

## CALL TO ARTISTS – Expressions of Interest (EOI)

### Permanent Public Art for Port Credit Active Transportation Bridge

Submission deadline: **July 8, 2026, by 11:59PM EST**

Budget: **\$253,400 CAD + HST**

The City of Mississauga (the “City”) seeks to commission an Indigenous artist or Indigenous-led artist team to create permanent public art for the Port Credit Active Transportation Bridge, a pedestrian bridge crossing the Credit River between Memorial Park and Port Credit GO station. The City seeks artwork that responds to the Credit River as a place of living cultural, spiritual, and historical significance, honouring Indigenous presence, treaty relationships, and the enduring role of the river in sustaining Indigenous ways of life.

This is a two-stage artist selection process. Up to three artists will be shortlisted from this call to develop a proposal. The deadline to submit Expressions of Interest for this opportunity is **Wednesday, July 8, 2026, by 11:59 p.m.**

The budget for this artwork is \$253,400.00 + HST Canadian Dollars. The City aims to install and unveil the artwork in fall 2027.



Figure 1. Rendering of the Port Credit Active Transportation Bridge

## 1. Eligibility

This is a public competition open to Indigenous artists and Indigenous artist-led teams\* who are based in or have a connection to Ontario and Indigenous communities within the region.

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 submit an application, even if you are unsure if your credentials are suitable for the opportunity.** When needed, the Public Art Program can work with the selected artist to introduce you to technical experts to assist with any installation and/or fabrication needs.

*\* Applicants may be requested to provide documentation or community acknowledgement to support their claims of Indigenous identity, if the City is unable to obtain it on their own. When necessary, the City's Indigenous Relations team will work with Indigenous communities to ensure the authenticity of claims. This process will be handled with care and cultural sensitivity.*

## 2. Submission Requirements

Apply via our online submission software at:

[https://mississaugapublicart.smapply.ca/prog/public\\_art\\_for\\_AT\\_bridge](https://mississaugapublicart.smapply.ca/prog/public_art_for_AT_bridge)

Please read all components of this Call to Artists before completing your submission. A complete submission package will include the following documentation, submitted through our online submission software:

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### Section 1: Artist Information

*Your contact information will not be visible to the Art Selection Committee.*

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- “**Artist Information**” including your name, pronouns, contact information and links to your website and social media, if applicable.

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### Section 2: Artist Statement

*This information will be visible to the Art Selection Committee.*

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- Artist Statement** You can submit a written statement (1000 words maximum) or a recorded video/voice note (an MP4 file or online link, max 20 MB). The statement should include a description of:
    - ✓ Your artistic practice
    - ✓ Your connection to the lands and waters on which Mississauga is situated
    - ✓ Your interest in this project and understanding of the project goals
  - Artist’s CV** or a document outlining your work on similar and/or relevant projects

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### Section 3: Artist Portfolio

*This information will be visible to the Art Selection Committee.*

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- Artist portfolio (no more than 10 images, pages or videos of past work).** The images and/or videos should illustrate your artistic practice and interest in this project. Where applicable, each image should include: title, year, media, location, project budget, dimensions, and collaborators and/or commissioning agencies.

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### Section 4: Submission Survey

*This information is anonymous.*

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- Proof of completion of anonymous survey:** Please fill out the anonymous Submission Survey at <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/d8c39d6f93344ce4a09eebb6c1104e11> and include a screenshot of the completion page to complete your application.

**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 interested parties 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 Philippa French, Public Art Curator at [public.art@mississauga.ca](mailto: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](mailto:public.art@mississauga.ca). If you are submitting by PDF, please use the Curator Information Form at the end of this document.

### 3. Project Brief

The City of Mississauga is [constructing a new pedestrian bridge over the Credit River](#) to connect trails within the Lakeshore Road corridor. The bridge will provide a direct and accessible route for walking, cycling, and skating between Memorial Park and the GO station, helping to reduce demand for parking at these locations and supporting more sustainable transportation options.

This new infrastructure project aligns with the City's goal of fostering a healthier and more accessible community by improving active transportation connections and creating safer, more convenient ways to move through the area.



*Figure 1 Rendering of the pedestrian bridge crossing over the Credit River (aerial view)*



*Figure 2 Rendering of the pedestrian bridge crossing over the Credit River*

The City of Mississauga is located on the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, The Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Wendat and Wyandot Nations. People have lived along the shores of Lake Ontario, in what is now Mississauga, for more than 10,000 years.

