

CALL TO ARTISTS – Request for Proposals (RFP)

Ice and Light: Digital Public Art Exhibition 2023

Submission deadline: May 14, 2023, by 11:59 P.M. EST

Project budget: between \$5,000 – 7,500.00 CAD + HST

The City of Mississauga (the “City”) seeks an artist or artist team to submit new or existing light-based artwork to be a part of the 2023 Ice and Light Exhibition – a digital public art series taking place over several weeks in November and December 2023 in Mississauga’s downtown core.



Echoes, Nate Nettleton, 2022. Photo by Tori Lambermont.

1. Eligibility

This is a public competition open to artists and artist-led teams, designers, artist collectives, and/or digital media groups nationally and internationally.

2. Proposal Requirements

Please read all components of the RFP prior to completing your submission. A complete submission package includes the following documentation in **three separate files**:

1. Juried Submission:

- a. **Artist statement:** a description of your interest in this project and how your proposed artwork aligns with the goals of the project. You can submit a written document (2 page maximum) or a recorded video (an MP4 file, max 20 MB).
 - b. **Artwork design:**
 - i. **If proposing already existing artwork:** Photographs, plans, and/or videos of the proposed artwork
 - ii. **If proposing a new commission:** Concept sketches, photos, and other images/details as applicable
 - c. **Proposed Budget and Installation Plan:** For artist fees, fabrication, delivery, installation and de-installation as applicable, and any additional programming and community engagement.
 - d. **Artist's portfolio (up to 10 images of past work):** Highlight artwork that showcases your style, approach and interests.
2. **Curator Information:** submitted separately, use the "Curator Information" form attached to this RFP to provide artist and reference information.
3. **Anonymous survey completion:** please fill out the anonymous Submission Survey at <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/41647268/80a6/> and include a screenshot of the completion page to complete your application.

Submissions must be sent by email to:

public.art@mississauga.ca

Subject: Artist Proposal – Winter Lights 2023

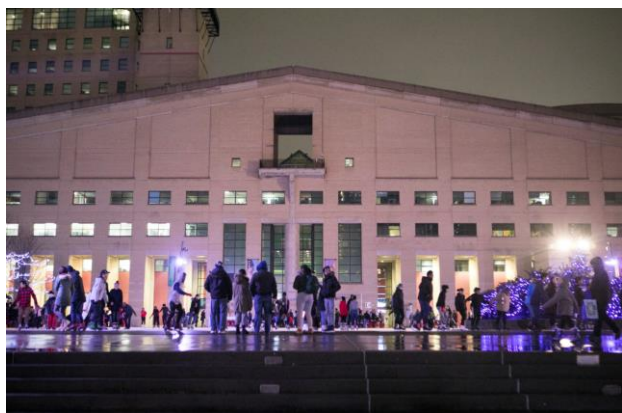
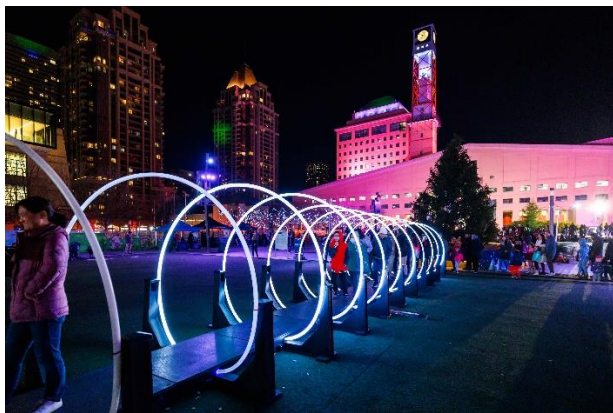
If the file size exceeds 20 MB, artists are asked to use an external file share program. Incomplete submissions or submissions received after the deadline will not be juried. Artist(s) will retain copyright over their proposals. However, the proposals may be used by the City of Mississauga in meetings with stakeholders and staff. Please note that the proposals will not be returned.

Accessibility: The City will provide accommodations throughout the selection process to applicants with disabilities. Please notify Philippa French, Public Art Curator at 416-457-8510 or philippa.french@mississauga.ca of the nature of any accommodation(s) that you may require in respect of any materials or processes used to ensure your equal participation.

3. Considerations for the Artwork

The lands that constitute the present-day City of Mississauga are part of the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, The Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Huron-Wendat and Wyandot Nations. We recognize these peoples and their ancestors as peoples who inhabited these lands since time immemorial. The City of Mississauga is home to many global Indigenous Peoples.

