

Blackfoot Curator Indigenous public art

Call for curators

Who:

Curators from the Blackfoot and Blackfeet Nation interested in curating a travelling exhibit

What:

To curate an educational travelling exhibit for the City of Calgary public art collection

Where:

Hybrid work, in-person research and events as needed, regular meetings with City of Calgary public art staff

When:

Deadline to apply: July 10th, 8:00 am

Project start: July 26th, 2024

Project end March 31st, 2025

How much:

Curatorial fee of \$12,000 + 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 and others.



Figure 1 One Warrior, Gerald Tailfeathers, City of Calgary Public Art Collection



Request for qualifications
Date of issue: May 22nd, 2024
Submission deadline: 8:00 am, July 10th, 2024

About the project

The City of Calgary Public Art Program invites members of the Blackfoot Confederacy to apply to this opportunity. Individuals with curatorial experience are encouraged to apply. This opportunity is open to Blackfoot/Blackfeet curators. Individual artists or artist teams/collectives are eligible.

The Blackfoot curator will work closely with the Indigenous curator, public art conservator, public art liaison, and collections specialist to curate a Blackfoot-specific, loanable exhibit that will be available for communities and schools to host. The exhibit shall not exceed 12 artworks/art objects and have a minimum of 4 artworks/objects. The City of Calgary public art program will be purchasing the works with a separate budget. The selected curator will select the theme and recommend works to be purchased for the exhibit. The selected curator will also provide exhibit design, working with the public art team to make sure it is portable and protects the artworks on their travels. The curator will also provide curatorial writing to accompany, and work with the public art team to create labels. The Curator will not curate their own art into the exhibit.

Goals

This project will:

- Support the presence of Blackfoot artwork in schools and communities
- Engage with Blackfoot/Blackfeet 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.

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

The budget does not include artwork purchases, mounting, framing, travel cases and other exhibit hardware. This is covered separately by the city.

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

Questions and clarifications

Submit all questions in writing to indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca prior to 4:00 p.m. MST on July 5th, 2024



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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.

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

How to submit

- Email indigenoupublicart@calgary.ca and attach all the required documents.
- Email subject line should include: Blackfoot 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 panel consisting of three - five city representatives and is stewarded by City business unit representative. A member of the curatorial panel may be on the selection panel.

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.



Figure 2 This is My Mother's Hands, Joanne Cardinal Schubert, 1987, City of Calgary Public Art Collection

Evaluation criteria (100 points)

A. Understanding of the project: (25 points)

- Why this opportunity appeals to the curator.
- How the curator's knowledge of art and Blackfoot 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 excellent 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 artistic excellence in project management through past projects.
- Demonstrated flexibility of practice and responsiveness to contextual opportunities.

D. Public art & community experience:

- (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 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 Piikani, Siksika, Kainai, and Amskaapi'pikuni who can speak to your connection and presence in community.



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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:

- 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 Artist Agreement which includes Artist 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.

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.

For more information visit calgary.ca/indigenouspublicart



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'kinstis. 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 Blackfoot 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 districts 5 & 6. 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'kinstis 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