

Platforms: We Are Here, Live

A Call for New Work from the City of Vancouver Public Art Program

The City of Vancouver Public Art Program invites Vancouver-based artists and artists from the xʷməθkʷəʔyəm (Musqueam), sk̓w̓xwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations to submit concept proposals for temporary two-dimensional artworks.

Intent and Vision

Covid-19 has magnified and deepened all of the social, health and economic inequities of our society, and art-making is an important way to respond creatively to this moment. Artists continue to create works that reflect on the disparate impacts of the pandemic and what comes next.

Platforms: We Are Here, Live seeks to commission and make public the work of artists who are engaged in and grappling with the issues revealed by a still-unfolding global pandemic.

Platforms: We Are Here, Live will commission up to twenty artists working in video and two-dimensional media. We are most interested in proposals that present strong ideas that reflect the complexities of our current circumstances and encourage critical dialogue and engagement. Emerging artists and those new to working in the public realm are encouraged to apply.

The *Platforms* program will run for one year, starting in November of 2021. Selected artworks will be presented as temporary projects on a range of existing platforms throughout the city. 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.

Context

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. 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 xʷməθkʷəʔyəm, Sk̓w̓xwú7mesh and səlilwətał Nations whose languages, teachings, stories, and overall cultural expressions should be visible and known throughout Vancouver.

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>.

The hope with *Platforms: We Are Here, Live* is to stimulate the broadest possible range of artists and ideas to create unique and innovative works of art.

About the Commission

Commissions are for new work. Selected artworks will be displayed on one of the platforms listed below beginning in November 2021:

- Billboard, number and location(s) to be determined
- Light Box at šxʷá exən Xwtl'a7shn Plaza
- Banners at Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch
- Glass Wall at City Centre Canada Line Station
- Transit Shelter Posters, throughout City
- VanLive! Video Screen, Georgia and Granville
- Digital Display Boards, throughout City

See Appendix A for more details on each of the above platforms.

Artists will receive \$5,000 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 City is responsible for production and installation.

Eligibility

This call is open to all Vancouver-based artists and artists from the x^wməθk^wəy^əm, s^kwxwú7mesh and səliwətaʔ Nations.

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 peers within their community

For the purposes of this call, the definition of a “Vancouver-based” artist is a practitioner who:

- lives in the city of Vancouver, or
- has a studio in Vancouver, or
- has a history of producing work in the city

How to Apply

Contact Public Art Program staff to determine eligibility and to receive access to the online application form. Applicants may only submit one concept proposal, whether applying individually or as part of a team, and must choose one preferred platform. The panel may choose to recommend a work for other platforms.

To determine eligibility please contact Faith Moosang @ 604.829.9557. Please be prepared to talk about the list of items identified above under Eligibility.

Deadline to contact Public Art staff to determine eligibility is **Thursday June 3, 2021 at 12:00 pm**. If staff are unable to answer the phone, your call will be returned in the order that it is received. Please allow up to 48 hours for a return call.

All online applications must be received by **Wednesday June 9, 2021 at 10:00 am**.

Application Support

Applicants who are Deaf, hard of hearing, live with a disability, or might not be able to access the online system and need support to complete their applications may be able to receive funding to cover the costs of assistance from service providers. Please indicate your need for support when you contact Public Art staff to determine your eligibility.

Selection

Proposals will be evaluated by a diverse panel of artists and art professionals including those from x^wməθk^wəy^əm, s^kwxwú7mesh and səliwətaʔ 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 x^wməθk^wəy^əm, s^kwxwú7mesh and səliwətaʔ 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 xʷməθkʷəyəm, sk̓wxwú7mesh and səliłwətał Nations and the continuation of their living culture in the life of this region

Submission Requirements

1. A **brief summary** of your concept and how it relates to the chosen platform. (250 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 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 into a contract with the City of Vancouver. (Maximum 2 pages per resumé).

All proposals must be submitted via the on-line application form. It is wise to apply well in advance of the deadline.

Submission Deadline

Wednesday June 9, 2021 at 10:00 am

Anticipated Schedule*

Open Call Released:	Monday, April 12, 2021
Deadline to Contact Staff to Determine Eligibility:	Thursday June 3, 2021 at 12:00 pm
Submission Deadline:	Wednesday June 9, 2021 at 10:00 am
Awarded Artists Notified:	Week of July 19, 2021
Artworks Presented: (length of display varies with each Platform; see Appendix A for details)	Between November 2021 and November 2022

****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! LED Video Screens



Image: Phoebe Parsons, *Terror Fervor*, 2020. Robson & Granville Screens.

General Video Screen Specifications:

- Note that video content is visual only; **no audio** is available
- Aspect ratio: 1:1.47
- Screen Resolution: 72 dpi
- Dimensions: 612 x 900 pixels
- File Format: JPEG, MP4
- Recommended text size: 72px or higher for headlines and 36px for content
- 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 six to eight weeks. Screens are broadcast quality, capable of full colour and full motion display. Final airtime blocks and number of screenings per hour vary. Length of content is subject to negotiation and artists should propose times that best suit their project, but maximum video length is three minutes

Transit Shelter Advertising Spaces



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

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 of 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 **Photo:** Deanne Achong.

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.

Billboard



Image: Sunny Nestler, *Coneworm Floe*, 2020. Billboard, Prince Edward & Broadway.

One or more billboards will be available for this call. The location of the billboard(s) is yet to be determined, however, the anticipated duration of billboard exhibitions is three to four months. This platform is well suited to works with horizontal orientation. 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.

City Centre Canada Line Station



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

The work will be shown on the west wall of the Canada Line City Centre Station at Georgia and Granville streets. 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 (5) to six (6) months.

West wall facing plaza: five panels, 2.5 m (8.2') x 3.25 m (10.7') per panel [total of 12.5 m (41') x 3.25 m (10.7')]

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. The vinyl wrap will be exhibited for up to one year.

Only two sides of the box are available for a wrap. The artwork can cover the south and west facing surfaces.

- **South face:** 2.67 m (8.8') x 1.8 m (5.9') wide
- **West face:** 2.67 m (8.8') x 5.86 m (19.2') long

Please note that the east-facing wall and north-facing door are not available.