



expression of **interest**

Call for Canadian Aboriginal Artists

Edmonton's Aboriginal Art Park

The Aboriginal Art Park Public Art Call is open to all Aboriginal artists and artist teams residing in Canada, and is held in accordance with the City of Edmonton policy "Percent for Art to Provide and Encourage Art in Public Areas" (C458C). Artworks will in some way 'tell the stories of this place' and respond to the land within the Aboriginal Art Park and/or the land in the Region through an engaged process with Edmonton's urban Aboriginal communities, Treaty No. 6 First Nations, Métis local knowledge holders, and/or Elders.

This Expression of Interest includes a two-stage selection process. Shortlisted artists will participate in a site visit and workshop with Curator Candice Hopkins, prior to preparing full proposals.

There are a total of (six) opportunities listed in this call.

Total Budget for (six) opportunities: \$476,000 CAD (maximum, all inclusive) See page 3.

Deadline for Submissions: 4:30 pm Monday, September 28, 2015

Site Visit/Workshop for shortlisted artists: October 31 –November 1, 2015

Artists Awarded Contracts: February 2016

All Art Installations: Fall 2017

Notes from the session will be available online afterwards at
<http://publicart.edmontonarts.ca/calls/>

For more information, contact the Edmonton Arts Council: phone (780) 424-2787 ext. 229
or email: dsaunders-dahl@edmontonarts.ca

We thank all artists for contributing their time and professional work for their initial Expression of Interest.

Aboriginal Art Park Public Art Project

About Edmonton

Located on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, Edmonton, Alberta is known as “Festival City” and “Gateway to the North.” With more than one million people living in the Greater Edmonton region, the city is the largest, northernmost municipality in North America. Geographically, Edmonton is situated at the boundary between prairie and boreal forest. The river valley constitutes the longest stretch of connected urban parkland in North America.

Edmonton is home to Canada’s second-largest urban Aboriginal community. The City of Edmonton lies in the heart of Treaty No. 6 territory and honours the traditions and spirit of the area. For centuries this area has been a place of gathering, relationship building, harmony, balance, and commerce for many peoples. It was in this place that early relationships led to the development of Treaty No. 6 Territory, the Province of Alberta, and the City of Edmonton. This relationship with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations has been recognized by the City of Edmonton through City Council’s Declaration-Strengthening Relationships between the City of Edmonton and Urban Aboriginal Peoples, the Edmonton Urban Aboriginal Accord, and the Memorandum of Cooperation and Dialogue signed in 2012.

Since the 1800s Edmonton has been home to the Métis people who were some of the first settlers in the Edmonton area and played a significant role in its development. The Métis peoples continue to be the largest proportion of the Aboriginal population in Edmonton.

This deep history, and the subsequent migration of many new Canadians to the area, imbues Edmonton with a rich cultural and ethnic heritage. This diversity contributes to a dynamic urban landscape alive with arts and culture, business, research and development, and industry. Indicators for the next twelve years point to steady economic and population growth. As Edmonton’s economy flourishes, so does the spirit of revitalization. Edmonton is undergoing an unprecedented amount of growth including downtown development, transportation and new neighborhoods and park improvements. These capital projects contribute to the growth of Edmonton’s Public Art Collection through the City’s “Percent for Art to Provide and Encourage Art in Public Areas” policy. With more than 200 pieces, the Collection includes visual art from a variety of disciplines by local, national and international artists.

About the Aboriginal Art Park Site

Queen Elizabeth Park has been identified as an ideal location for one of Edmonton’s designated Public Art Parks, specifically its first curated Aboriginal Art Park. The Aboriginal Art Park will be situated in the upper south end of Queen Elizabeth park. Set within a stand of mature trees and rolling grass, the site is quietly cradled on a beautiful promontory overlooking the rest of the park, with majestic views over the North Saskatchewan River, across the Waltherdale Bridge, to the Rosedale Flats and finally to Downtown Edmonton. Elders have said that this is a significant location to all Aboriginal peoples, and holds much spiritual power. For generations, First Peoples and then traders would meet in this area to commune, rest, share stories and trade goods.

