

**ART
FOR
SOCIAL
CHANGE**

ACCESSIBILITY

ARTIST CALL



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

OVERVIEW:

The Public Art Committee and the Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity & Equity are collaborating on projects that address the needs of the community in a pilot program called *Art for Social Change*. The goal is to use art as a tool to provide powerful experiences that inspire people to take personal action to create positive change for those facing barriers due to lack of accessibility, inclusion, and other oppressive systems and structures.

Public Art Wood Buffalo is seeking artists living within Canada to submit proposals for site-specific public art installations that creatively explore and interpret the theme of "Accessibility."

THEME: ACCESSIBILITY

The idea of Accessibility should be explored broadly, as an ideal state of existence including the conceptual depiction of systemic barriers or oppressing systems and structures. Accessibility or, the lack thereof, is all around us. Considering all the aspects of a diverse community with different needs including social, economic and cultural (and more), artists have extensive opportunities to explore the theme of Accessibility from the social perspective.

ELIGIBILITY:

This call is open to artists residing in Canada working in any discipline, including but not limited to sculpture, interactive installations, performance art and digital media. Artists from equity-deserving groups and/or with lived experience are encouraged to apply.¹

SITE PARAMETERS:

As part of the proposal package, applicants must provide a general description of a site located in the public realm they intend to interact with. This includes publicly accessible sites such as, but not limited to: sidewalks, roadways, trails, parks, transit systems, and more.

Understanding that changing seasons can drastically alter the experience, artists are invited to propose a preferred season (fall/winter/spring/summer) between January 2025 to December 2025 to install or perform their piece(s).

If selected, efforts will be made by program administrators to determine the final site and dates that best align with the artist's proposal.

Privately owned property or domains are ineligible.

DESIGN PARAMETERS:

- The artwork must be site-specific, considering the chosen location's unique characteristics.
- Safety and accessibility for all individuals should be a priority.
- Consideration should be given to the longevity and sustainability of the proposed installation for the minimum 10-day exhibition period.



- Artists are encouraged to design pieces that can be safely stored or secured while onsite.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Engaging the community in the development and realization of the artwork is highly encouraged. Selected artists will be expected to collaborate with the local community throughout the project. This may include workshops, public forums or involvement in the creative process and delivery of the project.

BUDGET:

The budget for each selected project is no more than \$10,000.00 (excluding GST). This includes artist/design fees, materials, travel and accommodations, installation costs, insurance and subcontractor fees. Other costs may be considered upon review.

TIMELINES:

Artworks are to be exhibited in the public realm within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for a minimum of 10 days or longer during the artist's preferred season sometime between January 2025 to December 2025. Other important dates are listed below.

DATE	PROJECT PHASE
Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 11:59 pm MST	Submission Deadline
End of August, 2024	Selection Notification (up to 6 artists will be selected) Only qualifying artists will be notified
End of October 2024	Project details finalized and artist contracts completed
January 2025 to December 2025	Installation must be delivered for a <i>minimum</i> of 10 days between January 2025 to December 2025

*The timetable is subject to change.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

An art selection jury comprised of arts professionals, community members and/or members of the project team will score submissions against an evaluation matrix. The jury will select up to six (6) artists or artist teams to prepare a detailed proposal, based on the following criteria:

- **Project Proposal** - 55%
 - Proposed project responds to a site-specific or social issue relevant to the region of Wood Buffalo and/or Canada.
 - Ideas are original and use contemporary methods of expression to address the issue.
 - Preliminary sketches or storyboards include proposed materials, site considerations, estimated scale, etc.
 - Preliminary budget shows understanding of project needs/methods.
- **Artist Portfolio & Biography** - 30%
 - Artistic merit, including quality of work, originality, and artistic excellence.
 - Demonstrates the ability to meet the goals within the set timelines.
 - Offers insight into personal connection and/or experiences with the overarching project theme.



- **Professional References** - 15%
 - Positive response to working experience.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Artist contact information:
 - First & Last Name
 - Address, City/Town, Province, Postal Code
 - Email Address, Phone Number
2. Detailed project proposal, including:
 - Expression of interest sharing connection to project theme (750 word maximum).
 - Preferred delivery season (fall/winter/spring/summer).
 -
3. Preliminary sketches
 - Up to three preliminary sketches.
 - All sketches must be included in one document.
 - If selected, a detailed drawing to scale will be required.
 - Desired site within the public realm.
4. Preliminary budget (if selected, a detailed budget will be required).
5. Resume sharing relevant experience
6. Portfolio images (no more than 10 images condensed in one file).
7. Artist biography (200 word maximum).
8. Contact information for two professional references (include full name, relationship to applicant, email address, phone number)

Public Art Wood Buffalo 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 at Public.Art@rmwb.ca before you send a submission!

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

NOTE: If the file size in any format size exceeds 20 MB, artists are asked to use a secured external link.

- **Online Submission** [link to online submission form]
- **Emailed Submissions:** Please submit your proposal as one complete file in PDF format, or provide a secure link to Public.Art@rmwb.ca with "Art for Social Change - (your name)" in the subject line.



- **Audio Submissions:** Please submit your proposal in MP3 or WAV format, or provide a secure link to Public.Art@rmwb.ca with “Art for Social Change - (your name)” in the subject line.
- **Video Submission:** Please submit your proposal in MP4 format, or provide a secure link to Public.Art@rmwb.ca with “Art for Social Change - (your name)” in the subject line.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. MST.

Please notify the Project Coordinator, Theresa Buller at Theresa.Buller@rmwb.ca or 780-743-7994 of the nature of any accommodation(s) that you may require in respect of any materials or processes used to ensure your equal participation.

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo reserves the right to select and retain the artist deemed most appropriate for the project at its sole discretion.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Public Art Wood Buffalo at Public.Art@rmwb.ca or call Pulse at 780-743-7000 to be directed to the best available team member.

ⁱ Equity deserving groups: Groups who have historically been denied equal access to employment, education, and other opportunities and includes, without limitation, the following: members of an Indigenous community; members of a visible minority group; immigrants and refugees; people with recognized disabilities; racialized peoples; youth; women; members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community also known as the sexual and gender diverse peoples community; low-income residents; people with mental or physical health barriers; people facing employment barriers, unemployment or underemployment; and others experiencing barriers to economic and social opportunity and participation. (source: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Equity & Diversity Office)

