

# Indigenous Place Keeping program

Art(icles) of a Treaty: Histories, Presents and Futurisms

## Call for artworks

### Who:

Indigenous artists with all levels of experience, local (Treaty 7 and Treaty 7-based) and national

### What:

We're looking to exhibit existing artworks (digital, 2-dimensional, performances, video/sound installation, literary and small sculptural art)

### Where:

Atrium of the Municipal Building, Calgary, AB

### When:

Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. MST, September 29, 2023

Project starts October 2023

Project ends March 2024

### How much:

Up to \$3,000 per artist (CARFAC exhibit rates)

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



Artwork: *Wolf Chief* by Alex Peechow, 2022



**Request for submissions**

**Date of issue: May 11, 2023**

**Submission deadline: 4:30 p.m. MST September 29, 2023**

## About the project

The City of Calgary invites Indigenous artists and/or artist teams of all experience levels and disciplines to submit **already completed** artworks for a solo or group exhibition. Works will be on display from October 2023 to March 2024.

The title for this exhibit is *Art(icles) of a Treaty: Indigenous Histories, Presents and Futurisms*.

Across Turtle Island, the numbered treaties have provided the foundation for our collective relationships between nations. This exhibit aims to explore the complexities and significance of Treaty-making among Indigenous communities. We are looking for work that explores what it means to be an Indigenous Treaty person in the past, present and future.

Potential themes include but are not limited to: identity, kinship, our connections to the land, our plant and animal relations, storytelling, memory/history, dreams, environmental concerns, reconciliation and the ongoing struggle for securing Indigenous rights.

Above all, we are interested in what you, practicing Indigenous artists, have to say about your concept of treaties and treaty-making. Gather with us. Share your voice. Tell us your story.

As part of The City of Calgary's Indigenous Place Keeping Program, this exhibit hopes to celebrate Indigenous contributions to our shared histories and to promote a better understanding of the unique relationship between Indigenous nations and the community at large.

## Goals

This project will:

- Provide space for Indigenous artists
- Promote discussion around Indigenous art/art practices
- Engage with histories of treaty-making through an artistic lens
- Explore future potential for relationships between Indigenous nations and the wider community

## Budget

The artist/artist team receives an all-inclusive, maximum budget, CARFAC rates of up to **\$3,000 CDN** (not including GST).

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.

The artist/artist team is responsible for their project budget and will be paid based on deliverables as per their Artist Agreement.

For digital art works, we can provide a 50" oled with headphones or speaker and/or a 30" standard tv. We also have projection ability.



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## How to apply

### Submission package

Eligible submissions will contain:

- Letter/email of interest** (maximum of 500 words) including:
  - Verifiable Indigenous Nation affiliation
  - Description of your art practice
  - Past experience
  - Team members (if applying as a team)
  - Contact information (phone number, alternate number and email address)

\* Your submission will be rated out of a possible 100 points as outlined in the Evaluation criteria below.

- Support material** (maximum of 10 works)
  - Up to 10 images of proposed work. Ensure your images provide clear and complete views of the artwork
  - Link to video works of any length. The selection panel will only watch up to 5 minutes
- Image list** with a brief description of the artwork, medium, title, date and size/dimensions

### How to submit

- Email [indigenoupublicart@calgary.ca](mailto:indigenoupublicart@calgary.ca) and attach all the required documents.
- Email subject line should include: Indigenous Place Keeping Artwork
- 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.
- Links to video work and/or video documentation are accepted.
- Please note: incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

### Artist information sessions

Free online and in-person artist information sessions are available for those interested in applying. Please email [indigenoupublicart@calgary.ca](mailto:indigenoupublicart@calgary.ca) for dates, times and locations.

Attendance is **not** mandatory in order to qualify for this opportunity.



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## Selection process

*Artist credit*

All eligible submissions are reviewed by a selection panel consisting of three to seven Indigenous arts community members and is stewarded by a City of Calgary business unit representative.

Artists or artist teams may be invited to an in-person or online interview with the selection panel.

Submissions will be **rated out of a possible 100 points** according to the Evaluation criteria below.

\*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.



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## Evaluation criteria (100 points)

### A. Understanding of the project: 35 points

- Why this opportunity appeals to the artist
- How the artist's Indigenous background connects to their artwork
- Connection of the artwork to the exhibit theme of treaty-making, and treaty histories, presents, and futures

### C. Artistic practice: 45 points

- Demonstrated artistic excellence
- Demonstrated flexibility of practice and responsiveness to contextual opportunities

### D. Appropriate for the location: 20 points

- Suitability for very a public location where there may be families and children present
- Suitability for the location (content, health & safety considerations, supplies needed, reasonable access to utilities)

## Questions and clarifications

Submit all questions in writing to

[indigenoupublicart@calgary.ca](mailto:indigenoupublicart@calgary.ca) or via phone to 403-268-2994 prior to 4:30 p.m. MST on September 22, 2023.



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## Working with The City

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.

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

- Provide verification of Indigenous ancestry
- 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.  
Submissions must currently be provided in English.

## Indigenous public art

Art is the storytelling of a history. Respecting and sharing the unique, local Indigenous traditions, beliefs and practices through public art helps to share Indigenous perspectives and stories. It serves 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.

Of The City's public art collection, which began growing in 1911 and now has more than 1300 pieces, less than 3% was created by Indigenous artists. To correct this disparity, we're taking meaningful steps to improve opportunities for Indigenous artists to consult on, participate in and create public art in Calgary.

We are deeply honored to be the first municipality in Canada with an all-Indigenous team of arts professionals dedicated to delivering more opportunities for Indigenous artists and increasing Indigenous representation in the public art collection.

For more information visit [calgary.ca/indigenouspublicart](https://calgary.ca/indigenouspublicart)



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## Land acknowledgement

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 Wíchîspa 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

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. 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 visit [www.calgary.ca/publicart](http://www.calgary.ca/publicart)