

## CALL TO ARTISTS – Request for Proposals (RFP)

### “Own your Litter” Public Art Project

Submission deadline: April 30, 2023 by 11:59 P.M. EST

Project budget: \$15,000.00

As part of the City of Mississauga’s (the “City”) collaboration between the Public Art Program and the Parks, Forestry and Environment section, the City seeks to commission an artist or artist team to develop temporary public art that explores our relationship to garbage.

This annual collaboration challenges artists to combine artistic excellence, creativity and innovation with environmental conservation. Artists are asked to propose artwork that uses locally collected trash as a major part of its creation and explores the connection among the environment, waste reduction and the circular economy. This temporary public art project will be installed at J.C. Saddington Park (53 Lake Street, Mississauga, ON).



*Figure 1: Example of litter found in Mississauga Parks*

## 1. Eligibility

This is a public competition open to professional artists and artist/artist-led teams\* residing in Canada.

*\* The City of Mississauga defines a professional artist as an individual who earns all or a sizable portion of their livelihood through remuneration for artistic performance or creation and is recognized by their peers as an artist.*

## 2. Proposal Requirements

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

### 1. Juried Submission:

- a. **Artist statement:** a written document (2 page maximum), visual renderings, and/or a recorded video (MP4 file, max 20 MB), describing the proposed artwork.
- b. **Proposed budget breakdown and timeline**
- c. **Artist's portfolio** (up to 5 images of past work): highlight relevant experience on projects similar to or directly related to this project

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](mailto:public.art@mississauga.ca)

**Subject: Artist Proposal – Own Your Litter Public Art**

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](mailto: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. Project Brief

The City of Mississauga is located on the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, The Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Huron-Wendat and Wyandot Nations.

Mississauga's city parks [have seen an increase in litter](#) since the onset of COVID-19 – both from illegal dumping and from increased park usage. Some of the items that are discarded most often are: cigarette butts, plastic bags, disposable coffee cups, fast food wrappers and single-use plastic bottles and bottle caps. Litter happens out of unawareness, convenience, laziness, or carelessness.



*Figure 2: Litter found around Mississauga*

One way to cut down litter in the city's parks is volunteering to complete a litter cleanup. Individuals and groups can sign up as volunteers to pick up litter at city parks by completing a one-time cleanup or by adopting a specific park in their

neighbourhood. These environmentally-conscious volunteers make a personal contribution to help create a greener and cleaner environment.

The circular economy model works to reuse, repair, refurbish, repurpose or recycle products and materials. In other words, in a circular economy, nothing is wasted. If a product is near the end of its life, it can be donated or reused for other purposes. Not only does the circular economy reduce the amount of material going to landfill, it also reduces the amount of raw materials needed to make a new product. This helps to prevent waste, address climate change, and reduce pollution.

Inspired by the circular economy model, artists are invited to submit project ideas that are created by re-using waste materials, some of which can be collected through a Mississauga litter cleanup. Artists can lead their own community litter clean ups, supported by City staff through the City's Volunteer Program, and/or work with City staff for other options.

### **Project Goals**

The project should accomplish the following goals:

- Explore our relationship with waste and share your perspective and knowledge on its impact individually, societally, and environmentally
- Challenge the perception of waste culture by providing a unique platform for community members and visitors to eliminate waste by reducing, reusing and recycling.
- Educate the greater community on the impact of litter in city parks on our environment
- Invite community to participate in activities leading up to the fabrication and installation of the work

## **4. Site Information**

### **Artwork Location:**

[J.C. Saddington Park](#) at 53 Lake Street, Mississauga.

This large green space was created out of landfill deposited in Lake Ontario between 1949 and 1970—in part to protect against further erosion of the shoreline. Located within the park are the remains of the Port Credit Waterworks dating back to 1922-23.



Throughout the park is a looped path system, pond, picnics areas and a playground. There are also heritage buildings and an informal amphitheatre.