“The profound legacy left by our Kôhkominawak (our Grandmothers) and Kimosôminawak (our Grandfathers) is one of the sacred areas used to cross Kisiskâcêwansîpî (Saskatchewan River), where many ceremonies and rituals took place before crossing this majestic sanctuary. Our original peoples of this area held sacred knowledge that gave them a close Spiritual relationship with our Mother Earth deity. She called the sacred river, as with all water of the Earth, Her own breast milk, nurturing all of humanity.”

– Elder Jerry Saddleback

Ceremonies for the Aboriginal Art Park*

It was very important for the Committee for the Aboriginal Art Park to begin with Ceremony. Prior to the Visioning Workshop held in 2013, Elder Jerry Saddleback was asked for his advice and to do the Pipe Ceremony for the Park. Elder Saddleback explained that the Pipe Ceremony not only gives us the opportunity to speak to the Creator (K'se Manito), it also gives us the opportunity to address all of His creation and deities. We introduce who we are and what we are doing, we ask humbly for help and guidance to do what is good and right for the people. We ask humbly His blessings. We pray to the Creator and we pray to Mother Earth and all that exists on Her, we acknowledge Her compassion and kindness to us. We turn the Pipe to all the deities who use a bit of their godly power to contribute all that exists on the Earth, from the wildrose to the bee that pollinates it, from the water to the rocks, to the ground to the sky and into the Universe. The doors are open to fill the Aboriginal Art Park with Life and Art and People.

*Elder Saddleback performed a "completed blessing" for the Aboriginal Art Park and its entire development in September 2013.

A pipe ceremony led by Elder Harry Watchmaker with Elders Francis Whiskeyjack and Jerry Saddleback was held to start the workshop in 2013.

Aboriginal Art Park Public Art Opportunities

The Edmonton Arts Council seeks Canadian Aboriginal artists or artist teams to integrate site-specific, place-making public art at the Aboriginal Art Park. Artists may be senior, mid-career or emerging artists.

The vision for the Aboriginal Art Park is community based and inclusive. The Park will become the home for high quality, permanent public artworks that reflect "the stories of this place" in a culturally appropriate manner. Artists will engage with Edmonton's Aboriginal communities in the development of their projects. Artworks must in some way reflect Treaty No. 6 First Nations and Métis past or current histories and stories of this place and land. Artworks of diverse mediums as well as contemporary and customary (traditional) disciplines will be considered.

There are six (6) opportunities for local, regional and national artists. The budget for each commission will be broken down as follows:

- One each of \$150,000 and \$150,000 appropriate for senior level artists;
- One each of \$60,000 and \$60,000 appropriate for mid career artists;
- One each of \$28,000 and \$28,000 appropriate for emerging artists.
- Artists should qualify their career stage in their EOI and through their CV;
- Note that up to \$12,000 per each commission for foundation, piles or footings will be carried by the construction project in addition to the budgets defined.

Final installed Artworks will become part of the City of Edmonton's permanent Public Art Collection.

Community Engagement

There are several First Nations cultural groups in Treaty No. 6 territory: Saulteaux (Anishnaabe, Ojibway), Dene, Cree and Nakoda-Sioux. The Alberta Métis Nation also calls this area home.

Shortlisted artists will have a first opportunity to interact with local Elders and knowledge holders from local Treaty No. 6 First Nations and local Métis at the site visit/workshop facilitated by curator Candice Hopkins. Once selected, successful Artists will consult and engage with Edmonton's Aboriginal communities as a critical part of the development of their artwork for the Aboriginal Art Park. Resources and assistance will be made available to artists throughout this process to ensure it is respectful, and inclusive.

Art Zones (see sketch on page 10)

Seven potential artwork zones have been identified – renderings and descriptions are provided below. Each provides a significant opportunity for public art installations that respond to and compliment the park in its river valley setting. Artists should indicate a preliminary preference for zones in their EOI, yet understand that the workshop will help clarify zones for shortlisted artists and that the Curator will reserve the option to refine locations, groupings or relationships between the final artworks and the Park.