The light-based artwork will be exhibited in [Mississauga Celebration Square](#) (MCS), an outdoor public square and state-of-the-art multi-media event venue complete with a permanent main stage, amphitheatre and water fountain that transforms into Mississauga's largest outdoor skating rink each winter. In addition to facilitating programming and events, MCS serves as a 'living room' for local residents by providing space for passive recreation and gathering. Users of the space include event attendees, local residents, and visitors to Mississauga, who are generally a mixture of younger individuals, newcomers, and families who have a strong focus on family activities and family entertainment.



Left: *Passage*, Serge Maheu, 2017, on display at Mississauga Celebration Square in 2022. Right: Images of winter programming at Mississauga Celebration Square. Photos by Adam Pulicchio.

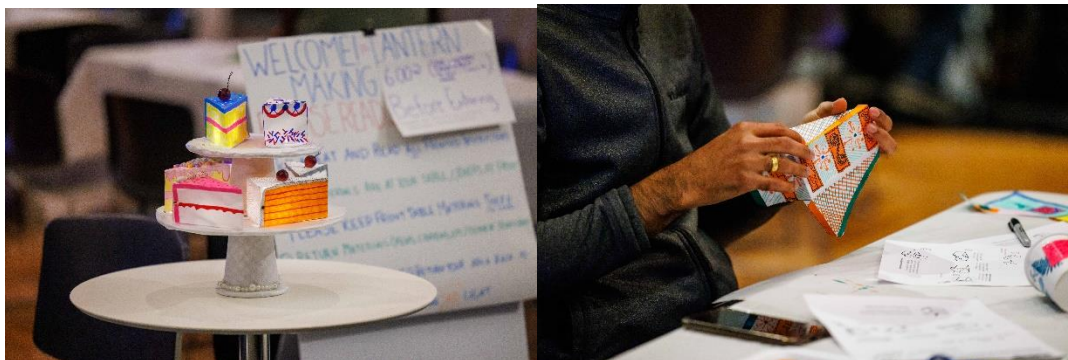
For the past two years, the City has showcased interactive light-based artwork throughout the square during the winter season, inviting visitors to experience winter in the city in a bright new way.

For 2023, we are seeking existing artwork and/or new work, in a variety of mediums, that center on ideas and themes of igniting wonder and curiosity in our natural world. The artwork will be installed from mid-November 2023 until the first week of January 2024, as part of the MCS Winter Magic programming.



Left: *Diaphanous Charms*, Asli Alin, 2022. Right: *Sugar Mountain*, Wepler and Mahovsky, 2021. Both on display at Mississauga Celebration Square in 2022. Photos by Tori Lambermont.

We are primarily looking for interactive and/or light-based artworks - sculpture, installation, multimedia, and digital/virtual projects such as VR and AR experiences - that can activate the space. The artworks should offer an inviting and accessible visitor experience. **Artists are also encouraged to submit related and/or supplementary community engagement activities, artist talks, and artist workshops as part of their proposal.**



Photos of lantern making workshops by Wepler and Mahovsky in 2022. Photos by Adam Pulicchio.

4. Site Information

Design Considerations:

- This call is primarily targeting outdoor light-based artworks – including, but not limited to: sculpture, installation, multimedia, and digital/virtual projects such as VR and AR experiences.
 - Due to the amount of ambient lighting at MCS and security requirements of projectors, projection-based projects are not encouraged.
- Installations are to be inclusive, engaging and respond to the theme of igniting wonder and curiosity in our natural world.
- Proposals must consider the length of time of the exhibition, including installation and removal of the artwork after the exhibition, and the Southern Ontario environment in early winter, which can potentially include rain, wind, snow, and/or cold temperatures.

Artwork Location:

All artworks will be located in Celebration Square, outlined in Appendix I: Site Map.

5. Technical Requirements

All proposals must meet the following criteria:

- Installations must be durable, and able to withstand unpredictable winter weather conditions and physical contact by the public for the duration of the installation.
- There is closed circuit monitoring at MCS, however there is no overnight security in the space. Installations must be resilient and robust, and able to be installed in a public space unmonitored, without being bolted to the ground. The artwork will be actively monitored with daily visual inspections of the artwork conducted by City Staff, including weekends, as well as intermittent security patrols by the City's Security team. Artwork should not require security, or onsite support outside of load in and load out.
- Artists will need to be willing to work with the project team on the technical set up and electrical plans to allow for suitable snow clearance areas, efficient electrical capabilities, and addressing safety concerns. This includes securing all electrical and support cabling with durable covers/cable ramps to eliminate tripping hazards.
- Installations should comply with safety and accessibility design standards where possible (see the City of Mississauga's [Facility Accessibility Design Standards](#))

- Artist(s) must be available to set-up and dismantle their works. City staff may be available to help set-up and dismantle installations on request if necessary.
- Selected artists will be expected to provide proof of general liability insurance and, as needed. The City will insure the artwork while it is in our care, custody and control to a maximum of the full re-fabrication value. Insurance may be available at a reduced rate for participating artists through the City of Mississauga's [City Facility User Insurance Program](#).

