

July 16, 2025

Community Street Art Opportunity

Seeking creative and collaborative individuals and groups to work with community members to deliver temporary street art projects.

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Project Background

We are inviting proposals from creative and collaborative individuals and groups who want to engage with the local community to co-create temporary street art (2D artworks) in streets and public spaces in Vancouver. If you have a background in art or design, enjoy building community, are passionate about street art and community expression, and want to transform public spaces, you might be the community convenor(s) we're looking for!

Successful applicants will lead temporary street art projects that bring together community members throughout the process. Funds will be provided to cover artist fees and other costs related to community engagement, as well as in-kind support to cover supplies, insurance, and permits.

There are two Opportunity Streams:

- Bring Your Own Opportunity
- Pre-approved Sites

Project Goals

- Deliver Street Art: Enable creativity and artistic expression in streets and public spaces through collaborative temporary art interventions.
- Support Community and Mentorship: Support building community and skill sharing through collaborative processes.
- Identity Building: Strengthen connections to place and community by supporting art that reflects local stories, histories, and cultural expressions. Encourage works that foster a shared sense of identity while amplifying diverse perspectives.
- Ensure Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion: Provide low-barrier opportunities, select a diversity of projects, and adapt opportunities to address specific needs.
- Celebrate Ephemeral Beauty: Embrace the power of temporary art to transform spaces, strengthen social bonds, and affirm the dignity and belonging of all who share them.

Eligibility

We are seeking **community convenors**: established and emerging artists, creative designers and community builders who have worked with community members and are

interested in collaborative approaches. Applicants should be Metro Vancouver based. Those with varying abilities and experience are welcome to apply; an interest in mentoring others to develop temporary artwork that brings public spaces to life is key.

Applicants who identify as Indigenous Host Nations (x̱w̱məθkw̱əy̱əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətaʔ), Urban Indigenous, Two-Spirit, Black, racialized, LGBTQIA+ and/or disabled are encouraged to apply. If you require accommodations, have questions or require support with your application, please reach out at least 10 days before the submission deadline.

Key Dates

Send questions by	August 18 th
Application deadline	August 24 th at 11:59pm
Opportunities awarded	Mid-September
Project kick-off meetings	Early October
Project planning and community engagement	Open ended to summer 2026
Delivery of Projects	Open ended to summer 2026

Sites

Stream 1: Bring Your Own Opportunity

You are the expert of your community and know it best! Identify concrete barriers, blocks, and/or on-street surfaces suitable for temporary street art (2D artworks) in your neighbourhood, and develop a collaborative approach that will bring community members together to co-create the design.

We will work with successful applicants to assess viability and secure approvals for desired sites. Please note that sites may be subject to change to ensure viability.

Stream 2: Pre-approved Sites



Ontario St & E 30th Bike Blocks

- 12 concrete blocks and surrounding ground area (if desired)
- ~900-1020 sq. ft. (~50 sq. ft./block x 12 blocks + ground area)
- Must maintain visibility of bike lane markings
- Must not obstruct storm drains or traffic signage
- Blocks should remain in the same place



Rain-Friendly Cambie Plaza Ground and Bridge Columns

- Plaza ground and/or bridge columns
- City's Bridges & Structures team must review the design before artists can begin
- Expected lifespan of two years before scheduled bridge work commences
- Mural(s) could be damaged at any time if bridge repairs or inspections are needed

Site and Project Considerations

Ineligible sites: Parks, private property, crosswalks, areas with high pedestrian or vehicle traffic, arterial streets and sidewalks.

Ineligible projects: Events or gatherings that don't contribute to the design and creation of the artwork.

Guidelines: All [guidelines](#) from the [Mural Support Program apply](#), including ineligible project types. The City prioritizes physical and cultural safety for community convenors and participants, and welcomes conversations or requests that help enhance comfort and safety throughout the process.

Maintenance: During the first two (2) years, the City will support graffiti removal and touch-ups. The artwork(s) may last beyond two years, depending on external factors like wear and tear, graffiti, etc., but after five (5) years we may decommission the artwork(s) to make space for a new piece.

Emerging situations: Through this opportunity, the City is advancing its commitment to expand and diversify temporary street art opportunities and community expression that reflects local stories, histories, and cultural expressions while strengthening community bonds. Any challenges or unexpected scenarios will be addressed collaboratively by City staff and the community convenor(s).

