

Artist Call: Atrium and central staircase at Oakridge Community Centre

Land acknowledgement

The City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Public Library respectfully acknowledge that they are situated on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (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 on-going opportunities to support xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw, and səliłwətał cultural presence in the public realm. We would like to express our gratitude to local Nations' staff collaborating on this work, and to local Nations' artists.

Summary

Artist Fee: \$35,000

Deadline for application: September 7, 2026, at midnight, PST

Eligibility: Open to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Indian Band artists or artist teams

Guiding Frameworks

This artist call is guided by the City of Vancouver's commitments outlined in [Culture|Shift 2020-2029](#) and the [UNDRIP Action Plan 2024-2028](#). The strategic directions outlined in these frameworks inform how we design, assess, and support these art opportunities, with a focus on advancing equity, Reconciliation, accessibility, and meaningful inclusion.

The City's Public Art Program and the Vancouver Public Library are participants of the UNDRIP Action Group 9 'Public Realm,' with commitments to increasing the presence of the local Nations in library spaces through art calls, and cultural visibility public art projects across Vancouver.

Eligibility

This call is open for xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Indian Band artists or artist teams.

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 in collaboration with Musqueam Indian Band staff, with qualifying applications moving forward to the selection panel for adjudication.

Background

Oakridge Park is a 28-acre development site at 41st and Cambie. Located in the heart of Vancouver's Cambie Corridor, the Oakridge site sits within an area of longstanding cultural and historical significance to the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people. The project replaces a 1950s mall and its surface parking lot with a new neighbourhood including 10 towers, 3000 residences, 700,000 square feet of office space, 650,000 square feet of retail space, and nine acres of new park space, much of it wrapping over the mall's roof. The development will also deliver the new Oakridge Community Centre to be operated by the City, with a branch library, performance venue, childcare facility, and artist studios.

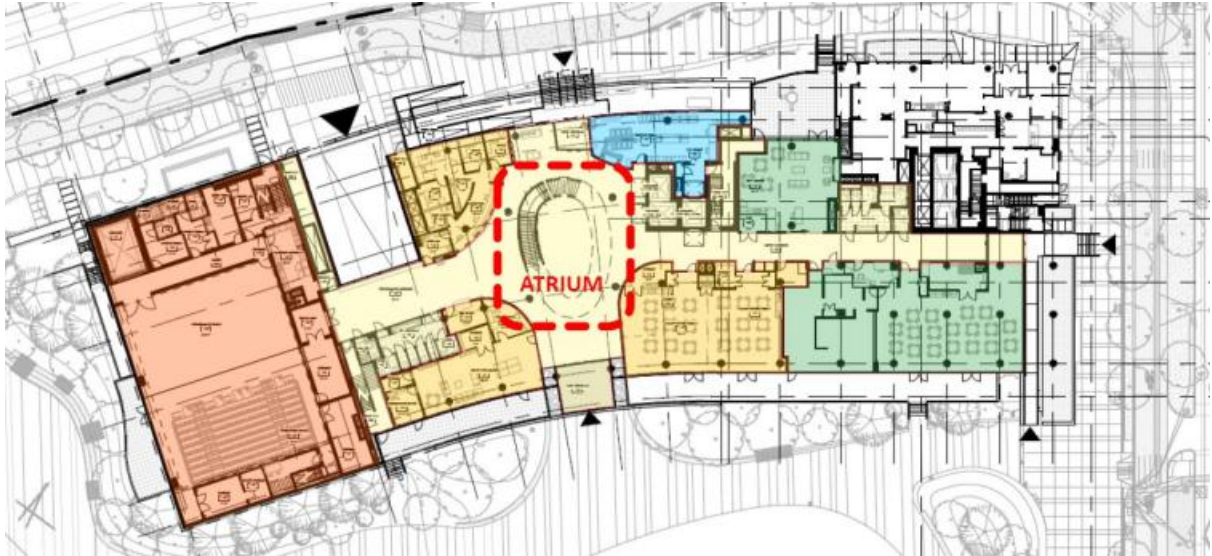
The Opportunity

The Oakridge Community Centre offers three key sites to commission three significant xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) artworks including the central atrium, the Indigenous Contemplation Space, and the library (see images below). These cultural visibility opportunities are being developed in collaboration between the City of Vancouver Public Art Program, and Vancouver Public Library. Artists or artist teams can apply for more than one opportunity.

