

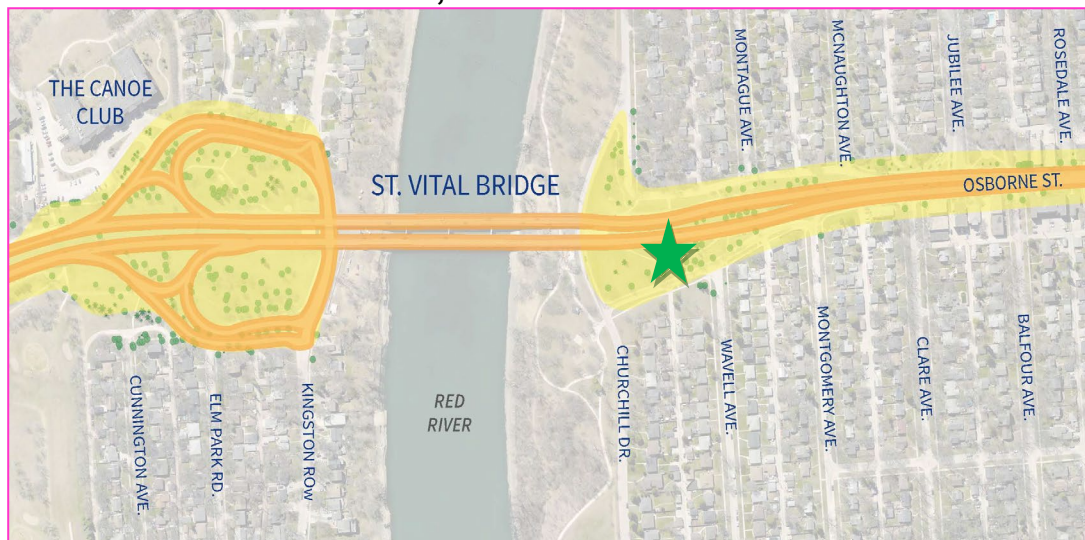


Local Call to Artists

for Expressions of Interest and Qualifications



ST. VITAL BRIDGE
Budget: \$137,500
Deadline: March 10, 2025



ART OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The Winnipeg Arts Council invites local artists to submit Expressions of Interest and Qualifications to create a durable public artwork for the St. Vital Bridge area, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Treaty 1 Territory and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

An artwork proposal is not requested at this time. Applications will be reviewed based on examples of previous work, expressed written interest in the site and context, references and other professional qualification criteria listed below.

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

ST. VITAL BRIDGE & REHABILITATION PROJECT

The St. Vital Bridge is an important crossing over the Red River, connecting Winnipeg neighbourhoods: St. Vital, Elm Park, Norwood Grove, Riverview and Lord Roberts. These communities are tied together by their shared connection to the river, which has shaped their history and identity. The bridge serves as a key link for people traveling by car, bike, walking, or transit, much like the Red River once served as a natural transportation route.

The rehabilitation of the St. Vital Bridge isn't just about fixing infrastructure. While strengthening and widening the bridge will keep it in use for another 50 years, the project also focuses on improving how people experience it. New sidewalks, pathways, and access roads make it easier and safer to walk, bike, or drive. Accessibility upgrades and better connections to the surrounding neighbourhoods ensure the bridge is welcoming for everyone.

ARTWORK GOALS

The community advocated for public art to be included in this project. A public consultation with area residents helped identify key principles, stories, and themes to inform the public art for the bridge corridor. The desire is for the art to speak to the area's history, stories of the First Peoples, the growth of the community, and the connection between people and nature. The Working Group's recommendations for the public art are available on the City's website here: [Public Art Recommendations](#).

This project represents an opportunity for positive change. Whether you're walking, biking, driving, skating, skiing, or paddling along the river, the bridge and its surroundings give you the chance to connect with nature, enjoy art, and learn about the stories of this community. The St. Vital Bridge is more than just a physical crossing—it's a symbol of resilience and the strong bonds that unite people. The community hopes the public art will reflect these values and celebrate the area's rich character.

The selected artist/team will create a durable artwork in the greenspace northeast of the St. Vital Bridge. This area is near the active transportation tunnel and walking paths along Montgomery Avenue, close to the Churchill Tot Lot. This site offers visibility and accessibility.

Artists should think about how the artwork will look and function during all seasons. Since Winnipeg is covered in snow for much of the year, the artwork should remain visible and meaningful year-round.

The content of the artwork should also reflect the unique context of the site and its surroundings.

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

ARTWORK DESIGN PARAMETERS

The artwork must:

- Ensure unobstructed movement and comply with the City of Winnipeg's safety and accessibility standards.
- Be constructed from durable, vandal-resistant materials capable of withstanding Winnipeg's climate extremes (+40°C to -40°C) and exposure to corrosive salt and vehicle spray.
- Be designed to accommodate high levels of public interaction without compromising structural integrity.

For reference, consult the [Winnipeg Accessibility Design Standards](#). All designs require engineering review and approval.

SITE MAP & DRAWINGS

The artwork will be installed on the sloped greenspace area northeast of the St. Vital Bridge, near the active transportation tunnel and walking paths along Montgomery Avenue. The site is easy to access and highly visible. With an electrical service point nearby, the artwork can also incorporate simple energy-efficient lighting if desired. Please refer to the [map](#) and drawings for more details.

BUDGET

The budget for the fabrication and installation of the public artwork will be \$137,500** 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.

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE (2025/2026)

Project Announcement	Jan 2025
Deadline for receipt of applications	Mar 10, 2025
Review of applications and selection of shortlist artists	Mar 2025
Detailed site visit for shortlisted artists	March 25, 2025
Shortlist artists create detailed proposals	Mar - May
Shortlist artists presentations and artwork selection	May 2025
Artwork award/creation/fabrication	Jun 2025 – Sep 2026
Installation	Oct 2026

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 \$137,500.*

SELECTION PROCESS and CRITERIA

Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by a Selection Committee made up of artists, community members, a representative from the design team, and a City of Winnipeg staff member involved in the bridge's rehabilitation.

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Artistic qualifications and relevant professional experience
- Expressed sensitivity to the site and context
- Ability to complete and install the project by October 2026
- Proven ability to work collaboratively with design and construction professionals
- Experience delivering projects of a similar scale, on budget and on time
- Demonstrated experience and commitment to creating artwork in the public realm

The Selection Committee may invite a shortlist of several artists to develop detailed artwork proposals. Each shortlisted artist or team will receive a \$2,500 honorarium to prepare a proposal, including an artwork concept, scaled drawings/renderings, a budget, and a work plan. **Shortlisted artists must attend a site meeting on March 25, 2025 at 11am.** They will have approximately two months to complete the proposal, after which a final recommendation will be made, if appropriate.

The proposals may also be reviewed by a committee of technical experts to advise on financial feasibility, durability, structural integrity, safety, and maintenance.

The artist selected for the final commission will enter into an agreement with the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Arts Council. This agreement will cover ownership and usage rights, warranties, and insurance. The completed artwork will become the property of the City of Winnipeg, but the artist will retain moral and copyright. The selected artist will also be required to provide 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.*

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 and site 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. Please include commissioners/clients where possible.

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](https://www.wetransfer.com/) to info@winnipegarts.ca with the subject line *St. Vital Bridge Public Art* and your name on or before March 10, 2025 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 **March 25 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? _____