



Call for Curatorial Panel Members

Artwork: *Birch Bark*, Digital, Francine Cunningham, 2019



Request for qualifications
Date of issue: June 1, 2023
Submission deadline: September 29, 2023

Call for Curatorial Panel Members

The City of Calgary Public Art Program invites artists and members of the public who have an art background to submit qualifications to sit on the Curatorial Panel.

People with any level of experience are encouraged to apply. This opportunity is open to local people who have an interest in Public Art and would like to have a voice in guiding the Public Art collection.

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 process.

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

Start: October 2023

Completion: October 2025 (two-year term)



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CONTEXT

The City of Calgary recognizes the fundamental principle of public process. Public art projects and artists for The City of Calgary's public art collection are chosen on behalf of Calgarians through a selection panel process.

The curatorial panel is an advisory body that operates under the structure of Public Art Policy and The Collection Development Strategy, which collectively outline the long-term vision for selecting and commissioning art for The City of Calgary's public art collection. This panel is also governed by the Curatorial Panel Terms of Reference.

Beginning in 2023, The City has updated the selection panel process to ensure public art projects and initiatives are evaluated through a diverse and equitable lens.

The Curatorial Panel only concerns artworks being acquired into the Public Art Collection and the de-accession of artworks out of the collection. The previous committee had a larger purview of responsibilities beyond artworks for the collection. Creating a specialized selection panel that focuses solely on collection acquisitions and de-accessions supports the long-term vision of a public art collection that equitably and effectively represents Calgarians.



Artwork: *Road Map*, Bruno Canadien, Digital, 2022



Project description

The Public Art Curatorial Panel, as representative of the citizens of Calgary, is an advisory body that operates under the mandate of the Public Art Policy, The Collection Development Strategy, and exists to support the growth of the Public Art Collection through appropriate purchases and donations.

Decisions made by this Panel will be presented to the Moh'kinsstis Public Art Guiding Circle. Final approval is issued by City of Calgary Arts and Culture. The panel consists of a minimum of 7 members who are selected through an open call. Ideally, members serve a minimum of 2 years on the Panel. Members can serve a maximum 4-year term of service. Members are anonymous while they sit on the panel.

The City of Calgary Public Art Collection Development Strategy regulates the proceedings of the Curatorial Panel and facilitates the exercise of its function in pursuit of planned objectives. Meetings occur twice annually or as requested by the Public Art Curatorial team and are initiated and facilitated by the City of Calgary Curator(s).

Goals

This Curatorial Panel will make informed decisions on the growth of the public art collection by:

- Evaluate and make recommendations on artwork to be purchased by the City of Calgary public art collection
- Evaluate and make recommendations on artwork to be accepted by donation to the City of Calgary public art collection

- Evaluate and make recommendations on work that is to be de-accessioned from the City of Calgary public art collection
- Evaluating against defined criteria to make decisions

Collaboration with City staff

To ensure the public art project meets project goals, as well as the requirements of the Public Art Program, the Curatorial Panel works closely with the Public Art Program Curator's as well as other staff.

Public Engagement

This is an internal process that is intended to assess artworks/projects for the Public Art collection programming. Public engagement will not be required.

The City of Calgary public art collection is committed to transparency and accountability. We will model proactive disclosure around the selection process and 1 year after the terms are finished, we will post the selection and curatorial panel members who no longer sit on the panels.



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Key dates

Submission deadline: **4:30 p.m. MST
September 29, 2023**
***Late submissions will not be considered.**

Shortlist interviews: **October 2023**

Finalist interviews: **October 2023**

Engagement: **October 2023**

Participation completion: **Minimum 2 years,
Maximum 4 years**

*Dates are subject to change.

*The timeline is negotiable based on the number of applications.

Budget

Panelists will be paid CARFAC rates for participations.
CARFAC rates for 2023 are as follows:

Flat rate per half day, under 4 hours	\$350
Flat rate per day, over 4 hours	\$600

Source: [CARFAC Website](#)



How to apply

Submission package

Eligible submissions will contain:

- **Letter of interest** (maximum of 2000 words)
Refer to the criteria on the following page for suggested topics;
- **A current resume / Curriculum Vitae**
with applicable examples of work in related areas, educational experience and contact information;
- **Ensure your submission package responds to the Evaluation Criteria in the Selection Process section.**

The submission package will be evaluated based on the application criteria on the following page;

Questions and clarifications

Submit all questions in writing to publicart@calgary.ca prior to 4:30 p.m. MST on Friday September 22, 2023.

How to submit

- Email publicart@calgary.ca and attach all required documents (PDF or Word)
- Email subject line should include: Curatorial Panel
- 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 applicants. References should include company name, current contact name including current telephone number, address and e-mail address. References can include cultural references such as Elders, artists, arts administrators and Knowledge Keepers. 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.



Selection process

Step 1 - Shortlisting

All eligible submissions are reviewed by a selection panel consisting of a member of the Mohkinstsis Public Art Guiding Circle, 3 public art contractors and 1 City business unit representative. The selection panel will shortlist applicants based on how their submissions meet the evaluation criteria below (rated out of a possible total 100 points):

Step 2 – Finalist interviews

Shortlisted individuals will be invited to an in-person interview with the selection panel. Finalists 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 public art, art history, history of Calgary, Indigenous Knowledge, Cultural Knowledge: 45 points
 - Why this opportunity appeals to the individual
 - Knowledge OR Interest in public art, and art
 - Background and experience in any arts/art forms, governance
 - Knowledge of and or connection to Calgary
 - Knowledge of other cultural contexts
- B. Practice in at least ONE of the following: 40 points
 - Demonstrated understanding of various contemporary, historical, and cultural art practice; responsiveness to contextual opportunities

- Experience in fine and performing art juries, selection panels
 - Demonstrated excellence in community volunteering, non-profit work.
 - Demonstrated excellence in sitting on boards in the non-profit or corporate sector
- C. Experience: 15 points
- Demonstrated understanding of high-profile, high-visibility projects
 - Demonstrated understanding of public art context in communities
 - Demonstrated ability to think critically



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.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

About 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 panelists will be required to:

- Sign a City of Calgary Artist Agreement which includes Artist General Terms and Conditions.

After each meeting, the selected panelists must submit an invoice for the appropriate amount. Payment will occur 30 to 60 days after submission.

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: publicart@calgary.ca.

How to submit: email publicart@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.