

Stoney Nakoda Curatorial Mentorship Indigenous Public Art

Call for curatorial mentee

Who:

Stoney artists and individuals interested in gaining work experience as a curator

What:

Curate a Stoney Nakoda 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 \$7,000 + GST total

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



About the project

The City of Calgary Public Art Program invites members of the Stoney Nakoda nations to apply to this paid mentorship opportunity. Individual artists who have an interest in curation are encouraged to apply. Prior curatorial experience is not required. This opportunity is open to Stoney Nakoda members from Goodstoney, Bearspaw, and Chiniki.

The Stoney Nakoda curatorial mentee will work closely with Indigenous Curator, Public Art Conservator, Public Art Lead, and Public Art Collections Specialist to curate a Stoney Nakoda specific, travelling exhibit that will be available for loan to communities and schools. The mentorship will include all aspects of working on a public art exhibit, including and not limited to budgeting, artist visits, exhibit design, curatorial writing, artist visits, etc. 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. Under mentorship, the selected mentee 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 Stoney Nakoda culture through art
- Engage with Stoney Nakoda 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 curatorial mentee receives an all-inclusive, maximum budget of **\$7,000.00 + GST** (if applicable) inclusive of travel and expenses. This does NOT include an artwork purchase budget.

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

The mentee will be 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 and/or cultural understanding will contribute to this work.
 - A statement of interest in learning curatorial work.
 - Connection to your community
 - 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 artwork, or artwork that interests you. This is **optional** and is for us to get to know you more.
- 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 you.

*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.

How to submit

- Email indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca and attach all the required documents.
- Email subject line should include: Stoney Nakoda 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 any of the submissions, and The City reserves the right to cancel/reissue this opportunity at any time.

Evaluation criteria (100 points)

- A. Understanding of the project: <35 points>
- Why this opportunity appeals to the applicant
 - How the applicant's knowledge of art and Stoney Nakoda world view will contribute to this project
 - Connection to the Stoney Nakoda community.
 - Effective communication.
- B. Skills & interests: <35 points>
- Clear writing and understanding of their own culture.
 - Clear interest in art and supporting artists from their community
 - Cultural and artistic knowledge
- C. Project experience: <25 points>
- Demonstrated experience in project management
 - Demonstrated experience in working to a schedule and demonstrated ability to deliver a project on time.
 - Demonstrated ability to collaborate with project teams, other interested parties and engage with the community.
- D. Public art experience <5 points>
- Public art experience is an asset but not required
 - Experience curating an exhibit is an asset but not required.

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

- (20 points) provide proof of verifiable Indigenous ancestry.
- (up to 20 points) Provide examples of being connected to communities with letters of reference or providing phone numbers for members of Good Stoney, Bearspaw and/or Chiniki who can speak to your connection and presence in community.



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.

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.