*Figure 3: Images of J.C. Saddington Park*

There are several locations throughout J.C. Saddington Park which would be well suited to hosting a temporary public art installation. While there is some flexibility on artwork design (i.e. one standalone artwork, multiple pieces, 2-dimensional mounted artwork, 3-dimensional structural artwork), it is important that the artwork does not negatively impact the surrounding area and ecosystem. In the proposals, artists must demonstrate their understanding of the correct design choices to ensure the artwork is not disruptive to surrounding flora and fauna populations, including impacting the park pond and/or Lake Ontario. Please note:

- Installations located **in** the lake and pond would **not** be supported due to impacts to the ecosystem or with flood control;
- Installations located **immediately adjacent** to the lake and pond would need to be reviewed to determine if there would be impacts to the ecosystem or flood control.

The specific location of the artwork will be determined in consultation with the selected artist and City Staff during the Technical Design Review phase.

## 5. Technical Requirements

The selected artwork is to combine artistic excellence and creativity with a strong understanding of the ideas around circular economy and waste reduction. The installation must adhere to the following specifications:

- Shall be designed and constructed within budget;
- Shall be appropriate for the site in scale, execution, materials and creativity;

- Shall be constructed using sustainable and durable materials, including locally-sourced litter;
- Shall not require plumbing or electrical services;
- Shall not contain design content in breach of any intellectual property, trademarks, brands, or images of vulgar, offensive, or illegal activity, and;
- Shall be suitable for exhibition in a public space and should therefore avoid sharp edges, points, projections, or pinch-points which may cause injury.
- In addition, the City of Mississauga's Public Art Program will create accompanying interpretive signage to display the artwork name and artist's name. An artist's written statement may be incorporated. Signage text is subject to final approval by the City of Mississauga.
- Artists should be aware that the artwork may be subject to damage by the elements and may become a target for vandalism. Therefore artists must accept the risk that their artwork may be damaged, altered, and/or removed by the City of Mississauga at any time following installation. The goal is for the artwork will be installed for at least a one-year period starting in fall 2023, but this will be assessed during the Technical Design Review period.

## 6. Anticipated Budget

The total budget for all artist fees and expenses related to this project is **\$15,000.00 + HST Canadian Dollars**.<sup>\*</sup> No further compensation will be made to the artist for costs associated with participating in the selection process.

*\* 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), insurance and/or permit fees as required by the City of Mississauga, maintenance plan documentation, and attendance at unveiling of the completed artwork.*

## 7. Anticipated Schedule

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

Date*	Project Phase
April 30, 2023 at 11:59 PM	Deadline for Submissions
May 19, 2023	Selected Artist notified and Art Services Agreement executed
May-August, 2023	Technical Design Review and Fabrication
June-July, 2023	Community engagement and litter collection (if applicable)
September 2023	Artwork completion and anticipated Unveiling

\* Schedule subject to change

## 8. Selection Process and Criteria

An art selection jury comprised of arts professionals, community members and/or members of the project team will score proposals against an evaluation matrix.

The jury will recommend an artist or artist team for the award of commission based on the following criteria:

- 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;
- Artist’s demonstrated ability to meet the artwork goals within the set timeline and budget; and,
- The feasibility of the proposal to meet the Technical Requirements, including an assessment of the proposed artwork’s sustainability.

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 416-457-8510 or [philippa.french@mississauga.ca](mailto:philippa.french@mississauga.ca)

For more information about the City's public art program visit: [mississauga.ca/publicart](http://mississauga.ca/publicart).



## 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):

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

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Mailing Address:

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Email Address:

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Website:

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Social media links:

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### 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:**

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Pronouns:

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Title:

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Organization:

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Email Address:

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Phone Number:

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**Reference Name:**

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Pronouns:

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Title:

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Organization:

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Email Address:

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Phone Number:

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### 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:

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Name:

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Date:

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