

# National Call to Indigenous Artists

from WINNIPEG'S PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

## Public Art Opportunity

Proposed Site: AIR CANADA WINDOW PARK

**Call-to-Artists** Call for Expressions of Interest and Qualifications  
**Deadline** SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 at 4:00 pm  
**Budget** \$400,000 (total)  
Three Opportunities: one at \$200,000; two at \$100,000

### ART OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The Winnipeg Arts Council invites First Nations, Métis and Inuit visual artists residing in Canada to submit expressions of interest and qualifications to create public artworks for three opportunities in Air Canada Window Park in downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba, located on Treaty One territory.



WINNIPEG  
ARTS COUNCIL



*The Winnipeg Arts Council funds, supports  
and fosters development of the arts on  
behalf of the people of Winnipeg.*



Canada

*This project is funded in part  
by the Government of Canada.*

## **BACKGROUND, PROJECT SUMMARY and ARTWORK GOALS**

---

This major public art project builds on efforts to create awareness of the rich Indigenous cultures, peoples and heritage that are at the roots of our territory, city and province. The opportunity is open to First Nations, Inuit and Métis artists and artist teams. A gathering of Indigenous artists, Elders, knowledge keepers, curators, and scholars held earlier this year informed the intent and shape of this project.

In order to offer creative freedom to interested artists, a strict theme is not suggested. Rather we ask that artists consider the critical importance of the context of *this place* on Treaty One land, being the birthplace of the Métis nation, as central to the formulation of the project.

“In July 1885, while imprisoned by Canadian forces, Louis Riel famously said: “My people will sleep for one hundred years, and when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back.” It is our belief that he was not only speaking of Métis artists but also of other Aboriginal artists of the past, the present, and to come. Riel was speaking of the sounds of Manitowapow, resonances that have the ability...to create our world.”<sup>1</sup>

“The prophecies tell us there will come a time when all the people of the world will want to know the sacred divine language of the Indigenous peoples. We have an opportunity now to show the world, so it’s an amazing time for Indigenous peoples, artists and storytellers.”<sup>2</sup>

-Elder Mae Louise Campbell

**An artwork proposal is not requested at this time.** Artist applications will be reviewed on the basis of artistic excellence, expressed written interest in the site and other qualification criteria listed below. Experience with community engagement and a desire to create artwork for and in the public realm are required.

## **CONTEXT and HISTORY**

---

### **About Treaty One Territory, Manitoba and Winnipeg**

“Manitoba has always been a place of activity, change, and struggle – movements that illustrate the harshness and beauty of life. From time immemorial, ancestors of Aboriginal communities now known as Anishinaabe, Assiniboine, Cree, Dene, Inuit, Métis, Oji-Cree, and Sioux inhabited, migrated to, and settled throughout these lands. They made homes, held ceremonies in sacred spaces, and forged relationships amongst themselves and with beings throughout the environment. They established traditions that extend into today.”<sup>3</sup>

### **Treaty One Territory**

Treaty No. 1 was negotiated and entered into in August 1871 at Lower Fort Garry and includes the communities of Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Selkirk, Steinbach, Lundar, Grand Beach, Emerson, Winkler and many more.

**Manitoba**, or Manitowapow as it was historically called by many Indigenous peoples, has a long and storied explanation of how its name came to be:

“While many legitimate and alternate claims exist, the most common explanation of the name is that it originated in the Cree words *Manitou* (Great Spirit) and *wapow* (sacred water), or in Ojibway, *Manito-bau*. From the Narrows of Lake Manitoba, where waves dashed against the rocky shores of Manitou Island, these sounds were thought to be sacred beats that dashed throughout Creation and created beauty, definition, and meaning. This is the voice of the Great Spirit, Manitowapow... In 1870, a delegation from the Council went to Ottawa to negotiate with Canada over the jurisdiction of the growing and lucrative Red River settlement. The territory was known as Assiniboia, but Riel never liked the name. On April 19, 1870, he sent the following letter to delegate Father Noël-Joseph Ritchot:

---

<sup>1</sup> Warren Cariou and Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair, *Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water* (Winnipeg, Manitoba: HighWater Press, 2011), 6.

<sup>2</sup> Elder Mae Louise Campbell (Indigenous Gathering discussion, Winnipeg MB, April 25, 2016).

