

Indigenous Digital Art and Illustration

Call for artwork

Who:

Indigenous artists with all levels of experience

What:

Digital artwork, photography, digital illustrations,

Where:

Online/print opportunities with Public Art

When:

Deadline to apply January 15th, 2024

Project start February 2024

Project end January 2025

How much:

\$1000 for 1-year non-exclusive license for up to 3 uses

*may be extended with extra fees paid to artists

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.

Roadmap, 2019, Bruno Canadien





Request for submissions

Date of issue: October 17th, 2023

Submission deadline: 9:00 a.m. January 15th, 2024

About the project

The City of Calgary's public art program is inviting Indigenous artists to submit existing digital artwork and illustration. This program offers artists the opportunity to have their digital artwork licensed for use on The City's website, temporary publications, and public-facing artist calls and posters. Ten artworks will be selected.

Artwork will be licensed for one year and may be used up to three times. After 12 months, the artwork will no longer be used. However, there may be an opportunity for the license to be extended.

Indigenous artists from Treaty 7, Metis Region 3, and Indigenous artists currently living in or with connections to Moh'kinsstis at any stage of their career are encouraged to apply.

Goals

This project will:

- Support Indigenous artists, businesses and organizations
- Allow for more opportunities for Indigenous artists
- Reflect Indigenous experiences and existence in Moh'kinsstis
- Encourage a diverse Indigenous representation of artists, art practices, ideas, and topics

Artist information sessions

Free online and in-person artist information sessions are available for those interested in applying. Please email indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca for dates, times and locations. Attendance is **not** mandatory in order to qualify for this opportunity.

Budget

The artist or artist team receives an all-inclusive, maximum budget of **\$1,000.00 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.

Questions and clarifications

Submit all questions in writing to indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca or via phone to (403)268-2994 prior to 4:00 p.m. MST on January 12, 2025.



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How to apply

Submission package

Eligible submissions will contain:

- a) **Letter of interest** (maximum of 600 words)
An introduction to the artist, description of the artwork, date of the artwork, connection to Moh'kinsstis/Calgary
- b) **Images (Maximum of 10)**
One image per page. Detail images of the singular artwork are welcome.
- c) **Ensure your submission package responds to the evaluation criteria in the selection process section of this call.**

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

How to submit

- Email Jessica at indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca and attach all the required documents. Submissions are accepted in electronic form only.
- Email subject line should include: Indigenous digital artwork
- Note that the maximum file size for an email is 10 MB. You may submit multiple emails to ensure all files are received.

Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered. This is non-negotiable.

Selection process

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

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.



Golden Hour, 2019, Stephanie One Spot



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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

Evaluation criteria (100 points)

- A. Letter of interest: 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 Calgary and/or the project's place
- B. Artwork: 70 points
- Suitability of the artwork to print
 - Suitability of the artwork to web
 - Connection of the artwork to diversity of ideas/identities
 - The image is 300dpi or a copy is available of 300dpi after the selection process.

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.



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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 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

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