The Lake Ontario shoreline and the Credit River, in particular, are closely associated with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, who occupied and stewarded the Credit River since the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Credit River has long been a place of [cultural, spiritual, and historical significance](#), serving as a key site for seasonal gathering, salmon fishing, trade, and governance. It was through trade conducted along this river that the community later became known to Europeans as the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Today, the Credit River remains a powerful marker of Indigenous presence, continuity, and resilience within the landscape. While Indigenous public art exists throughout the city, the banks of the Credit River and the Lake Ontario shoreline present particularly meaningful opportunities to honour Indigenous peoples, their cultures, histories, and ongoing stewardship of the lands and waters. This artwork and future works along the waterfront will form a [public art trail of works by Indigenous artists](#). The art trail will include permanent public artworks, murals on buildings near the waterfront and the use of natural materials in public art installations.

#### **4. Artwork Goals and Themes:**

The goals of the project are to:

- Honour the City of Mississauga's treaty relationships and support ongoing processes of reconciliation with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and other Indigenous Nations with traditional territory in the region;
- Respond to the Credit River as a place of living cultural, spiritual, and historical significance, including its role as a site of seasonal gathering, sustenance, trade, and governance for the Mississaugas of the Credit;
- Increase the visibility and presence of Indigenous peoples, perspectives, and leadership along the Credit River and Lake Ontario shoreline;
- Acknowledge the Credit River as a living system that has sustained Indigenous ways of life over generations and continues to hold meaning today.

## **Engagement with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN)**

Engagement with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation is a key component of this project and will form part of the selected artist's scope of work.

While artists will submit a proposed concept as part of the Stage 2: Request for Proposals, the final artwork is expected to evolve through meaningful engagement with MCFN. Artists should be prepared to incorporate insights, knowledge, and perspectives gained through this process into the refinement and development of their design.

The selected artist will be expected to undertake a series of engagement activities, which may include:

- Participation in a community gathering or event to gain a deeper understanding of MCFN today, including perspectives on Ah-ki (the Earth)
- Independent research into the Credit River area and the Mississaugas of the Credit, including how MCFN, as water people, view the waters as responsibility to protect and not as personal property
- Engagement with the MCFN Cultural Advisory Network to better understand cultural knowledge, practices, and considerations relevant to the site
- Collaboration with an MCFN Heritage Interpreter to identify and understand histories, stories, and areas of significance that may be respectfully reflected in the artwork

This engagement process is intended to support the development of the final artwork; Artists should approach this work with openness, humility, and a willingness to listen and adapt their concepts as appropriate.

Throughout artwork creation, commissioning and design, the City's public art program will strive to act in a spirit of reciprocity, reconciliation, collaboration, mutual respect and good faith.

The City recognizes that supporting Indigenous work means supporting practices in which Indigenous Artists feel physically, emotionally, spiritually, and culturally safe. The City recognizes that each artist brings their own lived experience and artistic voice, and that no individual artist can or is expected to speak on behalf of an entire Indigenous Nation or community. Projects with Indigenous artists offer opportunities for learning and exploration for the City, project partners, and the public.

## 5. Artwork Location

**Address:** The new bridge is over the Credit River, from Front Street to Memorial Park. The artwork is to be located on the east side of the bridge, in Memorial Park. Approximate location [here](#).

**Geography:** [Port Credit Memorial Park](#) is a large waterfront park with walkways, a large pavilion, plaza space and open lawn. This is a popular location for many festivals and events. There are also picnic areas, a skate park and a playground. The Port Credit Library and the Port Credit Memorial Arena are located adjacent to the park.

### Proposed Artwork Location:

The artwork will be a gateway feature located adjacent to the pathway leading onto the east side of the bridge. The artwork would be located on parkland, not directly on the path or bridge itself.