<sup>3</sup> Warren Cariou and Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair, *Manitowapow*, 3.

The name of the country is already written in all hearts, that of Red River. Fancy delights in that of 'Manitoba' but the situation seems to demand that of 'North-West.' Friends of the old government are pleased with that of Assiniboia (but) it is not generally enough liked to be kept. Choose one of the two names 'Manitoba' or 'North-West'.

In 1870, the Canadian parliament passed the *Manitoba Act*. The traditional name of Manitowapow, which morphed through speakers of other languages into 'Manitoba,' became the name citizens of the province recognize and use today."<sup>4</sup>

## Winnipeg

"We have always been here and a city grew around and on top of us."

-Sherry Farrell Racette, *Indigenous scholar*

The known history of Winnipeg extends up to 30,000 years, to the ice age during which most of North America was covered by a glacier. When the glacier melted, Lake Agassiz was left covering a large part of the central plains, and "eventually drained into the world's oceans and formed parts of local ecology (for instance, Lake Winnipeg, Lake Winnipegosis, and Lake Manitoba are remnants.)"<sup>5</sup>

As humans began to inhabit the site of present-day Winnipeg shortly after the retreat of Lake Agassiz, and because of the constant flooding leading to layers of silt built up over 6,000 years, many of the stories and history of this place exist below the surface. The Forks, where the Red and Assiniboine Rivers meet, is the most extensive archaeological site in the province. According to oral tradition, "a great treaty gathering was held at the forks 570 to 600 years ago, with between nine and eleven different nations. The archaeological record shows an unprecedented mixing of ceramic traditions, indicating several distinct groups shared a camp site."<sup>6</sup>

The name Winnipeg comes from the Cree language, with "win-nipi" translating to "murky water".<sup>7</sup> The confluence of the Red and Assiniboine rivers is just one portion of the historical creation of the city's infrastructure. Several of the main roadways used today, such as Portage Avenue, were initially worn into place through the use of Red River carts. Their meandering shape follows routes whose original purpose was the settlement of the Red River Colony. The carts, a Métis invention, were a two-wheeled wooden conveyance that was used in the fur trade.

Located on Treaty One territory, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe peoples and the homeland of the Métis Nation, Winnipeg sits at the crossroads of the Anishinaabe, Assiniboine, Cree, Dene, Inuit, Métis, Oji-Cree, and Sioux Nations, and is home to Canada's largest, youngest and fastest growing urban Indigenous population. The city has an active and acclaimed Indigenous arts community anchored by Urban Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art, one of only three Indigenous artist-run centres in the country, a recognized leader in Aboriginal arts programming, and one of the foremost venues and voices for contemporary Indigenous art in Canada. Predating Urban Shaman in Winnipeg was formative work and artist movements by such prominent artists as Jackson Beardy, Daphne Odjig, and Robert Houle, among many others.

Approximately 11% of Winnipeggers are of Indigenous descent, exceeding the national average of 4.3%. With a broad vision of making Winnipeg a place that celebrates this part of our community, our first Métis Mayor, Brian Bowman, recently created an Indigenous Advisory Circle to advise on ways to build awareness, bridges and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

---

<sup>4</sup> Warren Cariou and Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair, *Manitowapow*, 5.

<sup>5</sup> Warren Cariou and Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair, *Manitowapow*, 2.

<sup>6</sup> Sherry Farrell Racette, (Indigenous Gathering discussion, Winnipeg MB, April 25, 2016).

<sup>7</sup> "Aboriginal Peoples Contributions to Place Names in Manitoba," University of Manitoba, September 2008, accessed June 23, 2016, [https://umanitoba.ca/student/indigenous/media/24\\_Place\\_Names.pdf](https://umanitoba.ca/student/indigenous/media/24_Place_Names.pdf).

## **SITE**

---

The location currently known as Air Canada Window Park\* is at the northeast corner of Portage Avenue at Carlton Street. Constructed as part of the Core Area Initiative which was responsible for much of Portage Avenue's demolition and development through the 1980s, the Park's creation happened shortly after the building of the new Air Canada Data Centre at Ellice Avenue and Carlton Street and around the same time as the construction of Portage Place Mall, Place Promenade Apartments and new housing around Central Park.

