

BC2023-08 Public Art – Cambridge’s 50th Anniversary

Background

The City of Cambridge has a limited inventory of Public Art in comparison to other municipalities of similar size and capacity. The 50th Anniversary represents a strategic opportunity to advance Public Art in our community and provide a legacy piece to commemorate this historic event.

The City of Cambridge supports the inclusion of art in public spaces. The objectives of the Public Art Policy include:

- public art is available and accessible
- there is a process for acquiring public art that is open, fair and equitable
- adequate funding is provided to acquire and preserve public art
- a collection of works representing the highest quality by professional artists and artisans is built

The Public Art Policy C-30.140 was introduced over a decade ago. From the policy, the Terms of Reference outline the process by which a piece of public art will be acquired.

It is important to note that the Public Art Policy is being updated as part of the Arts and Culture Master Plan that is currently in progress and will be presented to Council in fall of 2023.

Alignment with Strategic and Corporate Objectives

The City of Cambridge believes that public art makes a significant positive contribution to society and its quality of life, that public art adds value to the cultural, aesthetic and economic vitality of a community, and that public art should be accessible to all. Public art is in-line with the City’s objective of placemaking, to promote and create a wide-range of destinations and activities for the public. It supports the City’s strategic action of creating and activating spaces that offer things for people to do.

The public art reserve fund has sufficient budget to commission a piece of art. This will provide a legacy piece to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the amalgamation of the City of Cambridge.

Analysis

To initiate the commission of a piece of work, Council must first approve the Terms of Reference (See Appendix H-1). The Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, Public Art Sub-Committee will present Council and the public with the opportunity to provide input on the selection of the successful work.

To aid in transparency, the location of the chosen art will be determined after selection in consultation with the artist, required City staff, and the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee/Public Art Sub-Committee.

Consequences of Not Proceeding

The 50th Anniversary provides an opportunity to introduce a new piece of Public Art to the City's inventory. Given that there is sufficient budget within the existing Public Art Reserve Fund, the Committee feel this is an opportune time to provide the residents of Cambridge with a legacy piece to mark this event.

Financial Implications

As per the current Public Art Policy C-30.140, an annual contribution of \$25,000 is provided from the Capital Works Reserve Fund to the Public Art Reserve Fund, as well as one per cent of applicable civic capital projects. The current balance in the Public Art Reserve Fund is \$305,866; as such there is sufficient budget to cover the request for a total budget of \$250,000.

The ongoing operating costs associated with maintaining the public art will be included in the 2024 operating budget once the impact is known. These costs are dependent on the final design and may include some combination of hydro costs, horticulture costs, or cleanup (i.e. from debris or vandalism). Staff will report to Council the anticipated operating impact when the recommendation for artist selection are brought for Council approval in 2023.

Recommendation

THAT the recommendation from the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee/Public Art Sub-Committee be approved;

AND THAT a unique piece of art be commissioned to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Cambridge as per the Public Art Policy C-30.140;

AND THAT the Public Art Competition – Cambridge 50th Terms of Reference be approved;

AND FURTHER THAT a capital project in the amount of \$250,000 be initiated to support the project funded by the Public Art Reserve Fund.

Attachments

Appendix H-1- Public Art Competition- Cambridge 50th Anniversary Terms of Reference

**PUBLIC ART COMPETITION-
CAMBRIDGE 50th ANNIVERSARY**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC ART COMPETITION

Terms of Reference

Artists and/or Artist Teams are invited to participate in a two-stage competition to create a work or works of original public art to mark the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the City of Cambridge through the merging of several previously existing towns, villages and rural municipalities. Information about the project is contained herein.

Introduction

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge Council has directed its Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (via the Public Art Sub-Committee) to oversee the acquisition of art.

Public Art Mission and Definition of Public Art

The City of Cambridge believes that public art makes a significant positive contribution to the urban landscape, and quality of life. A healthy and creative city will support art and culture and benefit from the enhancements and contribution to the city's identity that public art provides. Cambridge also believes that public art should be accessible to all.

In this competition the City will take an open and forward-looking approach to Public Art. Proposals are invited for a work, works or program of work that celebrates the one or more of the creative spirit, tradition of invention and industry, natural beauty and cultural heritage of the City of Cambridge. There is one fact that links the several communities that make up Cambridge – the rivers. The project should acknowledge the rivers in its location, theme, imagery, form or material. The art that will be selected for installation in public space must meet the following criteria:

- be original, and display a high quality of design and technical skill in execution
- be visible, accessible and engaging to the public
- consider the exterior site regarding exposure to weather, durability, permanence, maintenance, safety and vandal proofing
- may involve aesthetic, historic or commemorative objects
- may include sculptures, carvings, metal works, special architectural, digital technologies or landscape features

Public art in this case does not include plaques, or museum or archival collections, which may from time to time be displayed in adjacent public places.

Commission Process

The Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (via the Public Art Sub-Committee) is responsible to Council for overseeing the process of commissioning the work, including the terms of reference; the distribution of information and requirements; and acting as a liaison with city staff and the selection jury. The jury is under no obligation to select any of the

submissions, and all decisions are subject to City Council approval, up to and including commissioning and installing the work.

The jury will be composed of 6 members: three well established, nationally recognized experts and three local representatives. The jurors are knowledgeable, highly qualified, and widely respected within their fields.

The jury will include:

- A representative of the Recreation & Culture Division

By invitation,

- an art critic/professor;
- a curator of site-specific installations;
- a curator of a gallery;
- a representative of the Indigenous community;

and

By public application,

- a young adult from Waterloo Region; post secondary undergraduate, graduate or recently graduated within two years, and having studied fine arts or related arts courses;
- and a qualified member of the public (Cambridge citizen at large).

