



Holding Pattern, by Janet Wang for *Platforms: We Are Here, Live*, 2022. Image by Rachel Topham

Platforms 2025: The Teachers Among Us

A Call for Nominations

The City of Vancouver Public Art Program, as part of its ongoing *Platforms* initiative, invites artists to nominate Vancouver-based or xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) or səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) senior artists who have mentored, taught, or influenced them in their artistic careers. *Platforms 2025: The Teachers Among Us*, aims to spotlight those who have not only shaped the artwork of this region, but also mentored a younger generation of artists.

The intent of this series is to celebrate senior artists. We want to highlight the intergenerational relationships of love, learning, respect, and mentorship that exist in our city, while shining a light on the often-unseen labour of mentors in our arts community.

Want To Nominate a Senior Artist?

You do not have to be from this region to nominate an artist. However, the artist you are nominating needs to either live in Vancouver, have a studio in Vancouver, have a significant history of producing work in the city (though they might live elsewhere at the time of this call.) xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) or səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) artists, they can live and work in Vancouver and/or on their traditional unceded territories. For this call, a senior artist, is an artist who has been working as an artist for at least 30 years.

To nominate an artist contact Faith Moosang via email at: faith.moosang@vancouver.ca. In your email subject line please write *Platforms 2025: The Teachers Among Us* and provide us with the name and contact information of the artist you are nominating. And yes, you can nominate more than one artist!

After we have received your nomination, the Public Art Program will reach out to those artists and ask them to apply for the artist call itself. The artists who apply will move through adjudication, and if they are one of the twenty artists selected to create new artwork, we will pay nominators \$500 to write a short paragraph as to why they nominated this senior artist.

Deadline to nominate is Monday, April 7th, 2025, at 12:00 pm midnight, PST.

The Artist Call

The City of Vancouver Public Art Program, as part of its ongoing 2D temporary artwork *Platforms* initiative, invites artists to nominate Vancouver-based or xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) or səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) senior artists who have mentored, taught, or influenced them in their artistic careers. *Platforms 2025: The Teachers Among Us*, aims to spotlight those who have not only shaped the artwork of this region, but also mentored a younger generation of artists.

Intent and Vision

The intent of this iteration of *Platforms* is to celebrate the senior artists from Vancouver and the local Host Nations, and more broadly to hail the role of elders in art and highlight the intergenerational relationships of love, learning, respect, and mentorship that exist in our city. This *Platforms* nomination call was partly inspired by the Public Art Program's recent *Collective Agency Project* which provided a group of older adults the opportunity to work with established artists. The underlying push of this *Platforms* call is

to pull older artists back into the centre, to counter ageism, and to shine a light on the often-unseen labour of mentors in our arts community.

Background of *Platforms*

Platforms is a temporary 2D program that has been running intermittently at the City of Vancouver Public Art Program since 2010. To date, *Platforms* has seen the commissioning of over 115 artworks by over 130 artists. These works have been installed on numerous public-facing platforms throughout the city including billboards, video screens, digital screens, transit shelters, banners, and windows. Most of the *Platforms* artist calls have used a thematic to which artists respond. These have included Memory and Mapping, Covid-19 Response, and the most recent which focused on local Indigenous artists.

Context

As part of Arts & Culture, 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. The subtitle *Blanketing the City in Art & Culture* is an acknowledgement that what is known to many as Vancouver is located on the traditional, unceded territories of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Sḵwxwú7mesh and səliłwətał Nations whose languages, teachings, stories, and overall cultural expressions should be visible and known throughout Vancouver.

Culture | Shift also recognizes the importance of arts and culture at the centre of city building and recognizes the importance of artist-led initiatives and artist-centred approaches to commissioning.

About the Commission

Platforms: The Teachers Among Us will commission up to twenty nominated artists working in film/video and two-dimensional media. Commissions are for new work. Selected artworks will be displayed on one of the platforms listed below beginning in September 2025 with works going up throughout the year. The length of time that the individual artworks are presented depends on the platform chosen. Duration and details about each platform can be found below in the specification section (Appendix A)

- Billboard
- Billboards in series (5 faces along Arbutus corridor)
- Light Box at šxʷá exən Xwtl'a7shn Plaza
- Banners at Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch

- Glass Walls on Canada Line Stations (City Centre, Olympic Village, King Edward)
- Transit Shelter Posters, throughout City
- VanLive! Video Screen, Georgia and Granville
- Digital Display Boards, throughout City

Artists will receive \$6,000 CDN in phased payments, inclusive of all expenses for creation, editing and design of the artwork and delivery of high-quality digital files according to specifications for the platform. The Public Art Program is responsible for production and installation.

