



Real Estate, Environment, and Facilities Management
Facilities Planning & Development
Public Art Program: Arts, Culture & Community Services

Artist Call: Exterior Basketball Courts Art at Marpole Community Centre

Land acknowledgement

The City of Vancouver respectfully acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) who have stewarded these lands, air and waters since time immemorial. We are excited about the opportunity to support xʷməθkʷə́yəm, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw, and səliłwətał cultural presence in the public realm through this call. We would like to express our gratitude to local Nations' staff collaborating on this work, and to local Nations' artists.

Summary

Artist Fees: \$10,000

Deadline for application: January 4th, 2026 at midnight

Eligibility: Open to xʷməθkʷə́yəm artists

Background

In 2017, preparation for the renewal of Marpole Community Centre located at 59th Ave and Oak Street kicked off which included plans for a renewed 42,000 square foot community centre and services to support the growing population in the area including a gym, fitness centre, studios, sensory room, multi-purpose room, and more. Outdoor amenities include landscaping with new trees, basketball courts and outdoor fitness equipment, an outdoor performance space, and gathering areas. In November 2023, the City broke ground on the future building site.

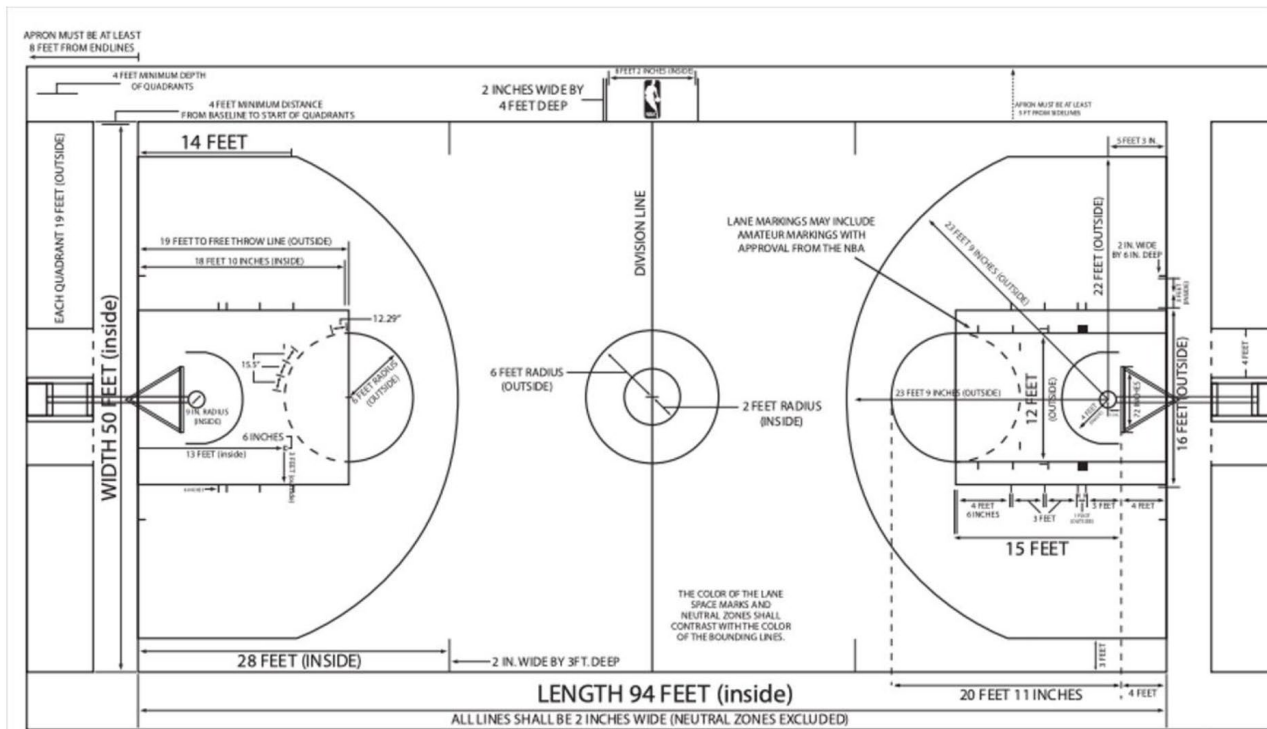
The Opportunity

The City of Vancouver has identified a public art opportunity for a design to be incorporated in the exterior basketball courts at the southwest corner of Oak Park at the new Marpole Community Centre located at 7780 Oak St.

