

Request for Expressions of Interest
Public Art Commission
City of Burlington, Skyway Community Centre



Deadline: Friday March 10, 2023
Budget: Budget: \$120,000 CAD

For more information:

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burlingtonpublicart.com

Artist Opportunity

The City of Burlington invites professional artists to submit Expressions of Interest to create an exterior public art installation for the plaza area of the new Skyway Community Centre (129 Kenwood Ave, Burlington, Ontario). This competition is open to all Canadian and International professional artists* and/or artist-led teams.

**A professional artist is an individual who has specialized skills and/or training in his/her artistic discipline (not necessarily in academic institutions), has a history of public presentation and is critically recognized as an artist.*

An artwork proposal is not requested at this time. This is a two-phase process: in Phase One, applicants will be reviewed on the basis of artistic merit of past work, professional qualifications and experience. In Phase Two, short-listed artists will be required to submit a preliminary artwork concept proposal that will be displayed for public comment and jury review. Artists selected for the short-list will be provided with a full Request for Proposals outlining detailed artwork specifications prior to developing their proposals. Short-listed artists will be paid an artist fee of \$1500 to develop their proposals.

Background: Skyway Community Centre

A new community centre is being built to replace the single pad, Skyway Arena. The 48-year old building has reached a point where refrigeration equipment and building components have reached the end of their lifecycle, and repair and upgrades are required due environmental, accessibility and efficiency reasons. The Skyway Community Centre will have many new and upgraded features for community use, as well as key items to reduce the carbon footprint to align with both the Climate Emergency Declaration and the Corporate Energy and Emissions Management Plan. Skyway Park will also be undergoing a renovation. The new building is expected to open in the second quarter of 2024.

Skyway Community Centre features

- New +/-47,000 sq. ft building
- NHL-sized ice pad (85'x200')
- Spectator seating with accessibility options
- Lobby with furnishings, self service area, customer service area and offices
- Warm and cold viewing areas with accessibility options
- Universal washroom
- Six change rooms with showers and washrooms (one designated accessible)
- Referee room(s)
- Multi-use program space with kitchenette and exterior doors
- Sound system for arena, seating, lobby, program room(s), washrooms etc.
- Three lane indoor walking-track

Environmental Features:

- The design of this facility will reduce annual emissions approximately 85 per cent (as compared to a facility without these features) as there will be no use of gas at this facility.
- The mechanical system for this facility will include geothermal as well as the use of recovered heat from the refrigeration plant to heat portions of the facility.
- A zero emissions electric ice-resurfacers will be used at this facility instead of the typical compressed natural gas resurfacers.
- Roof structure to support future solar panels.

Fig. 1: Rendering showing main entrance of the new Community Centre, approximate artwork location marked with red square