The Park is a highly visible and accessible public space on historic Portage Avenue, one of Winnipeg's busiest thoroughfares for both automobile and pedestrian traffic. The site is already a meeting place for the local Indigenous community.

The Park's neighbour to the east is the national headquarters for the Aboriginal People's Television Network (APTN). Established in 1992 and launched nationally in 1999, APTN is "the first and only national Aboriginal broadcaster in the world, with programming by, for and about Aboriginal Peoples, to share with all Canadians as well as viewers around the world."<sup>8</sup>

*\*The Park has been designated for a major re-design and the selected artworks will be integrated into the new development. Should Air Canada Window Park become unavailable for this project due to timelines for the re-design, applicants will be notified of the change of location before the site visit for short-listed artists scheduled for October 14 & 15, 2016.*

## **ARTWORK DESIGN PARAMETERS**

---

The installed artwork(s) must not inhibit movement, must generally meet the safety and accessibility standards of the City of Winnipeg, and must be constructed of materials that are resistant to vandalism. Winnipeg's extreme climate, which sees temperatures range from -40° C to +40° C, must be taken into consideration. The final artwork(s) must be robust enough to withstand not only climatic wear and tear but the interaction of countless visitors. If the artwork contains lighting, components cannot interfere with the traffic signal lights and will have to adhere to the City of Winnipeg's lighting standards and guidelines.

For general information, the City of Winnipeg's Accessibility Design Standards document is a useful resource: [http://www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/Universal\\_Design.stm](http://www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/Universal_Design.stm).

## **SITE LOCATION and PLANS**

---

Attached are photographs and a site plan of existing conditions of Air Canada Window Park. These are supplied to get a sense of the Park's current use and layout, but please note that the Park is designated for re-design and the intent is to integrate the final artwork proposals into the new design of the Park. Historical documents are also attached for context as referenced in the Context and History section.

## **BUDGET**

---

The budget for the design, fabrication and installation of the three public artworks will be one project at \$200,000 and two projects at \$100,000. The budgets for the three projects must cover ALL expenses related to the projects, including (but not limited to) artist fee(s), site preparation and restoration, technical consultation including the engineering drawings necessary to fabricate and site the artwork; engineering approval; materials; fabrication; insurance; installation; permit fees; documentation; travel to and from the site; and all applicable taxes; etc.

---

<sup>8</sup> "Corporate," Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, accessed June 23, 2016, <http://aptn.ca/corporate2/>.

## **ARTIST ELIGIBILITY**

---

This Call is open to professional\* First Nations, Métis, and Inuit artists and artist teams\*\* residing in Canada.

The Winnipeg Arts Council is committed to encouraging artists at all career levels. Artists selected for the final commissions who have not created public artwork in the past will be provided assistance with budget development and project management and liaison with engineers, designers, fabricators, contractors, and other consultants necessary to carry out a large scale public art project.

*\*The Public Art Policy defines a professional artist as a person who is critically recognized as an artist; possesses skill, training and/or experience in his or her artistic discipline; is active in and committed to his or her art practice; and has a history of public presentation.*

*\*\* Artist teams must share the total commission awarded.*

## **SELECTION PROCESS and CRITERIA**

---

Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by a selection committee of qualified persons. The committee will review applications on the basis of:

- Qualifications and professional experience of the artist
- Expressed sensitivity to the site and context
- Ability to attend a detailed site meeting on October 14 and 15, 2016 to learn more about the site and context
- Ability to complete and install the project by October 1, 2017
- Willingness of the artist to work collaboratively with design and construction professionals
- Willingness to successfully execute a project of this scale under the criteria developed and within the budget and timeline set out
- Expressed desire to create artwork for and in the public realm

The selection committee will recommend a short list of artists who will be invited to develop an artwork proposal consisting of models, drawings and documents outlining a timeline and budget. An honorarium of \$3,000 for the creation of the proposal will be extended to the shortlisted artists. Shortlisted artists will be invited to a site meeting on **October 14 and 15** to receive more detailed information and to engage with Indigenous knowledge keepers. Travel within Canada and accommodation in Winnipeg will be provided to the short listed artists for this visit. Artists will have approximately three months to complete the proposal following the site visit. Final recommendations will then be made at a second stage selection review process from the short listed artists, if appropriate.

The proposals may also be reviewed by a committee of technical experts who will advise the selection committee, when needed, on matters related to financial feasibility, durability, structural integrity, safety and maintenance.

