

Cornish Library Public Art Opportunity

An on-site information session took place on Thursday, October 5, 2017 with WAC, City of Winnipeg and Library staff. The following is a summary of the Q & As.

Who uses the Cornish Library?

The Cornish Library is a child-friendly, family-oriented, neighbourhood-sized library. It is mostly visited by people on foot or on bike from the surrounding area. It does not have a parking lot. Most visitors are regulars, easily recognized by staff. The library offers some adult programming, but focuses mostly on children's programming.

Where will the artwork be located?

A new reading room will be added to the back of the existing building, overlooking the river. The artwork will be located both inside this new addition and below it.

The artwork location is shown in red on the architectural drawings. The interior space available is approximately 4' in diameter and 11' from floor to ceiling. Outside the artwork will surround the concrete support column, which is 5' 9" from the ground up to the underside of the soffit.

What kind of artwork do you want?

The artwork should flow from the interior ceiling to the floor and through to the exterior cast-in-place concrete supporting column below. The interior elements of the artwork will be visible through the glass walls, making the artwork in its entirety viewable from the river, Sherbrook Street and the Maryland Bridge.

The artwork does not have to fill the entire space available, be a solid column, or be functional in any way, but it could include a hanging mobile, and/or a table or seating feature. The artwork should be engaging and welcoming from the street. As with all public artworks, it must be safe to touch and robust enough to withstand the interaction of countless visitors and the extremes of Winnipeg weather for the outdoor portion. Lighting cannot be blinding and/or shine into traffic.

How will the new reading room addition be used?

The new addition will be used as an open reading room with seating. Periodicals will be housed along the interior wall; no other book shelving or computer tables are planned for this area. The children's programming will remain in the basement.

Will there be scrims on the windows?

The windows will have a built-in tint, but no other coverings are planned. There may be some frosting on the lower half of the windows.

What will the roof be made of?

It will be a steel deck roof, with open web steel joist, and a suspended wood slat ceiling.

Where will the HVAC be located?

The HVAC will be located in the ceiling.

Will the area under the new addition be landscaped?

Not extensively due to budget constraints, but it will be finished off to a certain level. We hope to have the chain-link fence that is currently there removed.

Who is the project architect?

[Public City Architecture](#) is leading the design of the renovations.

Is there electrical service available?

There is potential to access the power supply, however there may be costs associated with bringing the wiring to the artwork site. More details will be provided to shortlisted artists when they are developing their proposals. Please keep in mind that any electrical components must be included in the artist's budget and be designed to be energy-efficient, such as the use of LED lights.

Who will maintain the artwork and/or any lighting components?

City of Winnipeg Public Works staff will maintain the artwork, including the replacement of any consumable items such as lightbulbs based on a detailed a maintenance manual provided by the artist.

Will library staff have a say in the artwork creation?

A representative from Winnipeg Public Library will participate in the selection process. Cornish Library staff will also be involved in the technical site-visit for shortlisted artists and will provide additional information as required.

Will the Cornish Library's designation as a Heritage Building limit the artwork?

The Heritage Building Review Committee's comments do not apply to the artwork as it will be installed in the new addition, not in the existing heritage building.

What do artists need to do to apply?

This project has a two-stage selection process. For the November 21 deadline, artists are asked to submit only an Expression of Interest and Qualifications that includes a 1-page narrative describing their interest in the site and qualifications, along with their CV, references and examples of their work (as described in the [Call to Artists](#)). Proposals are not accepted at this time. The Selection Committee may then choose to recommend a shortlist of up to three artists for the second stage. The shortlisted artists will be paid an honourarium of \$1,500 to research and develop in-depth proposals and present them to the Selection Committee in February. To inform this process, shortlisted artists will be required to attend a technical information meeting on December 12.

Are shortlisted artists required to attend the detailed site visit on December 12?

Yes.

What other information do artists need?

In addition to the Call-to-Artists, we recommend that you read [Public Art Demystified: A Guide to Applying to Public Art Opportunities](#). This short guide will help you better understand the process for applying for a public art opportunity and some of the considerations you will need to be aware of if you are awarded a commission for the City of Winnipeg, through WAC.

If you have any more questions about this project and the application process, please contact tamara rae biebrich, Artist Projects Manager, Winnipeg Arts Council, by telephone, 204-943-7668 or by email, tamara.rae@winnipegarts.ca.