

Call for Indigenous Artists: City of Saint John

Overview

The City of Saint John is seeking to commission public artwork from a professional Indigenous artist or artist team to be placed within City Hall. This artwork builds on the city's commitment to create awareness of indigenous cultures, peoples, and heritage.

The budget for the creation, design, and installation of the piece is \$20,000. The project budget includes all costs directly associated with the artwork, including fees for design, fabrication, shipping, installation, engineering, professional services, insurance, permits, travel, and production expenses. The artwork can be pre-existing or created for the commission.

The artwork will be integrated in the first floors of City Hall, which are public facing. This location allows for high visibility, impact, community connection, and aligns with the building's natural flow and themes.

The selected artist will work with the City of Saint John to determine the final location of the work.

Eligibility

DEADLINE to apply: December 15th 2023

The call to artists is open to professional artists of Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq, or Passamaquoddy heritage. An individual artist or a group of artists may propose a project.

As per the Canada Council's guidelines, a professional artist is defined as someone who:

- has specialized artistic training (not necessarily from academic institutions);
- is recognized as a professional by their peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition);
- has a history of public exhibitions; and/or
- has produced an independent body of work.

Ineligible

- Submissions from students at any level (high school, university, college, etc.) are not eligible;
- Members of the jury and their immediate families are ineligible to apply.

Description

The City of Saint John's City Hall is the welcome space for visitors, residents, and guests to City Hall. The City will commission or acquire artwork to be installed inside this area of City Hall. If selected, this commission has an installation deadline of April 1st, 2024.

The jury will review the submissions and determine artist. The jury is composed of City Staff, members of the Saint John Community Arts Board, professional artists, and members of the Indigenous community.

Application Requirements

Artists are invited to apply by submitting a single PDF document. Please label/name the document with the name of the artist. Applicants must include the following in the pdf:

1. **Contact Information:** Please include your name, current mailing address, phone number and email address. If applying as a team, please include team members and designate a main contact.
2. Please attach a brief artist bio (one page maximum) for each artist involved in the project.
3. Please attach a maximum of 10 digital images of recent work or of the proposed artwork. If a group of artists applies, they may only submit 10 images total. An optional proposal sketch does not count as an image.
4. Describe the proposed artwork/project. Discuss what the concept and approach will be, the meaning of the piece, and how your experience as an artist will make this possible. All mediums, genres, styles, and 2-D & 3-D art forms are eligible. You may include a simple sketch of the proposal below or attached if desired.
5. What materials will be used in the project? Please provide a brief maintenance recommendation for the artwork. Describe any long-term care needed to sustain the artwork and cleaning instructions.
6. If you would prefer to submit a 3-minute oral video, please respond to the questions below within your video.
7. **Connection to Local Communities:** 1-page maximum. Include detailed and specific ways outlining how you are connected to the local communities of the Menahqesk .
8. **Curriculum Vitae (CV/Resume):** 3-page maximum. Detail professional experience as an artist, past public art experience, and other information relevant. If applying as a team, provide one CV per team member.
9. **References:** Names and contact information (current email and phone number) for two (2) references (preferably from recent public art projects and community engaged projects) with their role and affiliation listed. Reference letters are not required.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- All required materials listed above must be submitted by email to artsandculture@saintjohn.ca by December 15th, 2023.
- If sending video files larger than 10MB, please submit via Dropbox or WeTransfer.com to artsandculture@saintjohn.ca
- If you have concerns about submitting via email, you may contact the program officer to discuss alternative options.
- Artists may submit a written proposal or a 3-minute oral video proposal.
- Applications received after the deadline will NOT be accepted.

For more information, please contact Kate Wilcott at artsandculture@saintjohn.ca or call 506-658-4455