Note:

- All Zones are home to an active wildlife habitat.
- Future plans for the park include a pedestrian multi-use bridge and look out area on the north side of the art park. See map on page 9.
- Trees marked in red on the sketch on page 10 will be girdled for removal prior to artwork installations.

Public Art Zone A

Zone A is located at the eastern entrance of the site and is framed by the multi-use trail on its southern edge and bushy slope to the north. This zone is the first location seen driving down Queen Elizabeth Road toward Walterdale Bridge and also when entering the park from the multi-purpose trail that runs along the north edge of the site. It is a small site with some grades, and a flat area above the bush. There are 3 mature cedar trees located close to Queen Elizabeth Road.

Public Art Zone B

Zone B is located along the north side of the multi-purpose trail that leads to Kinsmen Park. It is situated directly across from the parking lot area, bus loop and shelter at the southernmost entrance to the park. This area is long, narrow, flat, and high with clear views to the river valley and downtown core.

Public Art Zone C

Zone C is an open spot on a grade that slopes to a mounded area. This location has unobstructed access to the southern multi-purpose trail. Its location near the centre of the site affords excellent views across the parksite and toward the downtown core.

Public Art Zone D

Zone D is the second largest zone and is relatively flat with mature spruce trees. Entry is from from the west by the southern multi-purpose trail leading from Kinsmen Park and Walterdale Bridge. It also has direct access along the northern pathway around the parksite. The site is in a quiet, peaceful area of the park and is sheltered from the elements. This area is set away both from Queen Elizabeth Road and the parking lot.

Public Art Zone E

Zone E is the largest and most open site. It overlooks the downtown core and is close to the future lookout and entrance to a planned pedestrian overpass that will span the roadway below and connect the Aboriginal Art Park to the rest of Queen Elizabeth Park. This zone is in the centre of the park and contains a small gully with rolling mounds that makes the area feel higher. While you can see all the other sites from this zone, the natural inclination is to look north towards the river valley and city views.

Public Art Zone F

Zone F has a large mound with a small gully and rolls in the land, located in the northern pathway to the east, closer to Queen Elizabeth Road. Running along the northern pathway in the park, the site has great visibility and is fringed by trees and undergrowth.

Public Art Zone G

Zone G is a long and narrow area that runs along the eastern edge of the park and follows the slope of Queen Elizabeth road as it descends toward the Walerdale Bridge. It also forms the north boundary of the park site. It is most visible to northbound road traffic. Overall the zone is adjacent to the easement of the road and is on the road side of the northern pathway. It is lower in elevation than the other zones due to its connection to the road. The southern portion is steep. Note: there is some potential for ice, snow, salt build up from winter road maintenance along the outer limits of this zone. Spots away from the road edge offer highly visible art locations.

Artwork Design Parameters: Installation/Artwork(s)

- Does not pose a risk of injury to the public (example: sharp points, trip or slip hazards, etc.);
- Meets fire codes with respect to flammability, and will be vandal resistant as applicable;
- Meets Alberta building code standards, if applicable;
- Will not interfere with the operation and serviceability of the area;
- Must be constructed of durable, permanent materials; landworks and plant art forms, if incorporated, must use perennial vegetation that is native to Edmonton and be designed to survive Edmonton's climate. Invasive species will not be permitted.
- Must be designed to be accessible for maintenance; landworks and plant art forms must be maintainable.
- Must have no adverse impact to the trees.
- Must not significantly impact drainage patterns. If artworks have potential to in any way impact drainage this shall be addressed in design consultation with the City and Project Team.
- Height of artworks must not exceed half the height of the tree canopy.
- Lighting: Sites will not be provided with electrical servicing. Solar or self-generating sources of energy are permitted, provided illumination is low and consider the park is a wildlife corridor. Avoid upward lighting and glare; neon lights are not permitted.
- Artists wishing to use sound should take the park's status as a wildlife corridor into consideration. Sounds shall not be greater than 50dB.