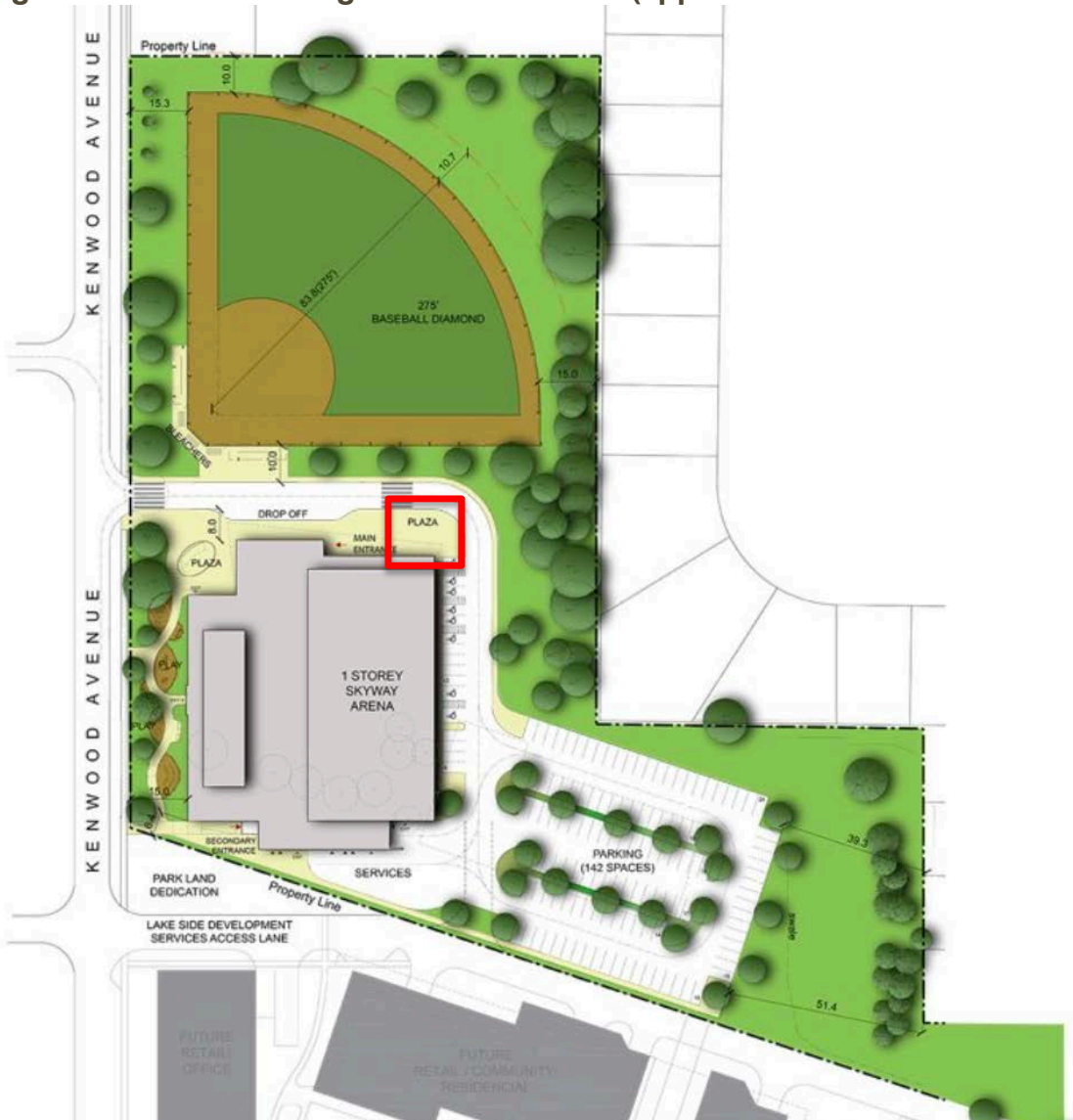
Fig. 2: Rendering showing side view with natural playground



Artwork Location

The artwork will be installed in a plaza area located near the main entrance to the new Community Centre. This location provides clear sightlines from the main parking lot and walkway. It is hoped that the artwork will act as a beacon to help guide visitors along the walkway to the main entrance. Detailed site plans will be provided to short-listed artists. Note, power has been provided to this site as part of the larger construction project.

Fig.3: Site Plan Showing Artwork Location (approximate location marked in red)



Artwork Goals

The proposed artwork should act as a beacon to help guide visitors towards the main entrance of the building. Additionally, an important component of the Skyway Community Centre project is the environmentally responsible design of the facility. The Skyway Community Centre will include a low carbon design to align with the City's goal of having a carbon neutral operation. Recognizing the severity of a changing climate, City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and a year later approved a Climate Action Plan with a target to become a net carbon zero community by 2050. This philosophy and focus on sustainability should be a primary focus for the public art, both in theme and materials / fabrication method chosen.

Additionally, the artwork should:

- Use environmentally sound design, fabrication and installation methods and materials; ecologically beneficial design and/or design with natural materials are not strictly required but will be considered a value-added benefit.
- Be visible from the pathway leading from the main parking lot
- Complement the design of the new community centre
- Be fabricated using materials that are highly resistant to theft, vandalism and weathering
- Not pose a risk to public safety (i.e. no sharp points, does not allow climbing, no slip or trip hazards, etc.
- Conform to the City of Burlington's Accessibility Design Standards:
 - <https://www.burlington.ca/en/your-city/accessibility-design-standards.asp>
- Meet all Ontario Building Code standards:
 - (<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page7393.aspx>)

Budget

The commission for this project is \$120,000 CAD (maximum, exclusive of HST). This is the total amount available for all related expenses of this public art project including (but not limited to): artist fees, travel, materials, site preparation, technical consultation, fabrication, installation, insurance, equipment, permit application and fees, etc. **The cost of the foundation construction is not the responsibility of the artist and will be paid for by the City of Burlington.** The artist must provide drawings for the foundation and all connecting hardware that is stamped by a structural engineer licensed to operate in Ontario.

Short-listed artists will be paid an honorarium of \$1500 (exclusive of HST) to develop their artwork proposals.

