

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: ARTIST-INITIATED PUBLIC ART
Deadline: November 26, 2021, 4:30 pm Pacific Standard Time (PST)



The City of New Westminster invites local artists or artist teams to submit expressions of interest for an Artist-Initiated Public Art project. This is an opportunity for artists to propose artworks in any medium, including non-object based work and temporary installations with a maximum total budget of \$30,000.

OPPORTUNITY

This opportunity is meant to support artist-led initiatives, experimentation and to build capacity. The City of New Westminster’s Arts Services team will support the selected artist in the creation of a new work within the specified resources, from development through to completion.

BUDGET

The maximum project budget available is \$30,000, plus GST. The budget must be inclusive of all costs including (but not limited to) artist fees, consultant fees, artwork production, travel, transportation, installation, permits and general liability insurance.

ELIGIBILITY

This is an open call to professional artists who live or work in New Westminster and the Lower Mainland (which includes the regional districts of Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley). Individual artists or artist teams/collectives working in any medium and who are at various stages of their careers may apply. Artists who may be new to public art will also be considered. The City of New Westminster is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. Artists who self-identify as a member of an equity-seeking and/or under-represented community are especially encouraged to apply.

According to Canada Council for the Arts, a professional artist:

- has specialized training in the artistic field (not necessarily in academic institutions);
- is recognized as a professional by his or her peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition);
- is committed to devoting more time to artistic activity, if possible financially;
- has a history of public presentation or publication.

City staff, volunteers serving on the New Westminster Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) and selection panel members are not eligible to apply.

BACKGROUND

Located on the unceded territories of the Halkomelem speaking peoples and home to an urban Indigenous community reflecting Indigenous interests from across Canada, New Westminster is at the heart of what is today known as British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

New Westminster is currently one of the fastest growing municipalities in the region. It cherishes its diversity of cultures, compact size and quality of life. Residents share common values such as space that is safe, inclusive and welcoming to all citizens and visitors, and aspires to having its facilities and public realm both host and reflect the diversity of the City's unique population.

New Westminster's Public Art Policy lays out the foundation for creating a critical and engaging Public Art Program. The goals of this Policy promote and encourage diverse

and inclusive opportunities that help animate the urban landscape, nurture civic dialogue and support the development and growth of the arts in the city.

The City of New Westminster is also embracing and prioritizing reconciliation with the local First Nations and the urban Indigenous communities, and the way forward is slowly taking shape. We recognize that public art is planned, developed and executed on the unceded territory of the Halkomelem speaking peoples and encourage approaches and artworks that are sensitive to this context and the ongoing impacts of colonialism.

ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

This is a two-phase process and will be undertaken by a Selection Panel comprised of artists, community members, arts professionals and one member from the PAAC (Public Art Advisory Committee).

Phase I - Expressions of Interest

The Artist Selection Panel will review all eligible Expressions of Interest submissions with the goal of shortlisting three candidates for further consideration. The Phase I submissions will only require a letter of interest, cv or résumé and examples of past work.

Phase II –Concept Proposal

Once identified, the shortlisted artists will be invited to prepare a concept proposal for presentation to the Selection Panel. Each completed and delivered Concept Proposal will receive a fee in the amount of \$1200.00. Shortlisted artists will be invited to make a presentation to the Selection Panel. These presentations will be reviewed and decisions made based on quality of the proposal, artistic merit, budget considerations and feasibility of the project. The Selection Panel reserves the right not to award the commission.

Proposals will consider (but are not limited to) questions such as:

- How can public art reexamine gathering places in a post-pandemic world?
- How have the past 18 months reshaped our experiences of the land and environment?
- How have the past 18 months changed our relationships with each other?
- How can public spaces be reconsidered to be more humane: inclusive, safe, accessible and sustainable?
- Have there been positive benefits resulting from the pandemic?

Artists are encouraged to explore and focus on the following City-owned spaces:

- Outdoor visible spaces where we gather, play, exercise or connect with nature such as parks, plazas, outdoor event venues;
- Common spaces such as sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, rest areas, bus stops.

Prior to concept development, a site meeting will be a required to learn about the contexts of each space. Subject matter experts will be available to help artists with approach and feasibility. Shortlisted artists are encouraged to identify multiple spaces in advance to ease the site selection process.

The selected artist will be required to sign a contract detailing scope of work, fees and responsibilities. A fully detailed Project Description will be required. The scope of work for the selected project will include all stages of the project from conception to completion.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Phase I - Expressions of Interest

All eligible submissions are reviewed by a selection panel who will assess the artist or artist teams based on how their submissions meet the following evaluation criteria:

A. Letter of interest:

- Why this opportunity appeals to the artist;
- How the artist's background and practice contribute to this project;
- Interest in or connection to New Westminster.

B. Résumé or CV/ Examples of past work:

- Demonstrated relevant experience;
- Demonstrated quality of past work.

Phase II – Concept Proposal (shortlisted artists only)

Artist or artist team proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Quality of response to context and opportunity;
- Feasibility of project (budget, timeline, site considerations).

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Please submit the following information in a single, multi-page document (PDF file named "**Artist-Initiated Public Art**" followed by the **Artist's Name**):

1. Letter of Interest (Max 1 page)

The Letter of Interest will outline who you are and your interest in this opportunity. Please include your background, connection to or interest in New Westminster and this project, qualifications and relevant experience. This is an opportunity for us to understand who you are, your art practice, previous relevant experience and interest in the project. Please do not submit a proposal at this stage.

2. CV or Résumé (Max 2 pages)

Include your cv or résumé summarizing your education, qualifications and previous experience along with current contact information such as email, telephone number and mailing address.

3. References

Provide a minimum of two references who can speak to the quality of your work and relevant experience. Please include name, address, email and telephone number for each person.

4. Images (Max 10)

Provide examples of relevant past work. Please include an annotated image list with dates and project details.

Submissions may be provided to the City either by email, uploaded to the City's FTP site or delivered in hard copy, on or before the deadline for submissions. Please submit all required information as follows:

- a) Email - PDF emailed submissions are preferred (the City will confirm receipt of emails). Please submit all required information in one (1) PDF file named "**Artist-Initiated Public Art**" followed by the **Artist Name** to publicart@newwestcity.ca. Note that the maximum file size the City can receive is 10Mb.
- b) Upload to FTP site: <https://fileshare.newwestcity.ca/filedrop/~eMrXGY>
- c) Hard Copy - Hard copy submissions consisting of a single, multi-page document can be delivered to the City in a sealed package addressed to:

Artist-Initiated Public Art

Attn: Quyen Hoang
C/O: Main Reception Desk
Anvil Centre, 777 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 1B6

Application deadline

Deadline to submit is **Friday, November 26, 2021**, 4:30 pm (PST). Please note that hard copy application packages will not be returned.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The anticipated schedule for selection of the artist(s) and completion of the project is outlined below. As the project progresses the dates are subject to change:

- Call Open.....October 8, 2021
- Submission Deadline Expressions of Interest.....November 26, 2021
- Shortlisted artists contacted.....December 3, 2021
- Orientation/Site meetings.....December 6-17, 2021
- Deadline for concept proposal submissions.....January 22, 2021
- Artist Interviews and Presentations.....February 5, 2021
- Artist Contracting.....March 2022
- Project Completion by.....March, 2023

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Contact Quyen Hoang, Public & Community Art Coordinator qhoang@newwestcity.ca or at 604.636.3553 for questions and support.