

CALL TO PUBLIC ART CURATORS – Expression of Interest (EOI)

Project: Indigenous Art Trail

Project Budget: \$ 272,000.00

Proposal Deadline: December 14, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

1. Opportunity

The City of Mississauga seeks to commission a professional Indigenous public art curator to assist with the development of a waterfront Indigenous Art Trail. In this position, the curator will develop a community-informed public art plan and lead the commissioning process for three public art projects by Indigenous artists.

The budget for this project is \$40,000.00 for the public art plan/curatorial study, and \$232,000.00 to commission, fabricate, and install three public artworks.

The curator will be expected to work in partnership with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the City of Mississauga Public Art Program.

Submissions to this call are due **December 14, 2021**. Short-listed applicants will be required to attend a virtual interview the week of **January 31-February 4, 2022**.

2. Project Background

The City of Mississauga is located on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the territory of the Anishinaabe, Chippewa, Seneca, Haudenosaunee, and Huron-Wendat people.

The Lake Ontario Shoreline and Credit River are closely associated with the Mississaugas of the Credit, who occupied the Credit River from the late 17th and early 18th centuries to the mid 19th century. Mississauga's waterfront shoreline along Lake Ontario measures approximately 22 km and extends west from Toronto towards Oakville. There are 26 existing and five planned parks connected by the Waterfront Trail and by Lakeshore Road.

Public art along the waterfront presents opportunities for reconciliation, relationship-building and artistic expression through storytelling. The Indigenous Art Trail will acknowledge Mississauga's Indigenous history and culture and enhance the visibility of the many Indigenous and First Nations people that have a connection to Mississauga

as their home. By celebrating and honouring Indigenous peoples, their culture, history and how they are connected to Mississauga and its history, the Indigenous Art Trail will contribute to the process of reconciliation.

Local residents conceived of this project and brought it forward to Ward Councillor Stephen Dasko and the City's Public Art Program. They will continue to participate in the project as community stakeholders.

The City is seeking an Indigenous professional curator to lead the development of the trail, to ensure that the project meaningfully reflects Indigenous communities and fosters a sense of Indigenous ownership and belonging. All parties through all stages of this project will respect artistic and curatorial integrity.



Waterfront in Lakeview, Mississauga

3. Scope of Work

The public art curator will be responsible for researching, developing, and writing a community-informed public art plan for a waterfront Indigenous Art Trail. The plan will be developed in consultation with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, with a focus on relationships, trust, creativity, and reconciliation. This plan will act as a

curatorial guideline for new commissions, integrating Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing to the commissioning process for permanent and temporary public art and place-making initiatives.

Following completion and City approval of the public art plan, the curator will lead the commissioning process for three public art projects in alignment with the plan.

The specific roles and responsibilities of this opportunity include:

- Engage community and understand local context:
 - Work with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Indigenous artists and other local Indigenous communities to co-create the vision of the trail;
 - Engage local residents and stakeholders (including but not limited to Heritage Mississauga and Credit Valley Conservation) to help inform and envision the trail and public art plan;
 - Research the history and context of Mississauga's waterfront and First Nations history;
 - Research and identify waterfront parks locations for public art in consultation with City staff, based on visibility, accessibility, feasibility, history, and context;
 - Work with the Public Art Program to understand policies and improve inclusivity of commissioning process; and,
 - Facilitate community engagement to involve Mississauga residents.
- Develop, write, and deliver a completed Public Art Plan that outlines:
 - Artwork locations, with recommendations on art forms, themes, permanence, and mediums for each;
 - Long-term curatorial standards for commissioning public art along the trail (guidelines for calls to artists and engagement methods); and,
 - Recommendations for guiding visitors along the trail through traditional and digital platforms.
- Lead the commissioning process for three public art projects:
 - Develop, write, and produce calls to artists;
 - Facilitate the jury evaluation and selection of artists;
 - Work with City staff and selected artists to oversee artwork creation, detailed drawings, fabrication and on-site installation of artworks;
 - Work with City staff to ensure engineering, safety, maintenance, permits, and insurance requirements are met; and,
 - Work with City staff to coordinate promotions and unveiling.

- Meetings and written updates with the City's Public Art Curators once per month at a minimum, either in person (subject to COVID-19 safety guidelines) or via WebEx.

4. Eligibility

This is a public competition open to Indigenous professional curators/artists who have a strong connection to and understanding of Mississauga and/or Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

5. Anticipated Budget

The total budget for all curator fees and expenses related to the public art plan and curatorial study is \$ 40,000.00 + HST Canadian Dollars.

This fee will be disbursed based on an agreed project deliverable timeline and is not intended as an employment contract. This fee includes (but is not limited to): curator fees, attendance at meetings, presentations, travel to the sites and to outreach/community engagement sessions, facilitation of community engagement sessions, site research, preparation of curatorial documentation, research and preparation of public art plan.

The total budget for three public art projects, to be commissioned following the completion of the public art plan, is \$ 232,000.00 + HST Canadian Dollars, of which up to \$ 23,200.00 (10%) may be allocated to the curator for the administration of the projects. The City will be responsible for all legal agreements and payments with the commissioned artists and will work closely with the curator to oversee fabrication, installation, and unveiling.