Artwork Permanence

The EAC will provide a preliminary conservation review to shortlisted proposals for permanence of materials and construction methods in order to proactively address any maintenance and conservation concerns. Because the Edmonton Public Art Collection is located in the public realm, it is important that durable materials are used. Artwork proposals should take into consideration the location in which they will be sited. Factors can include (but are not limited to) repeated weather changes and climactic cycles, sunlight exposure, physical environment risks, and countless audience interactions. The EAC Public Art Conservation program supports the artistic process while ensuring that all commissioned artworks are high quality, durable, and maintainable. For additional resources, please go to http://publicart.edmontonarts.ca/public_art_-_about_public_art/public_art_guide_for_artists/ and http://publicart.edmontonarts.ca/public_art_programs_-_conservation/

Selection Process:

The artworks will be chosen through a two-stage Artwork selection process including site visit/workshop:

First stage

- A Selection Committee will shortlist (up to 18) artists from the Expression of Interest applications.

Site visit and workshop

- Shortlisted artists will participate in a site visit and workshop to gain familiarity with Edmonton, the Art Park site, local Aboriginal history, culture and stories. Artists will meet and interact with local Elders and knowledge holders from Treaty No. 6 First Nations and Métis communities residing in Edmonton. The workshop will provide some context from which artists will develop their detailed proposals.
- Artists will receive a \$1500 maquette and site visit/workshop fee to produce their art proposal, plus a maximum of \$1000 per artist for travel and accommodation expenses. Receipts must be provided.

Second stage

- A Selection Committee will select six (6) artists based on full and final artwork proposals including a maquette from each short-listed applicant.

The Selection Committee will include representatives from the project team, local artists, Aboriginal peoples, local Elders and/or knowledge holders and the Curator. The Selection Committee is under no obligation to choose any finalists. All decisions of the Selection Committee are final. The City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Arts Council reserve the rights to revoke the public art call and/or public art project.