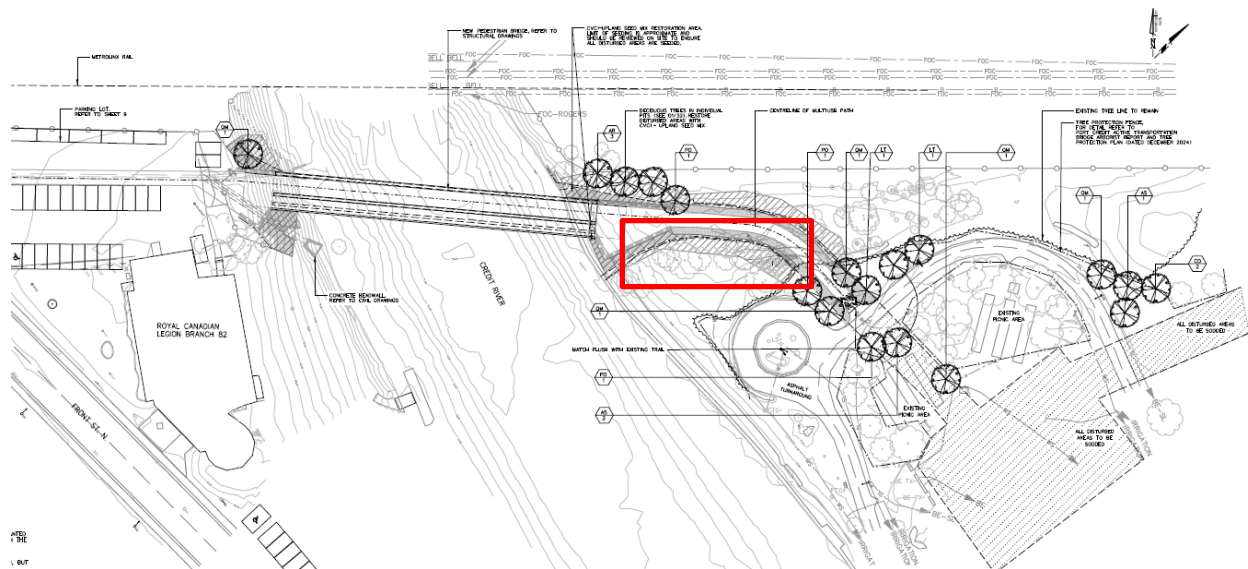


Figure 3 Proposed artwork location

**Dimensions:** The length of the path is about 28m long. The artwork will be located adjacent to the pathway on an area where there is a 3:1 slope. Artwork must be located at least 500mm from the edge of the pathway.



*Figure 4 Photo of the proposed artwork location (as of April 16, 2026)*

### Other Considerations:

- Be permanent in nature and require minimal maintenance
- Be safe and suitable for a public space, avoiding sharp edges, points, projections or pinch-points which may cause injury by impact
- Meaningfully consider accessibility and different modes of experience
  - The City's [facility accessibility design standards](#) can provide guidance
- Be durable and able to withstand four season outdoor conditions including temperature changes, moisture, salt application, wind, UV exposure and corrosion
- Be vandalism-resistant and graffiti-proof
- Not require any electrical conduit or lighting for as part of the artwork design
- As far as possible, be built in accordance with construction methods that prioritize sustainability\*, environmental concerns and minimization of the project's environmental footprint
- Any foundation requirements for the artwork will need to be completed as part of the selected artist's scope of work.

*\* We define sustainability as an eco-social approach to land, site, materiality, and community; as well as the practice of injecting creativity and thought to the public discourse around people and planet.*

## 6. Anticipated Budget

The total budget for all artist fees and expenses related to this project is **\$ 253,400.00 + HST Canadian Dollars.\***

Up to three artists will be shortlisted from this call to develop a proposal in Stage 2: Request for Proposals. Separate from the total project budget, the Stage 2 proposal fee is \$3,000.00 CAD + HST. 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, community engagement, 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   |
|--------------------------|---|
| July 8, 2026             | <b>Submission Deadline at 11:59 p.m.</b>  |
| July 9-July 27, 2026     | Art Selection Committee evaluates submissions and shortlists up to three artists/artist teams to proceed to Stage 2 |
| August-September 2026    | Stage 2: Request for Proposals  |
| October 2026             | Art Selection Committee selects commissioned artist; Contract execution; all artists are notified                   |
| October 2026 - Fall 2027 | Artwork Fabrication and Installation  |

\* *Schedule subject to change*

## 8. Selection Process and Criteria

This is a two-stage art selection process:

**Stage One:** Artist Shortlist based on Expression of Interest (EOI) Submissions

An art selection jury comprised of Indigenous arts professionals and community members and members of the project team will score submissions against an evaluation matrix. The jury will recommend up to three artists or artist teams to advance to Stage 2: Request for Proposals based on the following criteria:

- Artist’s interest and expressed desire in this project and their understanding of the project goals;
- Artist’s interest and experience with community engagement;
- Artist’s ability to complete a project of this scale, budget, and timeline, as evidenced in their past work; and
- Artist’s past work, specifically in its high level of quality, originality, and suitability in style and concept to this public art project’s goals.

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.**

## **Stage 2: Request for Proposals**

Up to three shortlisted artists will be invited to respond to a detailed Request for Proposals package and will be paid \$3,000.00 + HST to develop proposals.

In Stage 2, shortlisted artists will be asked to present drawings or in situ representation of the proposed artwork and a project plan outline, including detailed budget and schedule. Shortlisted artists will also have the opportunity to meet on site with the project team to experience the space and get a better understanding of the considerations for the artwork. This meeting will be optional, and a virtual meeting option will be available for artists unable to travel to the site.

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

## **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, Curator, Public Art at [public.art@mississauga.ca](mailto:public.art@mississauga.ca).

For more information about the City's public art program visit:

[mississauga.ca/publicart](http://mississauga.ca/publicart)