

Métis Curator Indigenous Public Art

Call for curators

Who:

Métis Curators with a connection to Alberta
interested in curating a travelling exhibit

What:

Curate a Métis educational travelling exhibit for
the City of Calgary Public Art collection

Where:

Hybrid work, online research, in-person
research, events as needed, regular meetings
with City of Calgary Public Art staff

When:

Deadline to apply: September 19th, 2025, 4:30
pm

Project start: October 1st, 2025

Project end October 1st, 2026

How much:

Curatorial fee of \$12,000 + GST total



*David Garneau, Jerry Potts, Metis Scout (1840-1896), 1984,
ceramic, Collection of the City of Calgary, Public Art.*

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.



Request for qualifications

Date of issue: May 23rd, 2025

Submission deadline: 4:30 pm, September 29th 2025

About the project

The City of Calgary Public Art Program invites Métis Curators to apply to this curatorial opportunity. Individuals with curatorial experience are encouraged to apply.

This opportunity is open to Métis curators. Individual curators or curator teams are eligible. The selected curator/curatorial team will work closely with the Indigenous Curator, Public Art Conservator, Public Art Lead, and Public Art Collections Specialist to curate a Métis-specific, travelling exhibit that will be available for loan to communities and schools. The curatorial opportunity will include all aspects of working on a public art exhibit, including and not limited to budgeting, artist visits, exhibit design, curatorial writing, etc. The curator will work with artists from the community to reflect their voices through the exhibit. The curator's own artwork will not be eligible for the exhibit.

The curated exhibit must be created within a set budget and will include between 4 - 12 artworks/art objects. The curator will work with the Indigenous Curator to create a theme and select artworks to be purchased for the exhibit. They will also work with the Public Art team to ensure the exhibit is easily portable and that artworks are protected during moves/travel.

Questions and clarifications

Submit all questions in writing to indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca prior to 4:00 p.m. MST on September 12th, 2025

Goals

This project will:

- Create opportunities for schools and communities to learn about and connect with Métis culture through art
- Engage with Métis artists
- Grow the Public Art collection
- Create a loanable exhibit that schools and communities will be able to host for 3-6 months at a time

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 curator receives an all-inclusive, maximum budget of **\$12,000.00 + GST** (if applicable) inclusive of travel and expenses. This does NOT include the artwork purchase budget.

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

The curator is responsible for their project budget and will be paid based on deliverables as per their Scope and Fee contract.



How to apply

Submission package

Eligible submissions will contain:

- a) **Letter/email of interest** (maximum of 1500 words) including:
 - Your interest in this position.
 - Description of how your Indigenous background will contribute to this work.
 - A statement of your curatorial practice.
 - Experience in project management.
 - 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.

- b) **Up to 10 images** of past curated exhibits. You can include curatorial statements a support material, or exhibition catalogues. Links will be accepted. Please ensure links are active.
- c) **Three references** including contact name, company, current telephone number, address, and email address. You may use past clients, Elders, and community members familiar with your 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.

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How to submit

- Email indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca and attach all the required documents.
- Email subject line should include: Metis Curator
- 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 past exhibits/curatorial writing will be accepted
- Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

Selection process

All eligible submissions are reviewed by a selection committee made up of internal Public Art staff and contractors.

Applicants 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 this opportunity to any of the submissions, and The City reserves the right to cancel/reissue this opportunity at any time.

Figure 1 This is My Mother's Hands, Joanne Cardinal Schubert, 1987, City of Calgary Public Art Collection

Evaluation criteria (100 points)

Questions? email indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca phone (403) 268-2994



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A. Understanding of the project: (25 points)

- Why this opportunity appeals to the curator.
- How the curator's knowledge of art and Métis world view will contribute to this project.
- Cultural and/or artistic knowledge.
- Connection to the curator's community.
- Effective communication.

B. Curatorial Statement: (20 points)

- Responsiveness to community engagement and understanding of the project's cultural context for and in the community.
- Clear writing and understanding of their own curatorial practice.

C. Project experience: (45 points)

- Demonstrated excellence and experience in curating exhibits.
- Demonstrated experience in working to a schedule and demonstrated ability to deliver a project on time.
- Demonstrated ability to meet a set budget and deliver a project on budget.
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate with project teams, other interested parties and engage with the community.
- Demonstrated excellence in project management through past projects.
- Demonstrated flexibility of practice and responsiveness to contextual opportunities.

D. Public art & community experience: (10 points)

- (5 points) Previous public art experience is an asset.
- (5 points) Demonstrated excellence in delivering public-facing projects.

E. Bonus points- extra points may be scored if the applicant can:

- (20 points) provide proof of verifiable Métis ancestry.
- (up to 20 points) Provide examples of being connected to communities through additional letters of reference, or by providing phone numbers for Métis community members, elders, or genealogists who can speak to your connection and presence in community.



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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.

Working with The City

To ensure the curated exhibit meets project goals, as well as the requirements of the Public Art Program, the curator or curator team will be required to work closely throughout the project with Public Art Program staff as well as other partners.

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

- Confirm status as a company (or sole-proprietorship);
- Provide proof of verifiable Indigenous ancestry
- 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 consulting agreement which includes Consulting General Terms and Conditions.