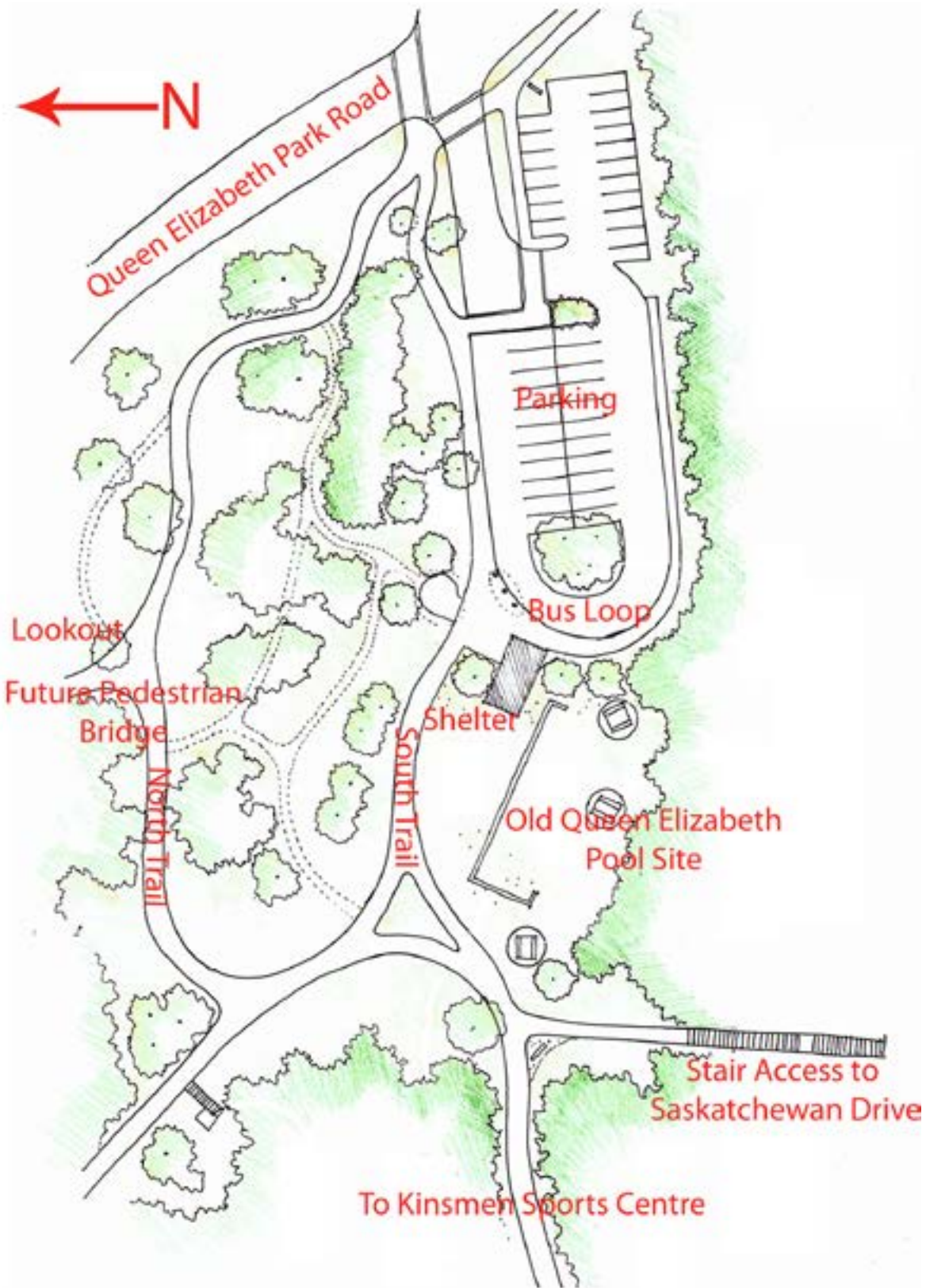
Communication with the Selection Committee:

The Edmonton Arts Council will be responsible for all communication, either verbal or in writing, between the Artist and members of the Selection Committee. Any direct communication between the Artist and Selection Committee members regarding submissions or the competition may result in disqualification.