OPPORTUNITY #1: ATRIUM & CENTRAL STAIRCASE

Artist Fee: \$35,000

This opportunity is open to a xʷməθkʷəy̓əm artist or artist team to create and execute an artwork to be suspended from the high ceiling with a skylight, and if desired, an accompanying vinyl design that can be integrated into the outside of the three-story staircase. This will be a two-stage adjudication process with three shortlisted artists or artist teams presenting a concept for consideration.



Located on Level 1 of the Oakridge Civic Centre



Rendering of the central atrium on Level 1 of the Oakridge Civic Centre

1-C

1-D

1-9

1-10

011N-BR79.004

BACK DIAGONAL BRACE AT LOCATION A, B, C AND D TO BE POINTED AWAY FROM CENTER OF DOME

LOCATION A

LATERAL DIAGONAL BRACE AT LOCATION A, B, C AND D TO ALTERNATE, AS SHOWN

LOCATION B

LOCATION D

1500

2000

2000

LOCATION E

LOCATION C

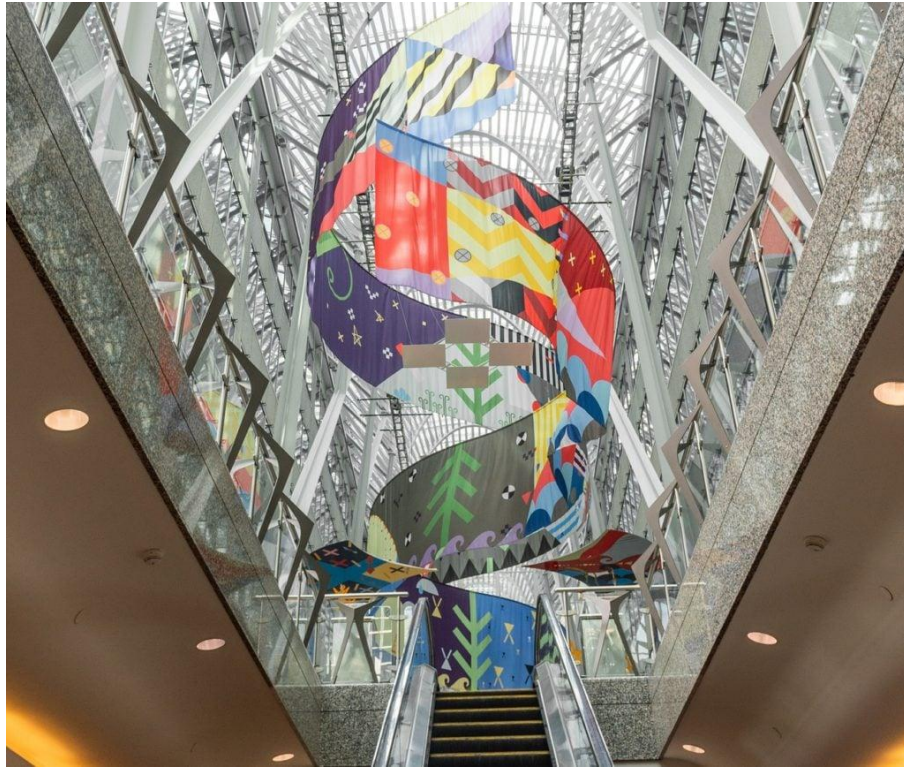
2

B1 ATRIUM PUBLIC ART CEILING ANCHORS PLAN VIEW

1:50

1

Precedent Examples:



