

EOI: Call to Indigenous Artists
Public Art Commission, Joseph Brant Museum

Deadline: July 26, 2019
Budget: Budget: \$120,000 CAD



For more information:
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Artist Opportunity

The City of Burlington invites Ontario-based Indigenous artists or Indigenous-led artist teams to submit an Expression of Interest to create a permanent public artwork for the exterior of the Joseph Brant Museum. The museum is currently undergoing a major transformation, which will add more than 12,000 square feet to its current size. The artwork will be integrated into one of the garden areas (exact location TBD) and will serve as a landmark feature of the new museum.

An artwork proposal is not requested at this time. This is a two-phase process: in Phase One, applicants will be reviewed on the basis of artistic merit of past work, professional qualifications and experience. In Phase Two, short-listed artists will be required to submit a preliminary artwork concept proposal that will be displayed for public comment and jury review. Artists selected for the short-list will be provided with a full Request for Proposals outlining detailed artwork specifications prior to developing their proposals. Short-listed artists will be paid an artist fee of \$1500 to develop their proposals.

Background and Context

Joseph Brant Museum

Joseph Brant Museum is Burlington's community museum. It is a replica of the original homestead of Joseph Brant 'Thayendanegea' (1742-1807). In 1798, King George III granted the Mohawk and British army captain 3,450 acres at the head-of-the-lake (Burlington Bay) for his services to the Crown during the Seven Years War and the American Revolution. The Museum was built to commemorate Joseph Brant as Burlington's first citizen. Construction began in 1937, with the official opening of the Museum on May 22, 1942.

For over 30 years, the need to improve the museum facilities has been a well-documented priority. In 2016-17, three levels of government and the Burlington Museums Foundation were able to make this long-awaited objective a reality by committing to the 'Joseph Brant Museum Transformation' project.

Designed by Chamberlain Architectural Services Limited, the 'new' Joseph Brant Museum will open this summer (2019). The museum will be a LEED platinum designated building that combines the historic Brant House with state of the art exhibition and programming space. The 'new' Joseph Brant Museum will feature three new galleries and space for travelling exhibitions. The Museum will showcase Burlington's history as well as providing fun, edutainment experiences. By sharing interesting and provocative perspectives about where we have been, where we are now and where we are going, we share in building a culturally diverse community.

About Treaty Eight Territory

Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant, an ardent Loyalist, led Six Nations warriors into battle on the side of the British during the American Revolutionary War. Recognizing the great service Brant had rendered unto the Crown during the conflict, the British allowed him a choice of land for his own use. Brant chose a tract of land containing 3450 acres on which the present day city of Burlington, Ontario is located.

Governor Simcoe of Upper Canada gave instructions that the land chosen by Brant was to be purchased from the Mississaugas of the Credit by the Crown and then granted to Joseph Brant. In October 1795, a provisional agreement was reached wherein the Mississaugas sold the land for £100. The purchase agreement was confirmed in 1797.

In 1988, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation initiated a claim against the Government of Canada alleging that the Crown had paid less than originally promised when purchasing the Brant Tract. The claim was settled in 2010 in conjunction with the Toronto Purchase Claim.

City of Burlington Land Acknowledgement

Burlington as we know it today is rich in history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the Anishinaabeg to the Haudenosaunee, and the Métis – our lands spanning from Lake Ontario to the Niagara Escarpment are steeped in Indigenous history.

The territory is mutually covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibway and other allied Nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Artwork Goals

In April 2019, a Steering Committee comprised of project and community stakeholders and representatives from Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River came together to determine the goals for this public art project.

Staff noted that the intent of this project is to build on efforts to create awareness of the rich Indigenous cultures, peoples and heritage that are at the root of our territory, city and province. **This commission is not intended to be a memorial or monument to Joseph Brant.**

The Steering Committee suggested that the theme of the artwork focus on Indigenous language. Language is a through-line by which we are connected to our past, present and future. Language is crucial to the development of community and the sharing of knowledge. However, Indigenous languages are under threat. Amongst the many efforts to protect and revitalize Indigenous languages, UNESCO has declared 2019 to be the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

UNESCO International Year of Indigenous Languages

“Languages play a crucial role in the daily lives of people, not only as a tool for communication, education, social integration and development, but also as a repository for each person’s unique identity, cultural history, traditions and memory. But despite their immense value, languages around the world continue to disappear at an alarming rate. With this in mind, the United Nations declared 2019 The Year of Indigenous Languages (2019).”

<https://en.iyil2019.org/>

United Nations Backgrounder on Indigenous Languages

“Indigenous languages are not only methods of communication, but also extensive and complex systems of knowledge that have developed over millennia. They are central to the identity of indigenous peoples, the preservation of their cultures, worldviews and visions and an expression of self-determination.”

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/04/Indigenous-Languages.pdf>

In addition to the above-mentioned theme, the artwork:

- Should be created using primarily natural materials (i.e. stone, wood, etc.)
- Should be integrated into one of the museum’s garden spaces (exact location TBD)
- Should not include sound, light or projection elements (general lighting of the artwork is acceptable)
- Should help to create a welcoming and family-friendly space
- Should complement the architecture of the new Joseph Brant Museum

Artwork Design Parameters

The artwork must adhere to the following design parameters:

- The use of natural materials (i.e. stone, wood, etc.) is strongly encouraged
- Fabricated using materials that are highly resistant to theft, vandalism and weathering
- Must not pose a risk to public safety (i.e. no sharp points, does not allow climbing, no slip or trip hazards, etc.
- Meets all Ontario Building Code standards:
 - (<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page7393.aspx>)

Budget

The budget for this project is \$120,000 CAD (maximum, exclusive of HST). The City of Burlington Public Art Reserve Fund and the Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection are jointly funding this project. This is the total amount available for all related expenses of this public art project including (but not limited to): artist fees, travel, materials, site preparation, technical consultation, fabrication, any necessary foundation work, installation, insurance, equipment, permit fees, etc.

