

# Call for Artists

## Indigenous Art Mural at the RBC Convention Centre

**Call to Artists: Open Call for Expressions of Interest and Qualifications**

**Deadline: July 26, 2024**

**Fee for Selected Final Artist (Stage 2) \$12,000**

**Implementation Budget \$55,000 - \$70,000**

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Downtown Winnipeg BIZ and the RBC Convention Centre are seeking to commission a new site-specific mural along an exterior wall of the RBC Convention Centre. This call is for Indigenous artists who demonstrate a strong connection to the community of Winnipeg and Treaty One Territory. Eligible Indigenous artists, including emerging and youth artists, are invited to submit expressions of interest and qualifications for this call.

The commissioned artist will be selected through an open, two-stage process. In Stage One, artists will be shortlisted based on their qualifications. In Stage Two, the shortlisted artists will create detailed proposals based on conversations and feedback from the Selection Committee.

### ARTWORK LOCATION

The artwork will be displayed on 4 wall panels totalling approximately 270 feet long by 10 feet high, located along St. Mary Avenue between Carlton Street and Edmonton Street. Exact measurements for the panels will be provided in Stage 2. The panel surface is made of highly textured concrete. The project aims to celebrate Indigeneity, inclusivity, and diversity, transforming the space into a vibrant piece of public art.



## OBJECTIVE

The objective is to create public art that supports Indigenous expression, embodies Indigenous joy and celebrates diverse Indigeneity at this prominent gathering place in downtown Winnipeg. The installation aims to:

- Celebrate different Indigenous Cultures (Dene, Cree, Metis, Inuit, Ojibwe, Anishinew, Dakota)
- Follow a theme of Indigenous Joy and Lateral Love
- Highlight the lands of Treaty One from the Red River to the Prairie Lands
- Enhance the downtown Winnipeg streetscape
- Empower Indigenous voices through unity and inclusion
- Promote community, collaboration, and teamwork

## ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE

### Stage One

- July 2024: Call to artists is issued

### Stage Two

- Beginning of August 2024: Shortlisted artists identified; shortlisted artists develop detailed proposals
- End of August 2024: Proposals due from shortlisted artists
- Beginning of September 2024: Final artist selected, artist agreement signed
- September to October 2024: Mural production
- October 2024: Mural unveiling

This project has a tight turnaround time to allow for 2024 installation and will require the shortlisted and selected artist/artist team to complete the proposals and project components within the above timeline. Install of the artwork is contingent on funding.

## STAGE ONE

### ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This Call for Expressions of Interest and Qualifications is open to all Indigenous artists and Artist-led Indigenous teams, including emerging and youth artists, who have a demonstrated connection to the community of Winnipeg. Artist-led Indigenous teams are welcome to apply but must share the total artist fee. Artists of all ages including youth are encouraged to submit applications. It is our goal to provide mentorship opportunities through this project.

## APPLICATION FORMAT

Artist-led teams are invited to respond to this Call for Expressions of Interest and Qualifications by submitting a single PDF document. This PDF document must be labelled with the artist's name and project title (LastName\_FirstName\_RBC Convention Centre Mural).

Each PDF document must include the following:

- **Letter of Intent:** Maximum 2 pages (12-point font). Outline of who you are, your artistic experience, ability, approach, and interest in this project, site, and community. Highlight relevant experience and themes.
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Detail professional experience as an artist, past public art experience, and other relevant information. If applying as a team, provide one CV per team member.
- **Connection to Local Communities:** Maximum 1 page (12-point font). Include detailed ways you are connected to the local communities of Winnipeg and the surrounding area.
- **Examples of Previous Work:** Minimum of 5, maximum of 10 images of previous work. This can be any artwork that you believe is relevant to the submission. Provide a title and brief description of each work. If applying as a team, submit a total maximum of 10 images.
- **Self Identification:** Please provide a statement of self identification of Indigenous ancestry. If applying as a team, please provide self identification for all team members. If short listed, you may be asked to provide documentation to support this.
- **References:** Names and contact information (current email and phone number) for two references who can speak to your artistic experience.

## Notes for Artists

- Implementation of the project is dependent on funding.
- Indigenous individuals will be part of the selection committee to ensure the authenticity and cultural integrity of the project.
- Artists may be required to provide proof of Indigenous ancestry

**Artwork proposals are not requested at this time. Only shortlisted artists will be asked to provide a proposal for the space.**

## Community and Collaboration

Our goal is to foster a warm, inclusive atmosphere and celebrate the rich diversity within Indigenous cultures here in Winnipeg. We are transparent about promoting community, collaboration, and teamwork throughout the project. We encourage artists to apply as teams and will also have mentorship support from a local Artist for applicants who seek additional supports.

## SELECTION PROCESS

### Stage One: Open Call for Expressions of Interest and Qualifications

Shortlisted artists and artist-led teams will be selected based on qualifications demonstrated in their submitted applications. Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Panel on the basis of:

- Previous artistic excellence demonstrated through previous samples of work
- Sensitivity to the project and the site
- Connection to the local community
- Demonstrated ability to successfully execute a project of this scale under the criteria developed and within the budget and timeline set out
- Experience with and expressed desire to create artwork for and in the public realm
- Assessment and review of references

The Selection Panel will recommend a shortlist of up to three (3) artists to move to Stage 2.

## APPLICATION DELIVERY AND DEADLINE

**Submissions must be received by July 26, 2024, at 11:59 PM CST.** Incomplete and/or late applications will not be accepted. Applications must be submitted digitally via email.

Please send your submissions to [Ramy@downtownwinnipegbiz.com](mailto:Ramy@downtownwinnipegbiz.com). Final submissions must not exceed 10 MB in total size.

For questions and requests for clarification, please contact Ramy Penner at [Ramy@downtownwinnipegbiz.com](mailto:Ramy@downtownwinnipegbiz.com). The final date for questions is July 19, at 2pm. All questions and answers regarding project specifics will be posted in the form of an addendum on the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ's website at <https://downtownwinnipegbiz.com/call-for-artists-indigenous-art-mural-at-the-rbc-convention-centre/>. A virtual public session addressing all addendums will be held on July 22 at 4:30pm and the recording will be uploaded to <https://downtownwinnipegbiz.com/call-for-artists-indigenous-art-mural-at-the-rbc-convention-centre/> following the session.

Applicants should identify if they require accommodation during the application process on a confidential basis. Applicants who need additional support should contact Ramy Penner by July 19, 2024. We can provide this Call to Artist and any addendums in an alternate format upon request. We will accommodate alternate submission formats upon request.

This call for artists represents a unique chance to contribute to the cultural and aesthetic landscape of downtown Winnipeg. We look forward to your submissions and

the opportunity to celebrate Indigenous expression through this significant art installation.

## **FUTURE PROJECT PHASE - STAGE TWO**

The Selection Committee will review all applications and select up to three (3) artists / artist-led teams to be shortlisted and paid \$2,500 each (inclusive of taxes and other expenses) to work with the Selection Committee to produce a proposal.

Shortlisted artists will be given detailed project information including deadlines, dates, and site locations. All shortlisted artists will be responsible for performing a site visit. Each artist/artist-led team will create a detailed proposal including a written artist statement, a project budget, production and installation plan, etc. Further details and deliverables will be provided at the outset of Stage 2 and will include mentorship for emerging and youth artists.

The final artist/artist-led team selected by the Selection Panel as the competition winner and approved by the RBC Convention Center, will enter into a contract with the RBC Convention Center to create the final public artwork. The final selected artist will be paid an artist fee of \$12,000.

Implementation of Stage Two the project is dependent on funding.