Eligibility

This call is open to any senior Vancouver-based and xʷməθkʷəyəm, sḵwḵwú7mesh, səlilwətał Nations artists who have been nominated for the call.

Definitions:

Senior Artist:

An artist who has been working in their field for at least 30 years.

Artist:

A regular practitioner who meets one or more of the following criteria:

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

Vancouver-based Artist:

A practitioner who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Lives in the city of Vancouver.
- Has a studio in Vancouver.
- Has a history of producing work in the city.

xʷməθkʷəyəm, sḵwḵwú7mesh and səlilwətał Artists:

For the purposes of this call, artists from the xʷməθkʷəyəm, sḵwḵwú7mesh and səlilwətał Nations are artists whoself-identify as being members of these Nations and are recognized as such by their Nation.

Selection

Proposals will be evaluated by a diverse panel of artists and art professionals including those from x̣ẉṃə̣θ̣ḳẉə̣ỵəm, ṣḳẉx̣ẉụ́7̣mesh and ṣəḷiḷẉə̣ṭə̣ł Nations. Panelists will be selected based on previous experience with Public Art.

As the City of Reconciliation, we recognize that we are on the unceded homelands of x̣ẉṃə̣θ̣ḳẉə̣ỵəm, ṣḳẉx̣ẉụ́7̣mesh and ṣəḷiḷẉə̣ṭə̣ł 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.

Artist selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of proposal to this opportunity
- Strength and creativity of proposal and past work
- Demonstrated ability to produce and present work
- Proposal is respectful of the unceded homelands of the x̣ẉṃə̣θ̣ḳẉə̣ỵəm, ṣḳẉx̣ẉụ́7̣mesh and ṣəḷiḷẉə̣ṭə̣ł Nations and the continuation of their living culture in this region

Submission Requirements

1. A **brief summary** of your concept and a top three list of the platform you'd like to see your work exhibited on. Although the call is about generational relationships in the local art-world the thematic of the proposed work itself is open-ended. (200 word maximum)
2. Up to a **maximum of six (6) JPG images or four (4) images and two (2) videos of past work**. Images and videos must be titled with a number and the artist's name.

Please ensure that your images conform to the following requirements:

- JPG format
- RGB colour mode
- 2 MB maximum size per image or video
- 20 seconds maximum each video
- Video segments should be in MPEG-4 (.mp4)

3. A **documentation list** that corresponds to images or videos submitted. Include number, name of artist and any collaborators, title, date, materials, dimensions, location if public, and commissioning organization if applicable. A brief (maximum 15 word) description of each image or video may be included.
4. An **artist resumé** for each artist involved in this opportunity clearly identifying the lead artist. The lead artist must be willing to enter a contract with the City of Vancouver. (Maximum 2 pages per resumé).

Nomination Deadline

Monday April 7th, 2025 at 12:00pm midnight.

Anticipated Schedule*

Artist Call Opened	Friday, Feb. 14 th , 2025
Submission of Nominations Deadline	Monday, Apr. 7 th , 2025
Senior Artists Notified of Nomination	Tuesday, April 8 th , 2025
Artist Submissions Deadline	Monday, May 19 th , 2025
Adjudication	Wednesday, June 11 th , 2025
Artists Notified	Thursday, June 12 th , 2025
Artworks Presented	Sept. 2025 onward

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

Acknowledgment for Commissions

The City of Vancouver Public will work with selected artists to determine commissioning acknowledgement requirements.

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.

Vancouver Live! Video Screens



Image: Alex MacKenzie, *Waiting Room*, 2022 Image courtesy of artist.

General Video Screen Specifications:

- Visuals only; **no audio** is available
- Aspect ratio: 1:1.47
- Screen Resolution: 72 dpi
- Dimensions: 612 x 900 pixels
- Frame Rate: 29.97 frames per second
- File Format: JPEG, MP4
- Recommended text size: 72px or higher for headlines and 36px for content
- Required creatives: 1 or 2 files
- Multi-segment works may be considered but artists should be aware that segments are interspersed with

other content. Multi-segment works should be no more than three minutes total

This highly visible pair of screens is located on the building facade at Robson and Granville Streets in downtown Vancouver. The screens are perpendicular to each other, coming to a point at the corner and have the option of showing the same image on both screens simultaneously, or showing separate images on each screen. Unlike most screens, these two screens, measuring 21 feet wide x 30 feet high, are well suited to works with vertical orientation.

