

Blackfoot Curator Indigenous public art

Call for curators

Who:

Curators from the Blackfoot Confederacy
Nations interested in curating a travelling exhibit

What:

Curate an Blackfoot 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: April 18th, 2025, 4:30 pm
Project start: May 19th, 2025
Project end December 31st, 2025

How much:

Curatorial fee of \$12,000 + GST total



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

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: December 2nd, 2024
Submission deadline: 4:30 pm, April 18th, 2025

About the project

The City of Calgary Public Art Program invites members of the Blackfoot Confederacy to apply to this curatorial 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 selected curator/curatorial team 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 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 create an exhibit that is portable and ensure the 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 April 11th, 2025

Goals

This project will:

- Create opportunities for schools and communities to learn about and connect with Blackfoot culture through art
- 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. This does NOT include an 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.



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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 and is stewarded by a City business unit representative. A member of the Curatorial Panel, an Indigenous member of the public, and city representatives 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: (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 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 additional 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.