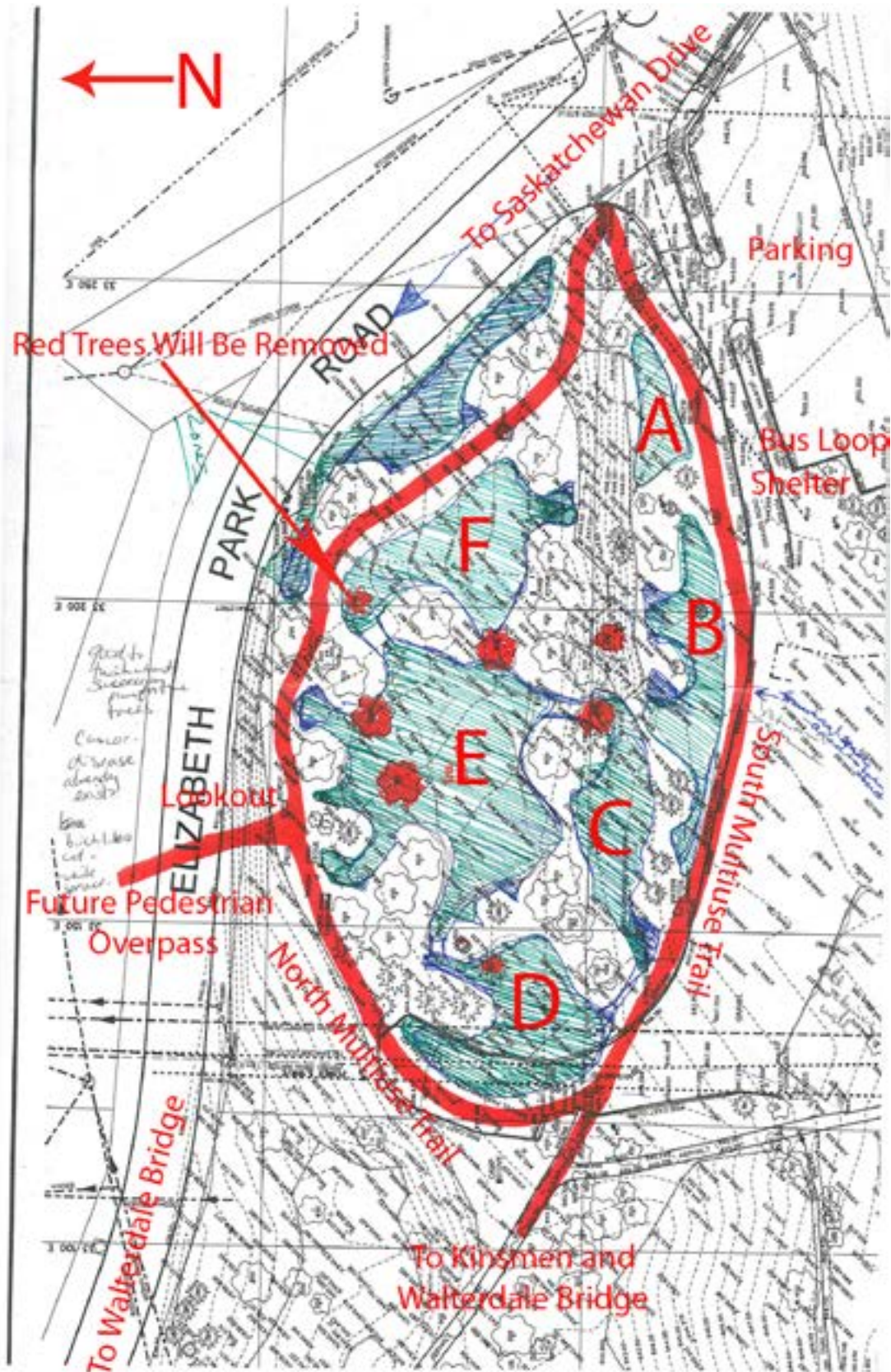
Aboriginal Art Park Within the Queen Elizabeth Park Master Plan





Preliminary Sketch of Current Proposed Park

Note: Pathways may change based on artwork locations



Preliminary Sketch of Artwork Zones

Artworks may share zones and can cross into other zones





**Facing North From
Multiuse Pathway**



Facing West From Multiuse Pathway

Queen Elizabeth Park General Views

Terms of Competition

Submission Requirements:

Please send all materials as separate files on a CD. Applications will not be accepted by fax or email. **Incomplete applications will not be accepted.** Artists must submit the following in order to qualify for consideration in the competition:

- Please send all written materials identified as separate files on a CD, and as hardcopies on 8.5 x 11 letter size paper. Do not bind, staple applications, or use plastic cover sheets.
- Each section should be on a separate sheet, one sided.
- Artists must submit the following, prepared as as described below, in order to qualify for consideration in the competition.
- Additional materials will not be reviewed.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. SUBMISSION FORM | Complete and signed with contact information; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST | Two page maximum:
- Describe and explain your interest in this project.
- Describe your preliminary concept for an artwork, including how your concept will relate to the site, what materials you envision using, the genre of expression you are considering. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | One page maximum:
- Describe your preliminary ideas for engaging with Edmonton's Aboriginal Communities in the development of your artwork. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. ARTIST STATEMENT & BIO | One page maximum:
- Describe what inspires your artwork processes, the materials and methods you use, your background, and other information that pertains to your art practice. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. RESUME/CURRICULUM VITAE: | Three page maximum:
- Detail your experience as an artist, prior public art experience and / or other relevant information; max 3 pages. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. VISUAL DOCUMENTATION | Maximum of 10:
- Images of previous public artworks or artworks which best illustrate a body of artwork related to the project. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. DOCUMENTATION LIST: | Three page maximum:
- Clearly list each jpeg image to correspond with the order of the image list.
- Include title, date, medium, size, and a brief description of the work.
- For public artworks include the commissioning agent and budget. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. REFERENCES | Minimum of two from:
- Public art commissioning agents, clients and/or consultants, OR if you are an emerging artist: instructors, curators, and/or other artists who can attest to the quality of your artworks and/or community engagement.
- Please provide references' current contact information only. Reference letters will not be reviewed. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. RETURN POSTAGE | Enclose a self addressed and stamped envelope with adequate postage if you do not want your application retained as part of the Edmonton Public Art database. |

