



Local Call to Artists

for Expressions of Interest and Qualifications



ODEON PARK
Budget: \$100,000
Deadline: Dec 3, 2024



Rendering by Scatliff + Miller + Murray



WINNIPEG ARTS COUNCIL

ART OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The Winnipeg Arts Council invites local artists to submit Expressions of Interest and Qualifications to create a playful public artwork for integration with the development of Odeon Park, a new public plaza at the junction of Smith Street and Notre Dame Avenue in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Treaty 1 Territory and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

The Winnipeg Arts Council funds, supports and champions the arts on behalf of the people of Winnipeg. Through [Winnipeg's Public Art Program](#), we aim to enhance the use and enjoyment of public space, deepen social connections, and celebrate the city's unique character.

We recognize and affirm the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Indigenous peoples of this land and are committed to advancing equity, inclusion, and reconciliation in the arts. We encourage applications from Indigenous artists—First Nations, Métis, and Inuit—as well as from Black, racialized, 2SLGBTQ+, non-binary, Deaf artists, and artists with disabilities. Our commitment includes fair representation on selection committees and supporting reconciliation efforts through education, awareness, and continued conversation.

CONTEXT and HISTORY

Winnipeg was founded in 1873 and named after nearby Lake Winnipeg, derived from the Cree word meaning "muddy water." The city stands on Treaty One Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininew, and Dakota peoples, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Indigenous peoples have thrived in this area for thousands of years, with The Forks – at the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine rivers – serving as a key meeting place. The Red River Métis played a pivotal role in shaping the region, trading along North-West trails, which later became major thoroughfares like Main Street, Portage Avenue, and Pembina Highway.

Today, Winnipeg has the largest urban Indigenous population in Canada, with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples making significant contributions to its development as a commercial, transportation, and cultural hub. It is also a multicultural city, enriched by people from around the world who have made it their home. The relationship between Indigenous peoples and settlers is a defining aspect of Winnipeg's identity.¹

ODEON PARK

Odeon Park is a new public space and City of Winnipeg park currently in development as part of Winnipeg's Downtown Recovery Plan. Designed to enhance the pedestrian experience, the park will connect the Sports, Hospitality, and Entertainment District (SHED) to the south with the Exchange District to the north.

Located adjacent to the historic Burton Cummings Theatre, originally known as the Walker Theatre and Odeon Theatre, the park sits alongside a venue rich in cultural significance. This Edwardian-style proscenium building, designated as a National and Provincial Historic Site, has been a key site for national rallies, including major events of the women's suffrage movement and significant labour meetings.²

The park is overlooked by a large, notable mural by Manitoba artist Winston Leathers, created alongside his *Cosmic Variations* series in the 1970s. This mural, which adorns the north wall of the Burton Cummings Theatre, is one of Winnipeg's oldest surviving murals and showcases Leathers' distinctive graphic style.³

When completed, Odeon Park will serve as a dynamic festival site, featuring a central open space, performance platform, and flexible and fixed seating, all framed with trees and planters at the edges. Most of the time, the space will function as a public park, a treed oasis in the urban landscape. The park will provide daily space for relaxation and recreation, while also being activated throughout the year with programmed events and as an outdoor foyer for the adjacent theatre.

The design of Odeon Park is being led by Scatliff + Miller + Murray (SMM). The artwork commissioned for Odeon Park will engage with the park's new design and urban context, as well as the theatre's historic architecture and iconic mural.

SITE LOCATION & PLANS

The artwork will be located in Odeon Park at the junction of Smith Street and Notre Dame Avenue. Please refer to the [site plan](#) for more details.

¹ <https://www.winnipeg.ca/people-culture/winnipegs-history>

² <https://winnipegarchitecture.ca/364-smith-street/>

³ <http://www.themuralsowinnipeg.com/Mpages/SingleMuralPage.php?action=gotomural&muralid=2>

ARTWORK GOALS

The selected artist will create a joyful, landmark artwork for Odeon Park designed to be seen and experienced both within and outside the park. Only one artist will be selected to create a single artwork, with three potential installation locations:

- A. a standalone artwork near the northern tip of the park,
- B. an artwork integrated with the performance platform at the eastern tip of the park, or
- C. an artwork incorporated into the fence along the eastern edge of the park.

The artwork should be colourful and playful, serving as a focal point for the park and surrounding intersection, engaging people whether they walk or drive by. Artists should thoughtfully consider the park's context and purpose when developing their ideas.

The artist will work closely with SMM on the integration of the artwork. The design team will consider the artist's concept as they finalize the park design and provide digital base drawings and technical advice to the selected artist as needed.

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 professional qualification criteria listed below.

ARTWORK DESIGN PARAMETERS

The installed structure(s) must not inhibit movement and must generally meet the safety and accessibility standards of the City of Winnipeg and must be constructed of materials that are resistant to vandalism. The final artwork must be robust enough to withstand the interaction of countless visitors and the extremes of Winnipeg weather (+40°C to -40°C).

For general information, the City of Winnipeg Accessibility Design Standards documents are a useful resource: http://www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/Universal_Design.stm. Any proposed artwork will need engineering review and approval.