This fee includes (but is not limited to): artist fees, curator fees, technical consultation, travel to the site and project meetings, community engagement, purchase of relevant materials, engineering fees, fabrication and artwork installation (including delivery to the site), insurance and/or permit fees as required by the City of Mississauga, maintenance plan documentation, and attendance at unveiling of the completed artworks.

6. Anticipated Schedule

It is expected that the commissioned artist(s) will comply with the project’s general timeline dates*, as highlighted below:

Date	Project Phase
December 14, 2021 by 4:00 p.m. EST	Submission Deadline
January 31-February 4, 2022	Virtual interviews with short-listed Curators
February 2022	Curator Selection & Agreements
March-August 2022	Community & Stakeholder Engagement
September-December 2022	Development of Public Art Plan
January-March 2023	Artist Selection for New Public Art Commissions
Spring 2023	Public Art Detailed Design and Technical Review
Summer 2023	Fabrication
Fall 2023-Spring 2024	Installation and Unveiling

**Schedule subject to change and negotiable as per selected curator’s availability and approach.*

7. Selection Process and Criteria

Submissions to this Call to Curators will be reviewed by a jury of qualified persons, including representatives from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, City of Mississauga, technical experts, arts professionals, and community members. The jury will evaluate applications based on the applicant’s:

- Vision for commissioning meaningful site-specific artworks and for creating opportunities for Indigenous artists and storytellers;
- Curatorial excellence, including an established practice in Indigenous curation and a strong background in contemporary art;
- Knowledge of local Indigenous art practices and cultural protocols;

- Expressed desire to contribute to the public realm and cultural identity of Mississauga; and,
- Demonstrated experience with projects of a similar scope and scale and ability to execute a project of this scale within the budget and timeline.

The selected curator should be passionate about public art and its ability to highlight the cultural and environmental heritage of its surroundings. The selected curator should have a connection to Mississauga and the land that we reside on.

Our public art program accepts informal training and community/peer recognition, and recognizes artists, creators, and storytellers from a diverse range of disciplines. **Please do not hesitate to reach out to our team or send a submission, even if you are unsure if your credentials are suitable for the opportunity.**

Up to five curators will be short-listed for a virtual interview, to take place the week of January 31-February 4 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. EST.

The City of Mississauga reserves the right to select and retain the artist deemed most appropriate for the project at its sole discretion.

8. Submission Requirements

Please read all components of the RFP prior to completing your submission. A complete submission package includes the following documentation **in PDF format**:

- a) **Declaration:** use the form provided below
- b) **Curatorial statement:** a written expression of interest that details:
 - a. Why the context of the project is interesting or important to you;
 - b. Your vision for creating meaningful site-specific artworks and opportunities for Indigenous artists;
 - c. Your experience with and approach to community-engaged art processes, such as stakeholder engagement and artist outreach; and,
 - d. Your connection to the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit and the territory of the Anishinaabe, Chippewa, Seneca, Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat people.
- c) **CV:** highlight relevant experience on projects similar to or directly related to this project

- d) **Images of past curatorial projects:** provide photographs and a project description for up to five past curatorial projects
- e) **References:** include contact name, title, organization, telephone number, and email address for two references who can speak to your curatorial practice and interest and/or experience in public art projects. References can include community leaders, such as an Elder.

Submissions must be sent by email to:

public.art@mississauga.ca

Subject: Artist Submission – Indigenous Art Trail

If the file size exceeds 20 MB, artists are asked to use an external file share program. Incomplete submissions or submissions received after the deadline will not be juried.

Accessibility:

The City will provide accommodations throughout the selection process to applicants with disabilities. Please notify Rachel Pennington, Public Art Curator at 416-669-4257 or rachel.pennington@mississauga.ca of the nature of any accommodation(s) that you may require in respect of any materials or processes used to ensure your equal participation.

Commitment to Equity:

The City's Public Art Program is committed to continually improving our application processes to ensure equitable and inclusive opportunities for all. If you have feedback on this application process, particularly if you are a racialized individual or individual facing systemic barriers that limit your full participation within the public art industry, we invite you to complete a quick and anonymous survey here: <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/41590907/afa0>.

9. Reserved Rights of the City of Mississauga

The City of Mississauga (the “City”), at its sole discretion, may request clarifications or request additional information, as deemed necessary to evaluate the submissions. The City retains the sole discretion to determine whether a submission is responsive and if the prospective curator is capable of performing the work. The City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to determine the number of pre-qualified curators. The City reserves the right to not proceed with awarding a contract.

10. Publication of Competition Information

The City of Mississauga shall have the exclusive right to issue all public announcements regarding the competition.

11. Additional Information

For additional information or questions, please contact:
Rachel Pennington, Public Art Curator, rachel.pennington@mississauga.ca.

12. Artist Declaration

The following Declaration is to be signed by the Artist/Curator Applicant and submitted as part of their expression of interest package.

I hereby declare that the information provided herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____