Artworks selected for this platform are inserted into a repeating loop of other content including advertising and public service announcements and run on the screens for four to five weeks. Screens are broadcast quality, capable of full colour and full motion display. Final airtime blocks, number of screenings per hour and when the work gets scheduled during each hour vary. Length of content is subject to negotiation and artists should propose times that best suit their project, but **maximum video length, including credits, is three minutes.**

Transit Shelter Advertising Spaces



Image: Sharona Franklin, *Disability Pride Plaque, Liquid*, 2020.

Artists selected for this platform will have their print-based artwork(s) installed on twenty (20) randomly placed transit shelter poster spaces throughout Vancouver for four (4) to six (6) weeks. Specific shelter locations cannot be guaranteed. This platform is well suited to works with vertical orientation. Projects may be a single image repeated or a series that include two images or four images.

Selected artists will need to provide a professional-quality digital image with high print resolution at 1.14 metres wide x 1.68 metres high. Detailed specifications can be found at: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/transit-shelter-advertising-Outfront-Media-specifications.pdf>

Digital Display Boards



Image: Deanne Achong, *Pandemik Piks*, 2020, Image courtesy of artist.

There are twenty (20) static digital display boards at eight (8) locations throughout the city. Selected artists can choose to show one (1) image or a series of up to four (4) images. The artwork will be inserted into a repeating 64 second loop of other advertising content. The loop plays roughly 56 times an hour, 24 hours per day.

The locations of the digital display boards are:

- Burrard/Georgia (4 screens)
- Burrard/Robson (2 screens)
- Georgia/Hornby (2 screens)
- Granville/Robson, two separate locations (6 screens)
- Richards/Robson (2 screens)
- Davie/Mainland (2 screens)
- Cambie/Broadway (2 screens)

Digital display boards are capable of full colour and still image display. This platform is well suited to works with vertical orientation. Selected artists for digital display boards will be required to provide up to four (4) high quality JPG digital images (2160w x 3840h in pixels) no larger than 10 MB each. Please note that large areas of white or red in an image tend to display unevenly, can appear too bright at night, and may cause LED bleeds. This work will be installed for between 4 to 6 weeks.

Billboard(s)



Image: Sunny Nestler, *Coneworm Floe*, 2020.

Either a single billboard or a series of three billboards, two of which are double-sided, will be available for this call. The anticipated duration of billboard exhibitions is three to four months. This platform is well suited to works that have horizontal orientation. Either an individual work or works in series with five images would be suitable. Billboard dimensions are 20ft long x 10ft high. Images for this platform should be high quality JPGs (300DPI, CMYK), not to exceed 600MB in size. If text is included in the work, font size should not be smaller than 72pt.

Banners, Vancouver Public Library (VPL) Central Branch



Image: Ryan McKenna, *Time Immemorial*, 2017 Photo: Rachel Topham

One artist will be selected to create a series of six banners for display at the Central Library branch. Each banner measures 3.20 m wide x 6.52 m high, and is printed on flexface vinyl. This platform is well suited to works with vertical orientation. Final images supplied should be 50 dpi at scale. The banners will hang three stories above the library promenade for up to one year.

Projects will be reviewed by library staff before commissioning.

Canada Line Stations



Image: Krystle Coughlin, *Nekú netsí kezhi*, 2017 **Photo:** Courtesy of InTransit BC

The work will be shown on the glass walls of selected Canada Line Stations, including City Centre at Georgia and Granville streets, King Edward at King Edward and 25th Avenue and Olympic Village at 2nd and Cambie. Works for this platform will be printed on vinyl and adhered to the glass wall.

Works can cover all of the glass wall, but it must be printed at 50% transparency. In some light conditions, the work may appear largely transparent and this should be considered in relation to the nature of the image. Length of exhibition will be five to six months.

Dimensions are various.

InTransit BC reserves the right to approve or refuse the artwork or remove the work at its discretion.

šxwł exən Xwtl'a7shn Light Box



Image: Kelly Cannell, *Sea to Sky*, 2017. **Photo:** Rachel Topham.

This artist opportunity is for a vinyl wrap on the glass surface of the parking exit structure located on the šxwł exən Xwtl'a7shn plaza, Georgia and Hamilton Streets. The lights in the stairwell are bright and will create a light box effect to backlight the artwork in the evening. The vinyl wrap will be exhibited for up to one year.

South face: 2.67 m (8.8') x 1.8 m (5.9') wide

East and west faces: 2.67 m (8.8') x 5.86 m (19.2') long