

**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 Western Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba) 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 Western Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba) 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.<sup>i</sup>

## 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 recreation centers.

Understanding that changing seasons can drastically alter the experience, artists are invited to propose a preferred season (fall/winter/spring/summer) between September 2024 to August 2025 to install or perform their piece.

If selected, efforts will be made by program administrators to determine the final site that best aligns 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 September 2024 to August 2025. Other important dates are listed below.

DATE	PROJECT PHASE
Monday, May 6, 2024 at 11:59 pm MST	Submission Deadline
May 15, 2024	Selection Notification (up to 6 artists will be selected) Only qualifying artists will be notified
June 2024	Project details finalized and artist contracts completed
September 2024 to August 2025	Installation must be delivered for a duration of 10 days between September 2024 to August 2025

\*The timetable is subject to change.

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

- Detailed project proposal, including:
  - Expression of interest sharing connection to project theme (750 word maximum).
  - Up to three preliminary sketches (simple sketches to visually express the idea). If selected, a detailed drawing to scale will be required.
  - Preferred delivery season (fall/winter/spring/summer).
  - Desired site within the public realm.
- Preliminary budget (if selected, a detailed budget will be required).
- Resume or portfolio showcasing relevant work (no more than 10 images).
- Artist biography (200 word maximum).
- Contact information for two professional references.

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](mailto:Public.Art@rmwb.ca) before you send a submission!



## SUBMISSION PROCESS:

- Submission Deadline: **Monday, May 6, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. MST.**
- Please submit your proposal via email to [Public.Art@rmwb.ca](mailto:Public.Art@rmwb.ca) with "Art for Social Change - (your name)" in the subject line.
- Video files must be submitted as an MP4 file or shared as an online link.
- Audio files must be submitted in either MP3 or WAV format.
- If the file size in any format size exceeds 20 MB, artists are asked to use an external file share program.

Please notify the Project Coordinator, Theresa Buller at [Theresa.Buller@rmwb.ca](mailto: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.

## 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:

- Artist's interest and expressed desire in this project.
- Artist's demonstrated ability to meet the artwork goals, within the set timeline and budget.
- Artist's demonstrated ability to work with the public.
- Artistic merit, including quality of work, originality and artistic excellence.

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](mailto:Public.Art@rmwb.ca) or call Pulse at 780-743-7000 to be directed to the best available team member.

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<sup>i</sup> 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)