6. Budget

Between three (3) and five (5) proposals will be accepted. Selected works will receive a **minimum fee of \$5,000.00 CAD + HST and up to \$7,500.00 CAD + HST***, depending on the project. No further compensation will be made to the artist for costs associated with participating in the selection process.

If proposing supplementary programming (e.g. artist talks or workshops), additional budget may be available. Please include any associated costs within the Proposed Budget and Installation Plan.

** This fee includes (but is not limited to): artist fees, technical consultation, travel to the site and project meetings, purchase of relevant materials, engineering fees (if applicable), fabrication and artwork installation (including delivery to the site), community engagement and workshop expenses and fees, insurance** and/or permit fees as required by the City of Mississauga, maintenance plan documentation, and attendance at unveiling of the completed artwork.*

***Insurance will be available at a reduced rate for participating artists through the City of Mississauga's City Facility User Insurance Program.*

7. Schedule

The exhibition will take place outdoors throughout Celebration Square between November 25th, 2023, and January 3rd, 2024. Celebration Square is an open and accessible venue. Operating hours for the square are 8 am to 11 pm; power will be turned off outside of operating hours, however, the artwork will remain accessible to the public 24 hours per day.

It is expected that the commissioned artist(s) will comply with the project's general timeline dates, as highlighted below:

Date*	Project Phase
May 14, 2023, 11:59 PM	Submissions due for Call to Artists
Week of May 29, 2023	Selected artist(s) notified Art Service Agreement is signed
June-July 2023	Site confirmation Technical Design Review period
June-November 2023	Artwork fabrication (if required)
Week of November 20 2023	Artwork installation at MCS
November 25, 2023	Artwork unveiling at the Light Up the Square event
Week of January 8, 2024	Artwork removal

* Schedule subject to change

8. Selection Process and Criteria

Proposals will undergo a thorough review by an arms-length Art Selection Committee, which will be composed of art professionals, community members and/or members of the project team.

The Art Selection Committee will consider the following evaluation criteria in selecting a finalist:

- Artistic merit, including quality of work, originality, and artistic excellence in the field of contemporary art;
- Artist’s interest and expressed desire in this project; and,
- Artist’s demonstrated ability and proposal feasibility to meet the artwork goals and technical requirements, within the set timeline and budget.

Our public art program accepts informal training and community/peer recognition, and recognizes artists, creators, and storytellers from a diverse range of disciplines. **Please do not hesitate to reach out to our team or send a submission, even if you are unsure if your credentials are suitable for the opportunity.**

The City of Mississauga reserves the right to select and retain the artist deemed most appropriate for the project at its sole discretion.

9. Commitment to Equity

The City's Public Art Program is committed to continually improving our application processes to ensure equitable and inclusive opportunities for all. If you have feedback on this application process, particularly if you are a racialized individual or individual facing systemic barriers that limit your full participation within the public art industry, we invite you to complete a quick and anonymous survey here: <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/41590907/afa0>.

10. Reserved Rights of the City of Mississauga

The City of Mississauga (the "City"), at its sole discretion, may request clarifications or request additional information, as deemed necessary to evaluate the submissions. The City retains the sole discretion to determine whether a submission is responsive and if the prospective Artist or Artist Team is capable of performing the Work. The City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to determine the number of pre-qualified Artists or Artist Teams. The City reserves the right to not proceed with awarding a contract.

11. Publication of Competition Information

The City of Mississauga shall have the exclusive right to issue all public announcements regarding the competition.

12. Additional Information

For additional information or questions please contact: Philippa French at philippa.french@mississauga.ca or 416-457-8510

Curator Information Form

This form is to be completed by the Artist and submitted as part of your submission package, for project administration by public art curatorial staff. The personal information collected on this form will be kept confidential and is not provided to juries.

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of sections 11 and 227 of the Municipal Act, 2001. The personal information you agree to provide herein, will be used by the Corporation of the City of Mississauga (the "City") for internal administration and statistics-gathering purposes only (the "Purpose"). The information will not be disclosed to any outside party. Questions about this collection should be directed to Philippa French, Public Art Curator, Culture Division, 4141 Living Arts Drive, Mississauga, ON L5B 2T4, Telephone: 416-457-8510.

