these discussions and interactions. It is expected that the successful artist/team will work closely with youth over a series of meaningful engagement activities to gather insight, understand their perspectives, and reflect what they learn in their artwork.

Engagement at The City of Calgary is defined as purposeful dialogue between The City and people that live, work and play in Calgary to gather meaningful information to influence decision making. Public engagement is not about voting or collecting representative information. It is about considering the input, ideas and perspectives of people who are interested or impacted by decisions before decisions are made. Our Engage policy and other details that outline engagement expectations, including the Engage Framework can be found at [engage.calgary.ca/about](https://engage.calgary.ca/about).

In March and April 2021, we completed some early public engagement for this project and saw an astounding response. Nearly 6000 Calgarians participated in the engagement activities, which included a survey available in English, Punjabi, Urdu, Arabic, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese. Interpretation services were also available at five online workshops for Punjabi, Urdu, Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin and Cantonese speakers.

The ideas we received are inspiring. Each person we met had a unique story and gave us a true picture of what they would like to see for public art in their communities.

For the engagement results specific to the northeast public art project, please review the What We Heard report at [engage.calgary.ca/NEpublicart](https://engage.calgary.ca/NEpublicart).



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## Collaboration with City staff

To ensure the public art project meets project goals, as well as the requirements of the Public Art program, the artist or artist team will be required to work closely throughout the project with Public Art program staff as well as other stakeholders.

## Collaboration with Trellis Society

The City of Calgary and the successful artist will be working with Trellis Society to achieve deeper connections to the youth in the northeast for this mural project. They will be facilitating the engagement sessions in collaboration with the selected artist/ group or collective.

The successful artist/artist team will be expected to engage with Trellis youth on Thursdays throughout May and June as part of their concept development. The artist(s) can work with The City and Trellis staff to design engagement activities to involve youth in a meaningful way during these sessions.

## About Trellis Society

Trellis Society works with young people, adults, families and communities to realize their potential and support their growth. We are focused on generational change by providing a spectrum of services for people of all backgrounds, including those with complex needs. Our programs improve access to resources, develop family and community supports and build people's capacity to deal with life's challenges.

Trellis operates in five main streams of programming including Clubs, Hubs and Family Resource Networks, Education and Employment, Family and Caregiving Supports, Housing, Shelter and Outreach and Indigenous Initiatives. We work in every quadrant of Calgary and in surrounding communities.

Last year Trellis Society directly served 5,902 individuals and their natural supports, while creating 14,000 moments of connection and support for people in our community. With our support, people from all walks of life are empowered to move beyond systemic barriers, cultivate great outcomes and reach their full potential. We're Trellis – and we're always growing!

To learn more about Trellis and the programs and services we offer, please visit [growwithtrellis.ca](http://growwithtrellis.ca)



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## Key dates

**Submission deadline**

4:59 p.m. MST, Friday, March 31, 2023  
\*Late submissions will not be considered.

**Artist information sessions**

[Thursday, March 3rd from 5 pm to 7 p.m.](#)  
[Thursday, March 17th from 5 pm to 7 p.m.](#)

**Shortlist interviews**

April 2023

**Artist commissioned**

April – May 2023

**Artist timeline**

Public engagement	May – June 2023
Early concept development	June 2023
Preliminary concept due	June 2023
Detailed concept due	July 2023
Project completion	September 2023

\*Project dates are subject to change.

## Budget

Hired artist or artist team will receive an all-inclusive, maximum budget of **\$75,000.00 CDN**, including GST. The successful applicant is paid based on deliverables as per their Scope of Work contract. The artist or artist team is responsible for their project budget.

The total budget is intended to include, but is not limited to:

- Artist fees
- Consultation
- Public engagement (artist time only)
- Travel
- Insurance
- Studio fees (if applicable)

## Questions and clarifications

Submit all questions in writing to [publicart@calgary.ca](mailto:publicart@calgary.ca) **prior to 4:30 p.m. MST on Friday, March 24, 2023.**

Two free, online information sessions will be held to support artists who are interested in applying and to answer questions about the submission process. Attendance is optional. Register for your preferred session using the links below.

**Artist information sessions**

[Thursday, March 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.](#)  
[Thursday, March 17 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.](#)



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## How to apply

### Submission package

Eligible submissions must contain:

- a) **Letter of interest** (maximum of 200 words, including how the artist is connected to the northeast Calgary area). Letter of interest should answer the requirements in the evaluation criteria below.
- b) **A current resume/curriculum vitae** With applicable examples of work in related areas, educational experience, and contact information.
- c) **Up to five (5) images of past work** One artwork per image. Collage images are permitted. Include an image list with a brief description of the commission, title and date of each work, and information on project partners where applicable.

Academic qualifications are not required if applicants can demonstrate their experience and ability in their application.

Applicants are asked to demonstrate their experience building or working with builders to develop and create original artistic concepts.

The submission package will be evaluated based on the application criteria on the next page.

Note that artwork concepts (proposals) are **NOT** required at this application stage.

### 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 team will be based.

### How to submit

Email [publicart@calgary.ca](mailto:publicart@calgary.ca) with all the required documents attached in a single email **prior to 4:30 p.m. MST** Friday, March 31, 2023.

- Email subject line should include: Northeast public art mural project.
- 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

- Selected artist will provide proof of Vulnerable sector clearance.
- Three references will be requested for shortlisted artists. References should include the person's name, company name and current contact information including telephone number, address and e-mail address.

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. References can include previous employers, contractors, artistic peers and or community members.

## Selection process

### Step 1 - Shortlisting

All eligible submissions are reviewed by a selection panel consisting of arts professionals, community members and Indigenous Elders. The selection panel will shortlist artists or artist teams based on how their submissions meet the evaluation criteria.

### Step 2 – Finalist interviews

Shortlisted artists or artist teams will be invited to an interview session with the selection panel. Finalist(s) will be selected after the interview. Interviews are anticipated to be held in April 2023.

\*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.

**Questions?** Email [publicart@calgary.ca](mailto:publicart@calgary.ca)

## Evaluation criteria

- A. Understanding of the project: 40 points
  - Why this opportunity appeals to the artist (10 points)
  - How the artist's background and practice will contribute to this project (10 points)
  - How the artist is connected to northeast Calgary area (20 points)
- B. Project experience: 20 points
  - Experience in working to a schedule; demonstrated ability to deliver a project on a timeline (10 points)
  - Demonstrated ability to collaborate with project teams, other stakeholders and engage with the public and most especially youth (10 points)
- C. Artistic practice and impact: 30 points
  - Demonstrated artistic excellence (10 points)
  - How the artist will foster community building and encourage communal conversations, particularly with youth (20 points)
- D. Related experience: 10 points
  - Demonstrated, relevant experience in working on murals and managing budgets (5 points)
  - Demonstrated ability to work with youth (5 points)



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## 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-kins-tsis. The Stoney Nakoda Nation refer to the Calgary area as Wîchîspa 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 Wîcastabi 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

## Public Art program

Our mission is to provide a responsive public art program from which The City, Calgarians and artists can 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 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 public art and the operational transition, visit [www.calgary.ca/publicart](http://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.
- Sign 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

There will not be any public opening of submissions.

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