

CALL TO ARTISTS – Expressions of Interest

Public Art Banners in Mississauga

Submission deadline: **Monday, March 9, 2026 by 11:59 P.M. EST**

Artist Fee: **\$10,000 + HST Canadian Dollars**

The City of Mississauga's [Public Art Program](#) seeks to commission an emerging artist, artist team, or illustrator to create original banner artwork.

The commissioned artist(s) will be expected to create six digital artwork files, which will be printed on vinyl banners. Banner artwork will be displayed on light pole standards throughout the city, creating a captivating and uplifting visual presence from summer 2026 to early 2027.

The City will work directly with a contractor to fabricate and install the banners. Directly overseeing and managing this contract are not included in the commissioned artist(s)' scope of work or budget, although the commissioned artist(s) will have the opportunity to shadow City staff to gain knowledge in contracting public art fabricators.



Jeannette Ladd, *Where The Land Meets The City*, 2025

1. Eligibility

This is a public competition open to emerging* artists, illustrators, and artist teams residing in Canada. Students, including art, design and architecture students, and established gallery artists looking to expand their practice into public art are encouraged to apply.

** The City defines an emerging artist as an artist in the early stage of their professional career who may have specialized training (not necessarily gained in an academic institution) and has created a modest independent body of work that may include professional exhibitions, commissions, presentations and/or installations.*

2. Submission Checklist

Apply via our online submission software at:

https://mississaugapublicart.smapply.ca/prog/2026_public_art_banners/

Please read all components of the RFP prior to completing your submission. A complete proposal includes the following:

Juried Submission

- Artist expression of interest:** describe your artistic practice and why you are interested in this opportunity.
 - You can submit a written statement (1000 word maximum) or a recorded video (an MP4 file or online link, max 20 MB).
 - If you do not have any prior public art experience, you may submit an optional concept proposal (with up to three images) with your expression of interest.

- Artist portfolio:** submit up to 10 images of past work, highlighting work that showcases your style, approach and interests.
 - Each image should include: title, year, media, location, project budget, dimensions, and collaborators and/or commissioning agencies. AI technologies must also be disclosed. The images should illustrate your artistic practice and interest in this project.
 - **Tip:** We recommend creating a 10-slide PowerPoint presentation, in which each image includes the required descriptive text. Once the presentation is complete, you can export it as one PDF and upload this file.

Curator Information

- Artist contact information:** personal information is kept confidential by public art curatorial staff and is not provided to art selection juries.
- References:** 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 jury members. However, their contact information will remain confidential.
- Anonymous survey:** Please complete the survey and include a screenshot of the completion page (after clicking “Submit”).
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/d8c39d6f93344ce4a09eebb6c1104e11>

The personal information collected on this form is anonymous and confidential. Your survey answers are not linked to your application in any way. The results of this survey help us create opportunities for artists that are accessible, discoverable, relevant, interesting, and applicable for a wide range of artists, including artists of varying skills, experiences, disciplines, and practices.

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) declaration:** Artists that utilize artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in their practice are permitted to apply to this opportunity and to use AI in the creation of the commissioned artwork, provided they adhere to an artist-first approach*. Artists are required to disclose AI usage and have the option to provide a brief description of how their AI usage aligns with the City’s artist-first approach. Disclosure may be shared with art selection jury members, but personal information is kept confidential.

** An artist-first approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI) means disclosure and identification of AI technologies used and the protection of other artist’s moral rights and artistic integrity (i.e. technologies used do not utilize creative work without the consent of its original creators or subjects). Artists should approach these technologies in the spirit of accessibility, consent, innovation, creative and critical thinking.*

Incomplete submissions or submissions received after the deadline will not be juried.

Artist(s) retain copyright over their submissions. However, submissions may be used by the City of Mississauga in meetings with stakeholders and staff.

Accessibility: The City will provide accommodations, including reading or writing support, throughout the selection process to applicants with disabilities and/or English as a second language. Please notify Rachel Pennington, Public Art Curator at public.art@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. If you are unable to use the online submission software, you may submit these materials as one PDF document to public.art@mississauga.ca. If you are submitting by PDF, please use the Curator Information Form at the end of this document.