Criteria for Shortlist:

At the first stage application review, the Selection Committee will consider artist applications that demonstrate past experience with:

1. Approach to art concept as written in Expression of Interest.
2. Approach to community engagement.

As well as artists' plans for one or more of the following four criteria:

3. Public art, installation art, sculpture, gallery exhibitions and/or community engagement projects.
4. Art made for exterior locations.
5. Collaboration with design teams, project consultants, engineers and/or construction teams.
6. Quality of past artworks as demonstrated in visual documentation.

Loss or Damage: While every precaution will be taken to prevent loss or damage, the jury, the Edmonton Arts Council and their agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.

Commission: The total budgets for the commission for six individual artworks is **\$150,000, \$150,000, \$60,000, \$60,000, \$28,000 and \$28,000 CAD (including GST)** and must cover all costs associated with the design, fabrication, and installation for relevant site locations of the artwork including but not limited to artist fees, materials, insurance, etc.

Original Work: The artist must guarantee that the artwork is original and does not violate the copyright of any other person.

Contract: The artist(s) will enter into a contract with the Edmonton Arts Council and the City of Edmonton.

Copyright: The copyright of the artwork shall be and remain with the artist. Reproduction rights may be negotiated. The artist may retain the right to be identified as the creator of the artwork. The City of Edmonton will not alter the artwork for purposes of maintenance, conservation, etc. without prior consultation with the artist. The City of Edmonton reserves the right to move or de-accession the artwork if necessary and will make every effort to notify the artist.

Submission Form - Aboriginal Art Park

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Province: _____

Postal Code/Country: _____

Phone (home): _____

Phone (alternative): _____

Email Address: _____

Website (if applicable): _____

Please retain my application as part of the Edmonton Public Art artist database at the Edmonton Arts Council.

(Check one.) YES NO

How did you hear about this Call to Artists? EAC Weekly EAC Monthly Art Rubicon Akimbo

Other: _____

I, _____ (PRINT NAME) hereby make a Submission for the Aboriginal Art Park and am in agreement with the Terms of Competition as outlined in the Information Package.

Applicant Signature _____

Date _____

Enclosures

Please ensure that your submission follows the requirements stipulated on page 13. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please do not bind, staple and part of the application, or use plastic cover sheets. Each section should be on a separate sheet, one sided, Failure to comply may result in your application being rejected.

Check List – Include all of the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. SUBMISSION FORM | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. VISUAL DOCUMENTATION OF PREVIOUS WORK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. VISUAL DOCUMENTATION LIST |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. RETURN POSTAGE (Only if application not retained for database) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. ARTIST STATEMENT & BIO | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. CURRICULUM VITAE / RESUME | |

Deliver To: Aboriginal Art Park Public Art Project c/o Edmonton Arts Council

10440-108 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5H 3Z9

Deadline: Received in office no later than 4:30 pm Monday, September 28, 2015.

The information on this application is being collected under the authority of Section 33(c) of the FOIP Act and will be used by the Edmonton Arts Council to determine eligibility for Edmonton Arts Council Public Art programs. The aggregate data may be used for program planning and evaluation. All information collected by the Edmonton Arts Council is protected by the provisions of the FOIP Act. You may direct questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information by this program to the Edmonton Arts Council at (780) 424-2787.