Selection Process

City staff will shortlist proposals for review and recommendation by an external panel connected to the local arts community.

Applications will be assessed according to the project goals and submissions requirements. We will reach out if we have any questions or

suggestions regarding your proposed budget.

The City of Vancouver reserves the right to not select an artist if proposals do not meet the requirements of this opportunity, and to re-issue the call.

Budget and Compensation

Applicants are required to submit a draft budget proposal. Artists may propose a budget in the range of \$8,000 - \$15,000, which must include artist fees and all project expenses, including community engagement (i.e., workshops, focus groups, interviews, mapping, prototyping, etc.) and project delivery.

In addition to direct funding, the City will offer a range of in-kind supports – such as materials, insurance, and site prep – to reduce out of pocket expenses. While these will be provided by the City, applicants should still include estimated costs for these items in their draft budget to reflect the full value of the project.

An example budget is provided on the final page.

Payments to successful applicants will be made in installments based on milestones, which will be confirmed during the project planning phase.

Contact:

If you have any questions or need assistance with your application, please reach out to us at temporaryart@vancouver.ca.

Submission Requirements

Applicants may apply individually or as a group.

Applications must include the following:

- Contact information: full name, pronouns, email and phone number
- Submission type: Individual or Group
- Names of other applicants in group (if applicable)
- Bio(s): A short synopsis for each applicant (maximum 50 words/applicant)
- Identity statement (optional): A brief statement that includes intersectional identities such as racial, cultural, Nation affiliation, gender, disability, etc. Applicants are only required to share to the extent of their comfort levels
- Preferred stream and location: preferred sites/locations from our list or one(s) you've identified yourself
- Concept statement: outlining your overall theme, and how the concept reflects local stories, histories, and/or cultural expressions (maximum 500 words)
- Community engagement: how the community will be engaged throughout the process and participate in the design and production of the artworks (maximum 250 words)
- A draft budget: Follow the sample budget below and feel free to add additional information for clarification
- Timeline: A high-level timeline outlining key dates
- Sample artworks: 4-6 photographs (at 2MB file size) with clear descriptions
- Stream 1 photos: If suggesting a site include 1-6 photos

Sample Budget

Line Item	Estimate
Funds provided directly to successful applicant	
Community convenor fee ¹	\$2,400-4,300
Community participation ²	\$2,300-3,700
Equipment rental ³	\$0-1,000
Contingency ⁴	\$800-1,000
Total direct payment:	\$5,500-10,000
In-kind services provided by city	
Supplies & materials ⁵	\$2,000-3,500
Site preparation and finishing ⁶	\$500
Insurance and permits ⁷	\$0-1,000
Total value of in-kind services:	\$2,500-5,000
Please also list any additional sources of funding or in-kind support your project will receive ⁸	
Total project budget:	\$8,000-15,000+

Budget Considerations:

Project budgets will include two components; direct payments made to the community convenor(s) and in-kind services provided by the City.

The direct payment covers:

- ¹A community convenor fee paid to the project lead(s) who plan and execute the project. The community convenor(s) are the project lead(s) and lead artist(s). This amount should be 25-35% of the overall project budget, as per [CARFAC guidelines](#).

- ²Costs related to community participation, including honorariums paid to additional artists or community leads who help steward the project, and community engagement costs. Honoraria are not intended for all

members of the public who participate in the project but can be used to facilitate the participation of community members facing barriers. Community engagement costs may include items like meeting supplies, space rental, light refreshments, etc.

- ³Costs related to equipment rentals such as scaffolding and lifts, if required.

- ⁴A contingency fee of 5-15% of the overall budget, to cover unforeseen expenses or cost overruns.

In-kind services provided by the City:

- ⁵Supplies and materials such as paint, brushes, etc.

- ⁶Site preparation and finishing services such as pressure washing, priming and finishing with an anti-graffiti coating.

- ⁷Insurance and permits if required.

- ⁸In your budget also include any additional sources of funding and any additional in-kind support.

Note:

The draft budget is for planning purposes only. Final budgets will be refined in collaboration with City staff once projects are selected, ensuring all costs and in-kind contributions are appropriately confirmed