Stage One will consist of an open call to artists to submit an expression of interest.

Stage Two will consist of the jury inviting shortlisted artists to develop their proposals. For details, please see Selection Process.

Invitation to submit proposal will be conducted at a national level.

As per the Public Art Policy C-30.140 the appointed jury must be approved by Council.

Budget

The allowance available to the artist will be up to a maximum of \$250,000, inclusive of all expenses. The allowance for the artwork must include any expenses incurred by the artist to produce and install the artwork, such as, but not limited to:

- artist and/or artist team fee
- all consulting fees, including structural engineering costs if required
- design
- materials
- fabrication
- HST
- legal costs, if required
- insurance* (liability/damage insurance; standard practice)

- special features, if any (e.g. lighting)
- installation costs, including travel and delivery
- clean up costs

* The artist must carry the appropriate insurance from the signing of the contract until completion when the artwork is signed over to The City of Cambridge. The City of Cambridge requires \$2 million liability/damage insurance.

Artist Eligibility

The public art competition is national in scope and open to:

- professional visual artists, architects, landscape architects or teams
- Canadian citizens or permanent residents
- 18 years and over

Selection Criteria

- the ability to work collaboratively with others, including City of Cambridge staff
- an understanding of the community
- a proven track record in public art commissions
- originality, imagination, and artistic merit
- experience working with the materials being proposed
- appropriateness of the concept and design to the site
- appropriateness of the materials specific to the outdoor, public environment
- feasibility in implementation
- the ability to adhere to the overall schedule
- the ability to install in the timeframe requested
- compliance with the competition requirements

Selection Process

A two-stage process will be conducted as follows:

- **Stage One:**
An open call to submit an expression of interest and a statement indicating the general outlines of a proposal, including a suggested site. This site must be on City owned property.
- **Stage Two:**
The jury will select a short list of artists from the Stage One submissions, to a maximum of 5 proposals;
The short-listed artists will be invited to discuss and obtain approval for the siting of the piece or pieces;
Once the siting is approved the short-listed artists will be invited to develop their proposals;
The short-listed artists will be paid an honorarium towards producing their proposals;
The short-listed artists' proposals will be put on public display;

The jury will consider the proposals, and may request optional presentations and/or interviews with some or all of the candidates;

The jury will make the final selection and recommendation to the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (or Public Art Sub-Committee);

The Committee will present the recommendation to City Council;

Subject to City Council's approval, the art will be commissioned and installed.

Submission Requirements

Stage One

1. A typed letter of interest outlining qualifications, past work, and qualities relevant to this project. Describe the general design concept and rationale for an artwork installation of this type.
2. Provide a curriculum vitae (c.v.), including public art commissions (maximum of 2 pages including reviews/articles). If this is a team application, please include a c.v. for each team member.
3. Submit a proposed design and/or program of work. This is not the final detailed submission, but a clear indication of the concept. The proposal must include a brief written narrative and simple images. You must include a proposal for the location(s), which may be specific or generic at this stage depending on the nature of the proposal.
4. Provide one set of 15-20 JPEG images of past work. Images must be clearly titled and numbered.
5. Provide an annotated image list, including brief description of project, date and location.
 - The entire submission is digital and must include.
 1. official submission form
 2. letter of interest
 3. curriculum vitae
 4. conceptual design including brief narrative, simple sketches and location information
 5. annotated list of images
 6. jpeg images
 - Please do not send any materials other than requested for Stage One; the selection jury will not review them.
 - Please do not submit 3-D models, original work, catalogues or oversized renderings mounted on boards.

Submissions not meeting the above requirements may not be considered

Stage Two

All Stage Two artists and/or artist teams will be paid an honorarium of \$2,000 per submission, plus travel expenses if warranted. All travel expenses must be pre-approved and original receipts must be submitted. Artists and/or artist teams invited to submit proposals for Stage Two may be invited to present their proposal in person. The presentation to the jury should be a maximum of 30 minutes followed by a question and answer period.

All Stage Two submissions will include the following:

- a detailed budget outline including all items identified under “Budget” above
- detailed installation documents
- presentation maquette, model or appropriate representation
- confirmation of all materials to be used, outlining their characteristics suitable to site conditions
- a suggested critical path outlining timeframes from conceptual design to installation
- professional references, including the names and contact information of three individuals and/or organizations with whom you have worked or who have commissioned your work in the past.

Schedule (subject to revision)

Stage One

1. Terms of Reference available
3. Deadline for artist submissions
4. Review by selection jury and selection of shortlist- approval by Council
5. All artists notified

Stage Two

1. Deadline for submissions
2. Submissions put on public display
3. Presentation by artists to the selection jury and decision by selection jury
4. Recommendation to Council
5. Successful artist notified and contract signed

Installation

The successful artist will be notified of the anticipated installation and public unveiling ceremony and celebration when the date is established.

Contract

The successful artist must sign a contract with the Corporation of the City of Cambridge. The contract will include a schedule of payment for fabrication and installation. The artist will be expected to produce regular progress reports to the City of Cambridge.

The final work and requisite documentation will become the property of the City of Cambridge. At project completion, the artist will provide the Corporation of the City of Cambridge with a detailed art documentation report.

Confidentiality

All personal information provided to, or created by, the artist and/or artist team will remain in confidence, as will the selection jury's deliberations. The Advisory Committee and/or The Corporation of the City of Cambridge will announce information about the successful shortlisted artists and/or artist teams and their designs as necessary.