The artists selected for the final commissions will consult and engage with Winnipeg's First Nations and Métis communities as a critical part of the development of their artwork. The selected artists will determine the most appropriate method of consultation depending upon their specific concept and intent for the artwork. The Winnipeg Arts Council will provide access, resources and assistance wherever necessary to ensure a meaningful engagement process for the artists and community at large.

The artists selected for the final commissions will be required to enter into an agreement with the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Arts Council which will contain provisions including but not limited to rights of ownership and use, warranty and insurance. The completed artwork will be the property of the City of Winnipeg but the moral copyright and intellectual property rights remain with the artist. The selected artists will also be required to create a maintenance manual for the final artwork.

*\*Please note that the Winnipeg Arts Council is not compelled to award the project based on the applications received.*

## **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

---

The Selection Committee will include Indigenous artists, community members and knowledge keepers, a representative of the site and design professionals. The Selection Committee will be facilitated by the Winnipeg Arts Council but the final decisions will be those of the Selection Committee.

## **ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE (2016/2017)**

---

Project announcement	July 6, 2016
Deadline for receipt of applications	September 8
Selection Committee review of applications and selection of shortlist artists	September 29-30
Detailed site visit for shortlisted artists	October 14-15
Short listed artists create proposals; Selection Committee selects finalists	October 16-January 12, 2017
Award of project/creation/fabrication	January 17-September 23
Installation	September 2017

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

---

Artists wishing to be considered must submit a complete package. Artists working as a team should submit their application as one package but should include supporting materials and curriculum vitae for each team member. Forms are provided in PDF format, which can either be filled in on a computer and then printed, or printed blank and filled in manually. To access the forms you will need to have Adobe Reader software which is available free from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). Please note that the forms may not work correctly if using other software (i.e. "Preview" on a Mac); to ensure the best results please use Adobe Reader. Where forms are not provided, information must be typed in 11-point font using at least one-inch margins on single-sided, white, letter-sized paper suitable for scanning. Do not staple or bind applications.

### **Applications must include the items listed below clearly labeled in the following order:**

**1. Completed Confidential Contact and Statistical Information and Application Forms**

(pages 9 & 10 of this document). For team applications, please provide the lead artist's information on these pages.

**2. Written Expression of Interest\*** (Maximum 1 page)

*\*Note: proposals are not required and will not be accepted at this stage.*

Describe your interest in this particular site. Speak to your experience and desire to create artwork for the public realm. Highlight your qualifications and experience working with site-specific artwork and construction and design professionals, as well as your ability to successfully execute a project of this scale within the budget and timeline set out above.

**3. Curriculum Vitae** (maximum 4 pages)

Include a brief statement of artistic activities for the past twelve to eighteen months.

**4. References** (page 11 of this document)

Provide name, address, phone and e-mail for two references who can speak to your art practice and interest and/or experience in public art projects. *A letter of reference is not required at this time.*

**5. Published Support Material** (optional, maximum 5 pages)

You may provide up to 5 photocopied pages of excerpts from published materials such as critical writing about your work and/or media clippings.

**6. Digital Image Documentation List** (page 12 of this document)

Complete the template provided with descriptive and contextual information about your digital images, including the year produced and title of the work, medium, dimensions, and location.

**7. Digital Images** (*\*please see specifications below*)

Provide up to 15 digital images representative of your work for the selection committee to review. Please include documentation of related and/or public artwork where possible. *Original artwork will not be accepted.*

### **Digital Image Specifications**

---

Your images **must be submitted in digital format on an electronic storage device (CD/DVD/USB stick)**. They will be stored and processed electronically and may be viewed in a number of formats: on an iPad, desktop computer, and/or projector. It is in your best interest to ensure that the materials conform to the requirements and format below:

- Jpeg format
- RGB colour mode (no CMYK),
- 72 dpi
- no larger than 1.5 MB
- standalone files which are not embedded in documents such as Word, PowerPoint or PDF.

### **Digital Image File Names**

To ensure that your images are reviewed in the correct order, please label them "***InitialsNumberTitleYear.jpg***":

- start with your initials, followed by
- the number that corresponds to your documentation list,
- the title of the work, and
- the year produced.