Eligibility

This competition is open to all Ontario-based Indigenous artists or Indigenous-led artist teams. An Indigenous-led artist team, group or collective is one whose leadership is made up of a majority of Indigenous peoples, who control and direct the artistic and financial decisions. The selected artist must be able to travel to Burlington, Ont. for a minimum of **three visits**: one project start-up meeting, one technical consultation meeting, and one visit to manage the installation of the artwork and to engage in public dialogue (i.e. artist talk/artwork unveiling).

Selection Process

The Steering Committee will review all applications based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications and professional experience of artist(s),
- Artistic merit of previous work (as expressed in digital images submitted),
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and budgets,
- Success in executing projects of a similar scale and complexity to the project outlined in this document,
- Past work shows a proven track record of successful collaboration,
- The artist(s)' responsiveness to the site and approach to the project (as outlined in the Expression of Interest Statement submitted),

Two-Stage Process

This competition is a two-stage process. In **Stage One**, the Steering Committee will review the applications based on the Selection Process outlined in this document. The selection committee will choose a maximum of three (3) artists to move forward to Stage Two (short-list). Short-listed artists will be provided with detailed site plans and additional technical information.

The artists selected for **Stage Two** will be asked to develop a concept proposal for the artwork consisting of: artist statement, preliminary design drawings and draft budget. An honorarium of \$1500 will be paid upon completion of the concept proposal. The committee may elect to conduct interviews (via video conference or in person) as part of their deliberation process. The proposals will then be presented to the public for comment and feedback.

At the end of Stage Two, the Steering Committee will recommend the successful artist based on the merits of the concept proposal, technical feasibility and public feedback. The successful artist will then enter into a contract with the City of Burlington for the artwork creation and installation phase of the project.

Cobalt Connects manages the City of Burlington's Public Art Program. Guided by the Public Art Policy, Cobalt Connects works in cooperation with City staff to develop and implement the Public Art Master Plan.

Please note, the Steering Committee, Cobalt Connects, and the City of Burlington reserves the right to not recommend any application, proposal or finalist and to terminate or re-advertise any project.

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

Estimated Project Timeline (2019 - 2020)

Deadline	Activity
June 25, 2019	Expression of Interest document released
July 26, 2019	Deadline for Stage One: Expression of Interest
By August 2, 2019	Selection Committee reviews applications, selects short-listed artists
September 13, 2019	Short listed artists' concept proposals due
October 2019	Public consultation
By October 28, 2019	Selection Committee reviews proposals and public feedback Selected artist enters into a contract with the City of Burlington
December 16, 2019	Detailed Design due
January 2020 – June 2020	Artwork fabrication
Summer 2020	Artwork installation and unveiling (date TBD)

Application Deadline and Receipt

All applications are due on or before Friday July 26, 2019. Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be accepted. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

All applicants will receive notice via email or mail that their application has been received. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their application has been received by Cobalt Connects. If you do not receive verification within one week of submitting your application, please contact kim@cobaltconnects.ca or 905-548-0111.

Loss or Damage: While every precaution will be taken to prevent loss or damage, the City of Burlington, Cobalt Connects and Selection Committee shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused. **Please note, application materials will not be returned.**

Application Requirements

1. **Application Form:** Page 9 of this document OR completed online:
<http://burlingtonpublicart.com/calls-for-artists/>
2. **Expression of Interest Statement:** submit a brief statement outlining your interest in this project (**2 pages maximum**). Please include the following information:
 - Your approach to creating artwork for the public realm,
 - How the goals of this project align with your artistic practice,
 - How your specific skills and experience bring value to this project.
3. **Curriculum Vitae:** outline recent qualifications and artistic activities (**4 pages maximum**)
4. **Artist Statement (1 page maximum)**
5. **Artwork Samples: 10 images** of your artwork. Please note the following:
 - All images must be in high resolution JPEG format, suitable for screen projection,
 - Do not embed images in documents such as Word or PowerPoint or compress files (i.e. WinZip, Stuffit, etc.),
 - Clearly label files and do not use any special characters, symbols, periods, etc. (i.e. \$, %, &) in the file name,
 - Original artwork or slides will not be accepted.
6. **Artwork Sample List:** A list of the artwork samples submitted. Please include: title of artwork, materials, dimensions, date and location of artwork (if applicable).

Application Form

Applications are due on or before Friday July 26, 2019 (4:00 pm in person or 11:59 pm online).

Online Applications: please visit <http://burlingtonpublicart.com/calls-for-artists/> to access the online application form.

In-person or mailed applications: Applications may be submitted in-person or mailed to our office (724 Barton Street East, Hamilton). Applications may be submitted on a CD/DVD or as a hard copy (letter-sized paper; 8 ½ X 11"). If submitting a hard copy, please do not bind, staple or use cover sheets/folders/binders.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____ Country _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____

Email _____ Website _____

- I would like to receive notice of future Calls For Artists and program updates. Please add me to the Burlington Public Art mailing list (optional).

The applicant is in agreement with the Eligibility and Selection Criteria, as outlined in this document:

Signature of applicant _____

Date _____

Send Submissions to:

Cobalt Connects
ATTN: JBM Public Art Project
724 Barton Street East
Hamilton, Ontario L8L 3A8

Contact Us

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T: 905-548-0111
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