1. Artist Contact Information

Name(s):

Pronouns: (common pronouns are she/her/hers, he/him/his and they/them/theirs)

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Website:

Social media links:

2. References

Please provide contact information for two references who can speak to the artist's artistic practice and interest and/or experience in public art projects. If contacted, information provided by a reference may be shared with art selection panel members. However, their contact information provided on this form will remain confidential.

Reference Name:

Pronouns:

Title:

Organization:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Reference Name:

Pronouns:

Title:

Organization:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

3. Artist Declaration

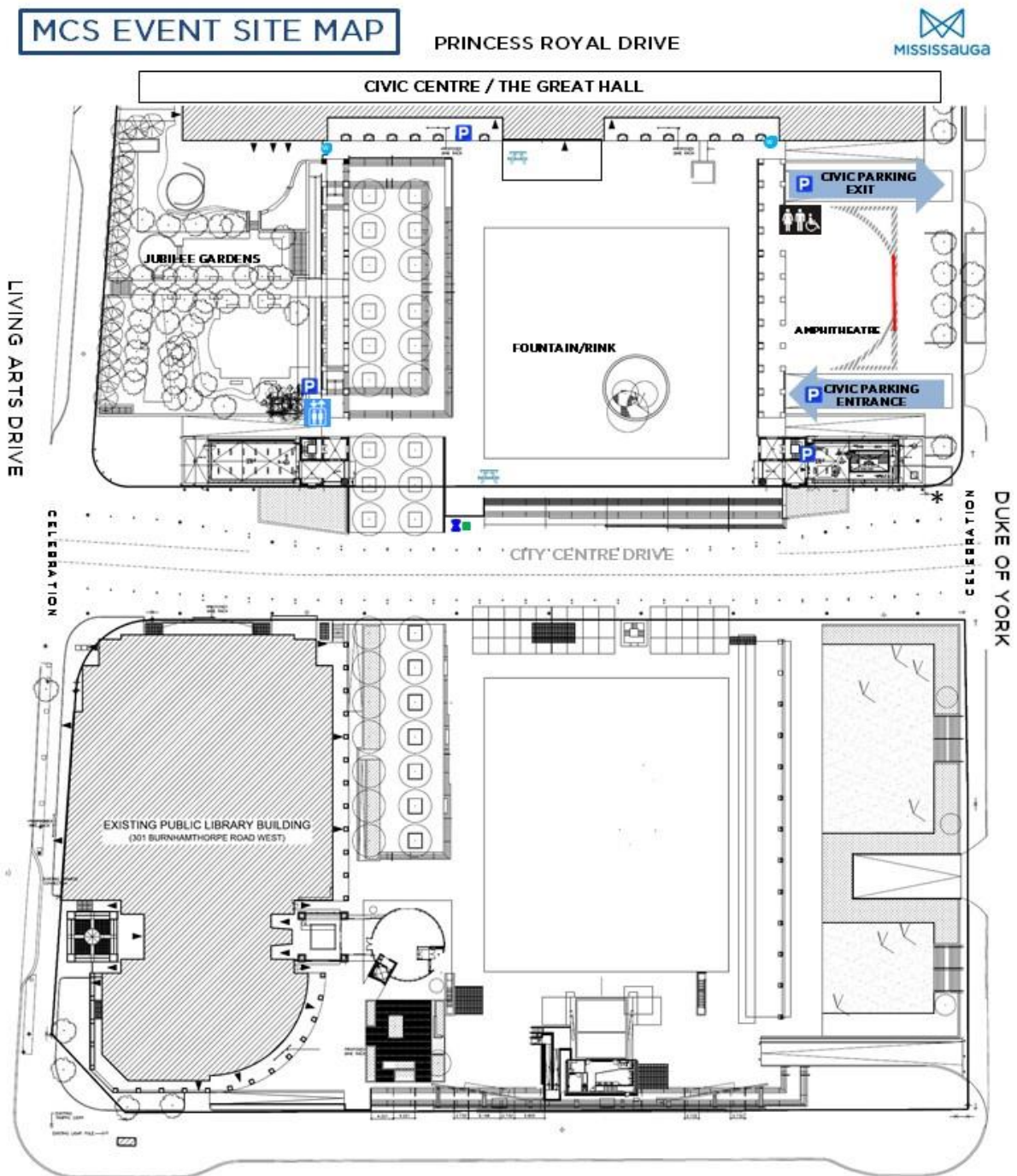
I am 18 years of age or older. I have read and understand this form, and by signing below, I hereby voluntarily give my consent and authorize the City to collect the personal information I have provided herein for the above-stated Purpose, and to do so without any payment or compensation to me of any kind. I hereby declare that the information provided in this entire submission package is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:

Name:

Date:

Appendix I: Site Map



MCS Site Map