For example, ***ac01MainStreet2009.jpg***, ***ac02PegCity2011.jpg***, ***ac15Prairies2012.jpg***, etc.

### **APPLICATION DELIVERY and RECEIPT**

---

All supporting materials must accompany the application. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be accepted. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted. The Winnipeg Arts Council will not be responsible for applications lost in transit. While all reasonable care will be taken in the handling of materials, the Winnipeg Arts Council will not take responsibility for lost or damaged materials.

It is your responsibility to ensure the application package reaches the WAC office by the 4:00 pm deadline. All applicants will receive a notice by e-mail that their application has been received. If you have submitted an application and do not receive notification within two weeks of the deadline date, please contact the WAC office.

## **DEADLINE**

---

Complete proposal packages must be received on or before **September 8, 2016 at 4:00 pm.**  
(This is not a postmark deadline). Incomplete, late, faxed, or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.

**Please send complete application packages to:**

**Indigenous Artists' Project**  
Public Art Opportunity  
Winnipeg Arts Council  
103-110 Princess Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1K7

*The Winnipeg Arts Council reserves the right to choose to not recommend any application, proposal or finalist and to terminate or re-advertise any project.*

For any Call-To-Artists updates please check the web site at [www.winnipegarts.ca](http://www.winnipegarts.ca).

**For additional information or questions, please contact:**

Tricia Wasney, Manager-Public Art, [twasney@winnipegarts.ca](mailto:twasney@winnipegarts.ca), 204-943-7668.

# Confidential CONTACT and STATISTICAL INFORMATION FORM

Canada's Privacy Act protects the information provided on this page.



## Contact Information

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First & Middle Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  Mobile  Work  Home

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  Please subscribe me to the Winnipeg Arts Billboard weekly e-mail which includes deadline reminders, calls to artists, and local events listings.

## Statistical Information (optional)

The Winnipeg Arts Council requests that you indicate your year of birth, gender, and language of communication below. The Winnipeg Arts Council utilizes statistics in these areas for program planning, evaluation, and policy development. **This information will not be used to assess your application and will not be shared with the assessors. It will be used for administrative and statistical purposes only. Your response to the questions in this section is voluntary.**

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

### Indigenous Identity:

Please check a box below and include any further information you wish to add.

First Nations \_\_\_\_\_

Métis \_\_\_\_\_

Inuit \_\_\_\_\_

## Language Information

What is your primary language? What other languages do you speak, read and/or understand?

English:  Primary  Speak  Read  Understand

French:  Primary  Speak  Read  Understand

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_:  Primary  Speak  Read  Understand

## How did you hear about WAC and this public art opportunity?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# APPLICATION FORM



Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Checklist of materials included in the following order:

- 1. **Contact and Statistical Information and Application Forms** (pages 9 & 10 of this document)
  - 2. **Written Expression of Interest** (maximum 1 page)
  - 3. **Curriculum Vitae and Statement of Artistic Activities** (maximum 4 pages)
  - 4. **References** (page 11 of this document)
  - 5. **Published Support Material** (optional, maximum 5 pages)
  - 6. **Digital Image Documentation List** (page 12 of this document)
  - 7. **Digital Images** (maximum 15 jpeg files, please refer to Digital Image Specifications)
- 

**To be eligible for consideration, you must sign below to confirm your agreement with the following statements:**

- I accept the conditions of this program as outlined in the guidelines and agree to abide by the Winnipeg Arts Council's decision.*
- I am not under collection of outstanding accounts with Canada Revenue Agency.*
- I certify that the statements in my application are accurate and complete, to the best of my knowledge.*
- I am a First Nations, Métis or Inuit individual.*

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Send applications to:**

**Indigenous Artists' Project**  
Public Art Opportunity  
Winnipeg Arts Council  
103-110 Princess Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1K7

Complete applications must be received in the office on or before **September 8 at 4:00 pm** (not a post-mark deadline). Incomplete, late, faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.



# REFERENCES

---

**Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Provide two references** who can speak to your art practice, and interest and/or experience in public art projects:

## 1. Reference & Contact Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  Mobile  Work  Home

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## 2. Reference & Contact Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  Mobile  Work  Home

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

---

# DIGITAL IMAGE DOCUMENTATION LIST



Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

#	Year Produced	Title of Work	Medium	Dimensions	Description/Details – including location
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					