This call is to select one artist from xʷməθkʷə́yəm to create a design that can be integrated into

the ground's infrastructure using Hi-Hide Line paint. Fabrication and installation are the responsibility of the City of Vancouver project team, including associated costs. The selected artist will be required to meet the design specifications below:

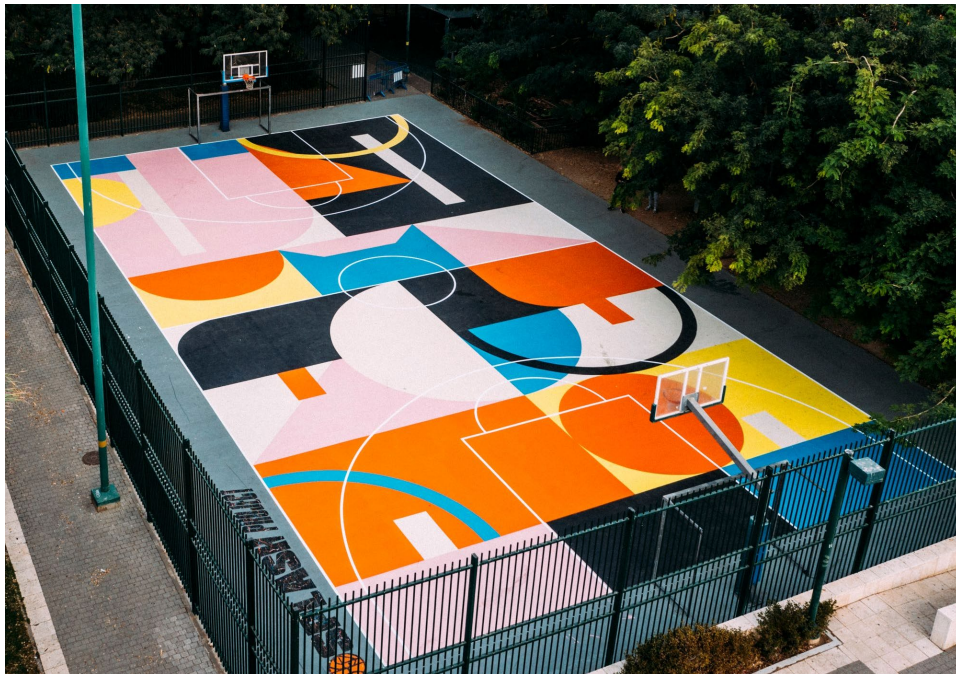
- Dimensions of the artwork: Two 94'x50' exterior basketball courts



Precedent Examples:



"Pools" by Scott Sueme (Located at: Mount Pleasant Park, Vancouver)



"Deconstructed Court" by Adi Nachum for Splash Project (Located at: Manshiya Park in Tel Aviv)



"Triumph" by Fluke (Located at Park Champdoré in Montréal)

Eligibility

This call is open to artists who identify as x^wməθk^wəýəm.

For the purposes of this call, the definition of an artist is a regular practitioner who:

- has completed basic academic training in art or an apprenticeship with an accomplished practitioner in the field, or
- maintains an artistic practice and has publicly shared an independent body of their work for at least two years, or
- is recognized as an artist by arts and culture peers within their community

Submitted Applications will be checked for eligibility and completeness by City Staff qualifying applications moving forward to the selection panel for adjudication.

Submission Requirements and Guidelines

Applicants may only submit one Expression of Interest, whether applying individually or as part of a team. The following must be submitted to qualify for consideration:

1. **Contact information:** full name, pronouns, email and phone number

2. **Identity Statement:** a brief statement that identifies your Nation affiliation and any intersectional identities such as gender, disability, etc. (Applicants are only required to share to the extent of their comfort levels).
3. **Artist Bio:** (max. 2 paragraphs) a short synopsis of your art practice and any former training
4. **Sample Artwork:** 4–6 images of your artwork, with brief descriptions. Previous public art experience is welcomed, but not mandatory. Accepted formats: JPG, PNG, PDF
5. **Statement of Interest:** (300-500 words) Why are you excited about this project? What does public art mean to you, and how might your participation positively impact your community?

Application and Selection Process

Applications will go through an Expression of Interest (EOI) process, wherein the adjudication panel will select an artist based on their portfolio of past works to enter the stages of creating a design for the two exterior basketball courts. Support will be provided by technical advisors from the project team. The stages of creating the artwork and their deliverables are:

- Detailed Draft Design: A draft digital design showing artwork to 75% for project team to review.
- Concept Proposal: Narrative document outlining approach to the commission, showing examples or rough sketches of what the final work will look like.
- Final Design: Delivery of digital files to the project team.

The overall project timelines are determined by the timeline of construction, estimated to be complete in summer 2026. It is anticipated that the final design will be completed early June 2026.

Applications will be evaluated by representatives from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm. Panelists will be selected based on previous experience with Public Art and Public Realm design.

Criteria for Selection of Artists

The adjudication panel will score applications based on:

- Demonstrated strength and creativity through past work
- Demonstrated ability to produce and present artwork
- Indicated capacity to meet the technical demands of digital design
- Shows meaningful connection to the project and its community impact.

Important Dates (subject to change)

Artist Call Opens	November 15 th , 2025
Application Deadline	January 4 th , 2026
Adjudication Panel Selects Artists	February 7 th , 2026
Artists Notified	February 10 th , 2026
Artists Contracted	March 1 st , 2026
Artist Draft Designs Due	May 7 th , 2026
Review of Draft Designs for Feedback	May 17 th , 2026
Artist Final Designs Due	June 1 st , 2026
Fabrication + Installation	June-July 2026
Blessing Ceremony	TBD

Send Submissions To/Contact For Questions

By Email: Marco Sotres at marco.sotres@vancouver.ca

Subject Line: Application: Marpole Basketball Courts

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.