Artwork Design Coordination

The Skyway Community Centre tender project will not include the construction of the public art however it will include a lump sum cash allowance for the construction of the artwork footing(s). The cost for the construction of the footings is not part of the \$120,000 for this commission, as it will be paid for out of the construction budget for the Skyway Community Centre project. The selected artist will be required to provide stamped engineer drawings of the foundation, baseplate and all connecting hardware according to the timelines outlined on page 8 of this document. If these timelines are not met and there are additional costs as a direct result of this delay, the artist will be responsible for any additional costs specific only to the construction of the footings.

Eligibility

This competition is open to all professional Canadian and International artists. Artist collectives and/or artist-led teams are also encouraged to apply. The selected artist must be able to travel to Burlington, Ont. to oversee the installation of the artwork and to engage in public dialogue (i.e. artist talk/artwork unveiling). The selected artist must be available for regular meetings via phone and/or videoconference for the duration of the project.

Selection Process

An independent selection committee comprised of project stakeholders, community members and arts professionals will review all applications based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications and professional experience of artist(s),
- Artistic merit of previous work (as expressed in digital images submitted),
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and budgets,
- Success in executing projects of a similar scale and complexity to the project outlined in this document,
- Past work shows a proven track record of successful collaboration,
- The artist(s)' responsiveness to the site and approach to the project (as outlined in the Expression of Interest Statement submitted),

Two-Stage Process

This competition is a two-stage process. In **Stage One**, the selection committee will review the applications based on the Selection Process outlined in this document. The selection committee will choose a maximum of three (3) artists to move forward to Stage Two (short-list).

The artists selected for **Stage Two** will be asked to develop a concept proposal for the artwork consisting of: artist statement, preliminary design drawings and draft budget. An honorarium of \$1500 will be paid upon completion of the concept proposal. The committee may elect to conduct interviews (via video conference or in person) as part of their

deliberation process. The proposals will then be presented to the public for comment and feedback.

At the end of Stage Two, the selection committee will recommend the successful artist based on the merits of the concept proposal, technical feasibility and public feedback. The successful artist will then enter into a contract with the City of Burlington for the artwork creation and installation phase of the project.

Cobalt Connects manages the City of Burlington’s Public Art Program. Guided by the Public Art Policy, Cobalt Connects works in cooperation with City staff to develop and implement the Public Art Master Plan.

Please note, the selection committee, Cobalt Connects, and the City of Burlington reserves the right to not recommend any application, proposal or finalist and to terminate or re-advertise any project.

Original Work: The artist must guarantee that the artwork is original and does not violate the copyright of any other person.

Estimated Project Timeline (2023-2024)

Deadline	Activity
March 10, 2023	Application deadline for EOI (Call for Expressions of Interest)
By March 31, 2023	Community jury selects 3 artists for shortlist
May 5, 2023	Shortlisted artists submit design proposals
June 2023	Public Consultation
By June 30, 2023	Winning artist is selected, enters into contract with City of Burlington
September 1, 2023	Artist submits detailed design proposal; incl. stamped engineer drawings for artwork and foundation
TDB (as needed)	Artist provides any necessary templates, fasteners, etc. required to build foundation
October – April 2024	Artwork Fabrication
Spring / Summer 2024	Artwork Installation

Application Deadline and Receipt

All applications are due on or before **Friday March 10, 2023 (11:59 pm)**. Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be accepted. Faxed, mailed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

All applicants will receive notice via email or mail that their application has been received. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their application has been received by Cobalt Connects. If you do not receive verification within one week of submitting your application, please contact kim@cobaltconnects.ca or 905-515-9334.

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted online. To access the online application form please visit: <http://burlingtonpublicart.com/calls-for-artists/>

1. **Expression of Interest Statement:** submit a brief statement outlining your interest in this project (**1000 words maximum**). Please include the following information:
 - Your approach to creating artwork for the public realm
 - How the goals of this project align with your artistic practice
 - How your specific skills and experience bring value to this project
2. **Curriculum Vitae:** outline recent qualifications and artistic activities (**4 pages maximum**)
3. **Artist Biography:** submit a short biography written in third person. Please note, this biography will be used publicly if your application is selected for the short list (**250 words maximum**)
4. **Artwork Samples: 8 images** of your artwork. Please note the following:
 - All images must be in high resolution JPEG format, suitable for screen projection
 - Clearly label files in a manner that corresponds with the Image List.
 - Please submit images as separate files (for example do not combine the images into one PDF file)
5. **Image List:** A list of the artwork samples submitted. Please include: title of artwork, materials, dimensions, date and location of artwork (if applicable)

Contact Us

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