



DRAFT CITY OF NANAIMO CULTURE & EVENTS PUBLIC ART

TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART PROGRAM 2021 - 2022 CALL FOR ARTISTS



ISSUE DATE: <Month xx>, 2021

DEADLINE: Midnight Pacific Time,
<Month xx>, 2021

The City of Nanaimo is seeking proposals for Temporary Public Art to be initiated in 2021, and realized in 2022.

The Temporary Public Art Program offers artists of diverse backgrounds and skill sets the opportunity to create original public artwork for public spaces in Nanaimo. Artists can propose artworks that vary in scale, scope, and medium, including temporary sculptural installations, social practice and community-engaged artist projects and artwork that is integrated into landscape, architecture or civic infrastructure. The City of Nanaimo's Temporary Public Art Program supports artists in the creation of new works, by providing necessary resources and staff support through the course of project development and realization.

Please note that the process for applying to this program has changed, and will now take place in two stages. Initial applications require a statement of interest, resume and images of previous work. A shortlist of candidates will be selected for a second stage, and a full proposal.

Proposed projects should be able to be realized in 2022 and made available and able to endure for a period of 2-5 years. Locations throughout the City may be considered for Public Art. Selected artists will receive a fee of \$7,500 for the design and implementation of a project, and may propose expenses toward the production or realization of their project up to \$5,000.

What is Public Art?

Situated at the intersection of public life, cultural ideas and the social conditions of our time, art in public places takes on many forms. A project could:

- unfold as a long-term intervention into a civic process
- be the result of a community workshop or other opportunities to learn and be involved in creative work
- take the form of a sculpture
- offer a design to cover a surface
- include programmable spaces like video screens
- result in the design of new community spaces

Public art is always evolving in shape, size, medium and duration, and while there is no one medium, it shares the common condition that it is a cultural expression that is accessible in a public space or place.

A goal of public art is the enhancement of community life, and place-making. Often, public artworks celebrate or critically reflect on a location's unique attributes, such as the histories, traditions, values and aspirations of a place and the people who live there. Made by artists, or by community members through artist-led processes, it is a cultural contribution that fuels imagination, sparks curiosity and critical thinking, and offers a unique reflection of place, contributing to character and shared sense of identity.

About the Temporary Public Art Program

Background

Over the past decade the City of Nanaimo has invited artists to exhibit sculptural works, primarily in Maffeo Sutton Park and along the waterfront walkway, on an annual basis through open calls for Temporary Public Art. This program continues to evolve as a longstanding commitment by the City of Nanaimo to integrate artwork into public spaces including parks and other relevant locations. Responding to growth and change in the sector, in 2021 the program is now ready to expand to new spaces and pursue art in public spaces that can endure for a longer period of time.

Past projects have included temporary works such as:



Jason Gress, The Frame, 2012



Deryk and Samuel Houston, Driftwood Nests, 2018



Victoria Drakeford, The Portal, 2018



Dan Richey, Dungeness Crab, 2015

Objectives of the Temporary Art in Public Spaces Program

- To encourage the creation of publicly accessible artwork that has artistic merit and community benefit;
- To foster community pride, identity and creativity;
- To support artists in producing public art;
- To reflect the diversity, needs, and ambitions of the cultural community

Eligibility

Who can apply?

The Call is open to all artists, working individually or in collaboration, and especially encourages applications from those who may face barriers of accessibility, gender identity/expression, or racial identity. For the purposes of this call, the definition of an artist is a professional who:

- has completed basic training in art or an apprenticeship with an accomplished practitioner in the field, or
- maintains an artistic practice and has publicly shared an independent body of their work for at least two years, or
- is recognized as an artist by peers within their community

You do not have to be a resident of Nanaimo, but you must have significant experience with and relationship to this place.

Partnerships are also encouraged and welcomed between artists and Non-profit Arts Groups, businesses, Community Service Groups, Community Associations, Multicultural Societies, and Historic Societies. However, please note that preference will be given to individual artists.

Who cannot apply?

For-profit entities.

What types of projects are eligible?

Artists can propose artworks that vary in scale, scope, and medium, including performative and temporary artworks. Public art projects need to be freely accessible to the public, be it a temporary event or a sculptural installation.

Artists who would like to propose functional art such as benches or bike racks; streetscape improvements to infrastructure such as sidewalks or plaza surfaces, or adornments to public utilities may apply to the URBAN DESIGN ROSTER. Artists may participate in both programs, but must submit separate applications.

Artwork Locations

Nanaimo is located on the traditional and ancestral territories of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. We acknowledge the role that culture and public art plays in contributing to a wider awareness and understanding of working on the ancestral homelands of the Snuneymuxw. The City of Nanaimo is committed to supporting artworks that increase the visibility of the Snuneymuxw First Nation on the land.

Artists should propose sites of interest for their project. If selected, shortlisted artists will work to confirm a site during a Concept Development and Design stage. Potential locations for site-specific works on city-owned properties could include plazas, greenways, community centres and civic infrastructure. Other public sites like libraries will also be considered. In rare cases, privately owned sites may be considered if they are publicly accessible and an agreement with the owner can be reached.

Proposed sites that are of significance to the local First Nations will be reviewed in dialogue with Snuneymuxw First Nations, and subject to their approval.

If you have questions about a location, you can talk to City of Nanaimo Culture & Events Staff by emailing cultureandevents@nanaimo.ca. If you have an idea for a piece that doesn't have a location in mind, you can apply with the idea and subsequently work with the City of Nanaimo to find a suitable place.