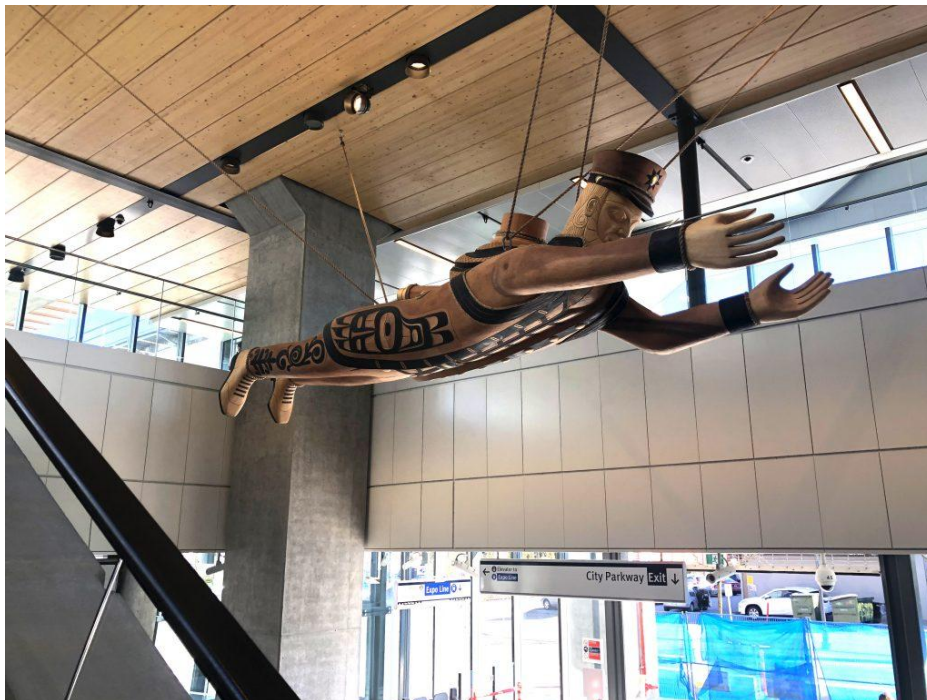
Tepkik by Jordan Bennett
Located at: Brookfield Place, Toronto, ON



Raven Brings the Light by Phil Gray
Located at: Telus Gardens, Vancouver, B.C.



Home within Home by Do Ho Suh
2019 Installation view at Incheon International Airport, South Korea



The Sea Captain by Marianne Nicolson with John Livingston
Located at: Surrey Central SkyTrain Station, Surrey, B.C.

Submission Requirements and Guidelines – Opportunity 1

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 per person if applying individually or as a team) a short synopsis of your art practice and any former training
4. **Sample Artwork:** 4–6 images of your artwork, with brief descriptions. Previous built-form public art experience is asset, but not mandatory. Accepted formats: JPG, PNG, PDF
5. **Statement of Intent:** A short description (300-500 words) of a preliminary idea, story, design concept, and/or artistic approach to the artwork.

Application and Selection Process – Opportunity 1

Applicants will go through an Expression of Interest (EOI) process in the first stage, wherein the adjudication panel will shortlist a group of artists or artist teams based on their portfolio of past works to enter the second stage of creating a detailed design from which one artist or artist team will be selected. Support will be provided by technical advisors from the project team to the selected artist or artist team. The stages of creating the artwork and their deliverables are:

- Concept Proposal: Narrative document outlining approach to the commission, showing examples or rough sketches of what the final work will look like.
- Detailed Draft Design: A draft digital design showing artwork to 75% for project team to review.
- Final Design: Delivery of digital files and technical drawings to the project team.
- Physical Artwork: Delivery of built-form artwork in collaboration with City staff.

The overall project timelines are determined by the timeline of construction, estimated to be completed in December 2026. It is anticipated that the final design for the artwork will be completed by December 2026, with fabrication and installation early 2027.

Applications will be reviewed by arts and culture professionals and x^wməθk^wəy^əm representatives who bring deep knowledge and experience in the arts, language, curatorial practice, and cultural protocols.

Criteria for Selection of Artists

The adjudication panel will score applications based on:

- Artistic quality, creativity, and originality evident in past work
- Successful artistic production and exhibition to diverse audiences
- Demonstrated ability and capacity to execute digital design and built-form artworks to required technical standards
- Shows meaningful connection to the project and its community impact

Important Dates (subject to change)

Artist Call Opens	August 2026
Application Deadline	Sunday September 7 th , 2026 at midnight PST
Adjudication Panel Shortlists Artists	Monday September 21 st , 2026
Shortlisted Artists Present Designs	Friday December 4 th , 2026
Selected Artist Contracted	Friday December 11 th , 2026
Artist Final Designs Due	Wednesday December 30 th , 2026
Fabrication + Installation	January - March 2027
Blessing Ceremony	Spring 2027

Send Submissions To/Contact For Questions

By Email: Krystal Paraboo at krystal.paraboo@vancouver.ca

Subject Line: Oakridge – Opportunity 1: Atrium & Central Staircase

Accessibility

We are committed to making these opportunities as accessible and inclusive as possible. If you have accessibility needs, require accommodations, or would like support preparing or submitting your application, we encourage you to contact us.

Where needed for accessibility, we can also accept applications in alternative formats, such as audio or video submissions, or discuss other submission options that better meet your access needs.

Contact Krystal Paraboo by email at krystal.paraboo@vancouver.ca or call 604-679-1757

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.