BUDGET

The budget for the fabrication and installation of the public artwork will be \$100,000** and must cover all expenses related to the project, 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; fabrication; insurance; installation; permit fees; documentation; travel to and from the site; co-ordination with the design team and all applicable taxes; etc.

A foundation will be provided for the artwork as long as the work is concurrent with the park construction. Details will be determined during the detailed proposal stage.

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE (2024/2025)

Deadline for receipt of applications	Dec 3, 2024
Review of applications and selection of shortlist artists	Dec 2024
Detailed site visit for shortlisted artists	Dec 17, 2024
Shortlist artists create detailed proposals	Dec - Jan
Shortlist artists presentations and artwork selection	Feb 2025
Artwork award/creation/fabrication	Feb – Sep 2025
Installation	Oct 2025

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This is a local competition; artists must live in, or in close proximity to, Winnipeg. Professional* Winnipeg artists and/or artist teams** are encouraged to apply. Artists currently engaged in the development or creation of public art projects with the Winnipeg Arts Council are not eligible, with the exception of WITH ART collaborations.

**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-led teams must share the total commission of \$100,000.*

SELECTION PROCESS and CRITERIA

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

- Qualifications and professional experience of the artist
- Expressed sensitivity to the site and context
- Ability to complete and install the project by October 2025
- Demonstrated ability of the artist to work collaboratively with design and construction professionals
- Demonstrated ability to successfully execute a project of this scale under the criteria developed and within the budget and timeline set out
- Experience with and expressed desire to create artwork for and in the public realm

The Selection Committee may recommend a shortlist of artists who will be invited to develop a detailed artwork proposal. An honourarium of \$2,000 for proposal development (artwork concept, scaled drawings/renderings, budget and workplan) will be extended to the shortlist. **Shortlisted artists will be required to attend a site meeting on Dec 17, 2024 at 11am.** Shortlisted artists will have approximately six weeks to complete the proposal. A final recommendation will then be made from the shortlist, 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 artist selected for the final commission 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 and copy rights remain with the artist. The selected artist 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 five-person Selection Committee will include artists, a representative from the design team, and a City of Winnipeg staff member involved with the park's development.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Before you submit, please read the Call to Artists fully. Your submission package should be complete and saved as a PDF. It must include:

- 1. Completed Confidential Contact and Statistical Information** (page 6)
For team applications, list the lead artist's information here.

- 2. Written Expression of Interest*** (1 page maximum)

** Note: Do not submit a proposal. Proposals are not needed at this stage.*

Explain why you're interested in this project. Connect your interest to the artwork goals, site and context detailed above. Describe your approach, your experience in public art and your skills. Highlight your qualifications with site-specific art, and experience working with construction and design professionals, as well as your ability to complete a project of this scale within the budget and timeline set out above.

- 3. Curriculum Vitae/Arts Resume** (4 pages maximum)
Include a brief bio and statement of recent artistic activities.

- 4. Two References**

Include their name, address, phone, email and how they know your work.

- 5. Digital Images (PDF or JPG)**

Include up to 10 digital images (JPGs or PDF pages) of your work. If possible, show related or public artwork. For each image, list the year it was created, materials used, dimensions, and a short description. Name collaborators, if any and explain your role. For commissioned project(s), add the client name, budget, and location.

Submissions should be sent digitally via [WeTransfer](#) to info@winnipegarts.ca with the subject line *Odeon Park Public Art* and your name on or before Dec 3, 2024 at 5pm. All applicants will receive confirmation of receipt by e-mail.

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 website at www.winnipegarts.ca.

Questions? Please contact:

tamara rae biebrich

Public Art Manager

Winnipeg Arts Council

204-943-7668

tamara.rae@winnipegarts.ca



CONTACT and STATISTICAL INFORMATION FORM

Last Name: _____ First & Middle Names: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Website / Instagram: _____

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The Winnipeg Arts Council encourages all applicants to provide statistical information. We use this information to help understand who is participating in our programs. We collect information such as year of birth, identity, and language of communication for program planning, evaluation, and policy development. This helps us understand how well our programs are engaging with diverse art forms, ideas, and communities. Your responses to the questions in this section are completely voluntary. You can provide as much or as little information as you choose. The information you provide will not be used to assess your submission.

Gender: _____ Year of Birth: _____

Do you identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit? NO

YES, please specify your Nation and any group(s) that you are registered, affiliated and/or identify with:

Do you identify as a member of an equity-deserving community? NO

YES, please specify: _____

LANGUAGE INFORMATION

What is your primary language? _____

What other languages do you speak, read and/or understand? _____

CHECK LIST

- 1. Contact and Statistical Info Form (this form)
- 2. Written Expression of Interest and Qualifications (1 page maximum)
- 3. CV/Arts Resume with bio and recent artistic activities (4 pages maximum)
- 4. Two References
- 5. Digital Images with Descriptions (10 JPGs or PDF pages)
- I accept the conditions of this project as outlined in these 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 am available to attend a detailed site visit on **Dec 17, 2024 at 11am**, if I am selected to create a detailed proposal.
- I certify that the statements in my application are accurate and complete, to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

How did you hear about this project? _____