Timeline

Anticipated Schedule

- RFQ / Call for Artists: <June 2021 >
- Artist information session: <June xx 2021 - by ZOOM>
- Submission deadline: <July > <TIME> pm PDT>
- Shortlist announced: Week of <DATE>
- Concept proposals due: Week of <DATE>
- Final selections announced: November 2021

How to Apply

During this process, all proposals will be evaluated by a Selection Panel of City of Nanaimo Staff and members of the Public Art Working Group, and may also involve members of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. There are two stages in the process. Following the first stage, shortlisted artists will be invited to further develop Concept Proposals.

STAGE 1 – Submission of Interest

Requirements:

1. A statement about your approach to this opportunity, how you see the work situated, and how this idea relates to your practice. (1 to 2 pages maximum)
2. Up to 15 images, or up to 15 pages of materials in PDF or paper form. You may include up to 2 videos that offer context or are indicative of previous work. Supporting materials must have a corresponding descriptive listing, such as an image list.
3. A resume for all artists/lead collaborators who will be undertaking the project.
4. A brief summary of your approach to this opportunity. (25 word maximum)

At this stage in the application, artists should offer an idea for a new public artwork.

When considering how to propose a new commission, the emphasis is on **a statement of intention** about a project. It is expected that the work has not already been made, but will rather be developed through this process. The Selection Panel will review preliminary concepts, which can be accompanied by a preliminary set of drawings or may also or instead be accompanied by examples of previous artwork that demonstrate your abilities as an artist, and your approach.

STAGE 2 – Full Proposals by Shortlisted Candidates

The second stage of the selection process will include the announcement of a shortlist. Shortlisted artists will be invited to submit further details about the proposed projects. A meeting will be held during which each shortlisted artist will discuss their proposal, and Staff will provide feedback from the Selection Panel, and offer specific questions for final development of the Concept Proposal. Examples of project areas that may need to be evolved may include but is not limited to: the establishment of a prospective timeline; research on the durability and availability of proposed materials; any community consultation

that will need to occur; establishing a confirmed project budget, determining a suitable site in consultation with City. Shortlisted artists will then have a period of time to further evolve a Concept Proposal.

Criteria for Selection

Proposals are reviewed by the Selection Panel based on the following criteria (order listed does not indicate the order of importance):

- Strength and creativity of past work
- Demonstrated ability to produce and present work
- Feasibility of the project to be realized with the timeline and available budget
- Connection and relevance to place
- Engagement with critical dialogues in contemporary art
- Consistency with the recognition of Nanaimo as the traditional and ancestral territories of the Snuneymuxw First Nation

Selected Projects: Next Steps

The Selection Panel will recommend the final projects to be commissioned and a report will present projects at City Council for approval. All artists will be contacted with the results. The artists whose projects are commissioned will receive an honorarium of \$7,500, and a production budget of up to \$5,000.

A signed agreement is required before a commission is awarded. The artist/contractor must have commercial general liability insurance for the duration of the contract period.

How to Submit a Letter of Interest for Stage 1

Submissions must be received no later than midnight, Pacific Time, <DATE>. There are two ways to submit:

1. Submit your application and required documents **online** using the submission form; or
2. Drop off your application and required documents **in-person** to the Culture & Events Dropbox, located at the Bowen Complex, 500 Bowen Road. The Dropbox is located on the lower level of the building near the tennis courts (Pine Street Entrance). Hand-delivered applications **MUST** include one (1) original hard copy and one (1) electronic in PDF format submitted on a flash drive. The application must be enclosed and sealed in an envelope/package clearly marked:

Your Name
Temporary Public Art Program
City of Nanaimo
Culture and Events

Terms and Conditions

Once submitted, the application is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The City advises applicants that submissions may be subject to the provisions of *FOIPPA* and the *Community Charter*. Personal information provided in the submission will be collected pursuant to *FOIPPA* and the *Community Charter*. Personal information will not be released except in accordance with the *FOIPPA*. Questions about the collection of your personal information may be referred to the Legislative Services Department at (250) 755-4405, or via email at foi@nanaimo.ca.

Questions

Thank you for your interest! Applicants will only be contacted if they are selected for the Short List. The final selection of public art projects will be announced in November 2021. Questions regarding the Temporary Public Art Program may be directed to Culture & Events at cultureandevents@nanaimo.ca or 250-755-4483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFO: Some Important Aspects of the Public Art Process

Budget

A budget may include the following line items. Consider every aspect of the work and include consultants, fabricators and others as needed for estimates to build a feasible budget. Applicable taxes can be included.

- Administration includes travel and accommodation, postage, courier, supplies, phone, printing, documentation, maintenance manual and accounting/legal fees
- Professional Consultant Fees
- Production/Fabrication
- Installation

Insurance

The artist/contractor must have public liability insurance. The amount of coverage depends on the activity. A typical range of coverage is \$2,000,000–\$5,000,000 for the duration of the contract period. This includes liability for injury of public and employees working on the project. Insurance should be included as part of the costs of the project.

Maintenance & Conservation

A maintenance manual will be required by the City to understand materials and conservation requirements. The manual will describe in detail the specifications of materials and finishes, method of cleaning, preserving and maintaining the final artwork, and drawings and instructions for its care.

Copyright

Copyright on the completed work usually belongs jointly to the artist and to the commissioning organization or the City.

Contract

A signed agreement is required before a commission is awarded. The contract is signed once legal provisions have been agreed between the City and the Artist. Independent legal advice is recommended and can form part of the costs of the project. Contract payments are made in installments, usually as a percentage of the total contract amount, and geared to specific stages of certification and production.