3. Project Goals

The City seeks to commission artwork that encourages community well-being, belonging, and social trust, including artwork that:

- Creates a sense of optimism, joy, trust in one's neighbours, and belonging, in the viewer
- Engages Mississauga's diverse local communities and celebrates local pride and togetherness
- Brings more colour, vibrancy, and beauty to city streets

Applying artists are encouraged to review [past banner installations](#) and find opportunities to present new thinking, new art forms, or new topics.

4. Artist Responsibilities

If selected for this opportunity, the commissioned artist(s) will be responsible for:

- Creating and submitting high-resolution digital files of six (6) art designs
- Writing a brief statement for each art design and for the overall series
- Working with the City through design review, including providing up to three (3) revisions
- Supporting fabrication, installation and interpretive signage, in an advisory capacity

The City will work directly with a contractor to fabricate and install the banners. Directly overseeing and managing this contract are not included in the commissioned artist(s)' scope of work or budget.

5. Location Details

Banners will be installed on light poles at various locations throughout the city. The commissioned artist(s) will create artwork that fits banner dimensions of 28" (700 mm) wide and 72" (1830 mm) high. Artwork is printed on both sides of the banner.

Artwork is expected to be colourful (as light or pale colours tend to fade more), bold and visible from a distance. Artwork must adhere to [Corporate Policy and Procedure Banners 06-02-06](#).*

**Banners may not promote a political party or election candidate; promote tobacco and/or cannabis use; present demeaning or derogatory portrayals of individuals or groups; or contain anything which, in light of generally prevailing community standards, is likely to cause deep or widespread offence.*



Alyah Holmes, *The City in Colour*, 2024

6. Artist Fee

The commissioned artist(s) will receive an artist fee of **\$10,000 + HST Canadian Dollars.***

This fee does not include contractor fabrication and installation costs.

**This fee includes (but is not limited to): contract execution; development of artwork and/or design; submission of artwork in required form; design review and revisions (up to three revisions); supplying artist and project statement, bio, headshots and suggested didactic text; attendance at meetings; and insurance as required by the City.*

7. Schedule

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

| | |
|--|---|
| Monday, February 23 4:00-6:00 p.m. | Drop-in virtual office hours (see Section 9) |
| Tuesday, February 24 12:00-1:00 p.m. | Submission portal demo (see Section 9) |
| March 9, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. EST | Submission Deadline |
| By March 31, 2026 | Art Selection Committee evaluates proposals; Contract execution; Applicants notified |
| By May 30, 2026 | Final Artwork Files Due |
| June-July 2026 | Banner Fabrication and Installation |
| June 2026-Early 2026 | Banner Exhibition |

**Schedule subject to change*

8. Selection Process and Criteria

An art selection panel comprised of arts professionals and City staff 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 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.**

9. Questions and Support

Drop-in virtual office hours: The City’s Public Art Program will host virtual open office hours on **Monday, February 23 between 4:00-6:00 p.m.** During this session, attendees will have the chance to meet one on one with a curator to review their application or answer any specific questions.

Submission portal demonstration: The City’s Public Art Program will provide a live virtual demonstration to our submission portal on **Tuesday, February 24 between 12:00-1:00 p.m.** Attendees can also ask specific technical questions.

Please email public.art@mississauga.ca to attend either one of these sessions or email with your questions and we will get back to you by email.

Additional information about the City’s public art program can be found at mississauga.ca/publicart.

10. 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://survey123.arcgis.com/share/69f7aba68a7b4964a78abece6e0b125d>.

11. Reserved Rights of the City of Mississauga

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

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.

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

Appendix 1. Curator Information Form

[Please apply to this opportunity by clicking here](#). If you are unable to use the online submission software, you may submit your submission in PDF format to public.art@mississauga.ca. If you are submitting by PDF, please complete this Curator Information Form and submit it with your application. 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 Rachel Pennington, Public Art Curator, City Planning Strategies Division, City of Mississauga, 300 City Centre Dr, Mississauga, ON L5B 3C1, Email: public.art@mississauga.ca.

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:

Reference Name:

Pronouns:

Title:

Organization:

Email Address:

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:
