

Launch Pad

An Open Call for 2D Artwork from the City of Vancouver Public Art Program



Of Course You Can, but You Gotta Go Around the Massive Obstacle to Get There, Emily de Boer, 2025

The City of Vancouver Public Art Program invites artists who have recently completed art training to submit already existing 2D artworks for consideration on one of five city-owned billboards along the Arbutus Greenway, situated between Fir St and Burrard St adjacent to 6th Avenue. Recognizing the barriers recent fine arts graduates face entering the professional arts sector, the City of Vancouver Public Art Program looks forward to supporting artists launching their artistic practices.

Eligibility

This call is open to all Vancouver-based artists, and artists from x̱w̱məθkw̱ə́y̱əm (Musqueam), sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish) or səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) nations, who graduated within the last year from a BFA, MFA, Fine Arts Diploma program, or completed a formal or informal apprenticeship program.

Commission Details

A selection panel will choose up to twenty artists whose works will be presented in groups of 5 on 5 billboard faces along the Arbutus Greenway for approximately two months for each artwork. Selected artists will be paid a \$1,500 artist fee for each print-ready digital file. All printing and installation costs will be covered by the City of Vancouver Public Art Program.

Submission Deadline: Monday, July 7th, 2025 @ 4:00 pm PST

Schedule

Open Call Released: Tuesday, May 20th, 2025

Submission Deadline: Monday, July 7th, 2025 @ 4:00 pm PST

Adjudication: Thursday July 31st

Artists Notified: Beginning of August

Artists contracted: August to September

Artworks to be delivered: middle of October

Artworks presented between: *December 2025 to October 2026*

**please note that these dates are subject to change*

Submission Requirements

- Up to two (2) artworks from each artist will be considered.
- Proposed artworks must be submitted in the following format: maximum 2MB (approximately 6"x12" @ 100dpi) JPG or TIF file, landscape orientation only.
- File naming: LastName_FirstName_Title
- Current CV (up to 2 pages)
- Artist Statement (up to 250 words).

Proposed artwork needs to fit within a 1:2 horizontal landscape format. Billboards are 10'x20'. Selected artists will enter into a contract with the City of Vancouver.

Production Image Files

If selected, final artwork images must be available as high resolution JPG or TIF files. Minimum resolution of production image files is 12"x24" @ 300dpi. Selected artists will be responsible for any scanning or photographic documentation necessary to meet the minimum file size requirements.

How to Apply

Image(s), CV and Artist Statement must be submitted as a single compressed zip file labeled LastName_FirstName to **publicart@vancouver.ca** by Monday, July 7th, 2025 @ 4:00 pm PST

The email subject line should be **Launch Pad - Artist Name**. Only two (2) artwork images will be accepted per artist. Please contact publicart@vancouver.ca with questions.

Selection

Proposals will be evaluated by a diverse panel of artists and arts professionals. Panelists will be selected based on previous experience with Public Art. Artist selection will be based on the following criteria:

- The submitted images are the right orientation for this opportunity
- Strength and creativity of the submitted images
- The work has been completed within the last two years
- The work should not have been previously exhibited
- Submitted images are respectful of the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷə́y̓əm, sk̓wxwú7mesh and səliłwətał Nations and the continuation of their living culture in the life of this region.

As the City of Reconciliation we recognize that we are on the unceded homelands of xʷməθkʷə́y̓əm, sk̓wxwú7mesh and səliłwətał and that all proposed artworks will be situated on these traditional territories. Proposals do not have to be led by Indigenous artists or address Indigenous art and culture however; proposals should be mindful of this ongoing colonial context.

Considerations

As part of Cultural Services, the Public Art Program operates under the umbrella of *Culture | Shift: Blanketing the City in Art & Culture*, the City of Vancouver's recently adopted 10-year culture plan for 2020-2029. *Culture | Shift* recognizes that everyone has a role to play in reconciliation and decolonization and offers the chance to be deeply mindful of

how arts and culture is conducted upon these lands, acknowledging the role culture plays in shaping place and a shared sense of belonging for all people. Read the full culture plan at: <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/culture-shift.aspx>.

Fine Print:

Interested artists are advised that neither the City nor the selection panel is obliged to accept any of the artists' proposals and may reject all proposals. Each artist is advised, and by the submission of a proposal agrees that the City will not be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses, damages (including damages for loss of anticipated profit) or liabilities incurred by the artist as a result of or arising out of submitting a proposal, or due to the City's acceptance or non-acceptance of their proposal, or arising out of any contract award not made in accordance with the expressed or implied terms of the artist call. Until a written contract in a form satisfactory to the City is executed by both the City and artist, no legal rights or responsibility shall be created between the artist and the City.

Confidentiality: All documents submitted by Applicants to the City of Vancouver become the property of the City. The City will make every effort to maintain the confidentiality of each application and the information contained therein except to the extent necessary to communicate information to staff and peer assessment committee members for the purposes of evaluation and analysis. The City will not release any of this information to the public except as required under the Province of British Columbia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act or other legal disclosure process.