

Artist Opportunity: Thornton Pump Station Upgrades



Rendering of Pump Station at Thornton Park, Vancouver

Land Acknowledgement

The City of Vancouver respectfully acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) who have stewarded these lands, air and waters since time immemorial. We are excited about the opportunity to support xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw, and səlilwətał 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: \$15,000.00

Deadline for application: Wednesday, April 29th, 2026 at 11:59pm, PST

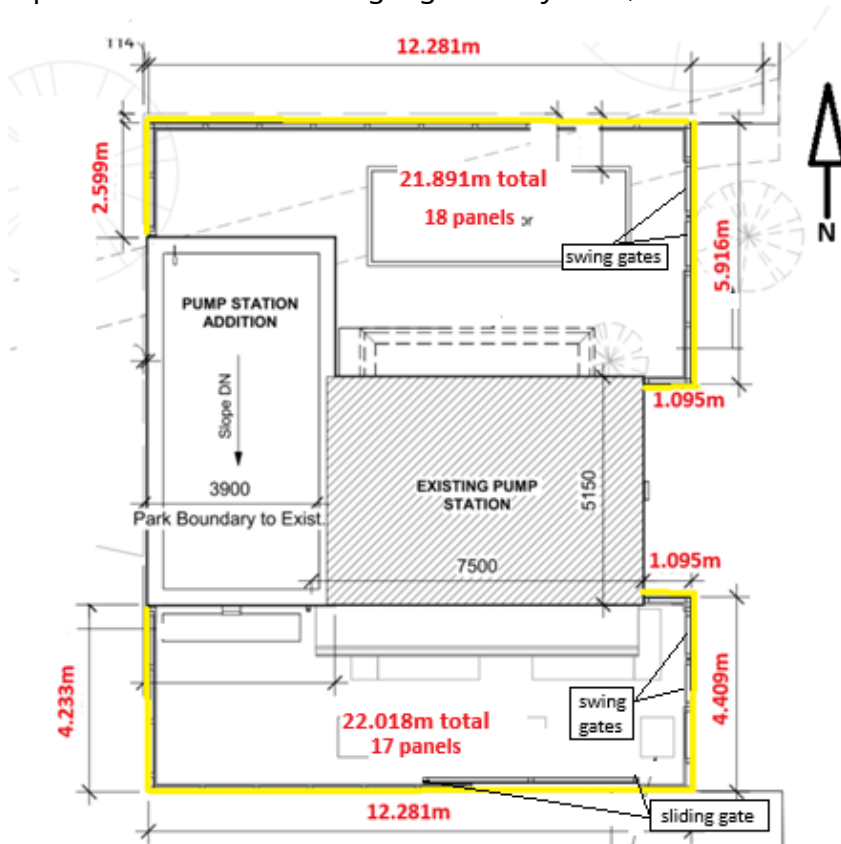
Background

Thornton Park is a significant civic gateway space at Main Street & Terminal Avenue, adjacent to the historic Pacific Central Station, containing existing public artworks and memorials. The Thornton Pump Station, positioned at the southeast corner of Thornton Park, near the Main Street-Science World Skytrain Station, is currently undergoing a City-led upgrade to support growing neighbourhood needs, with fencing providing a visible and impactful surface for integrated design.

The Opportunity

The City seeks one artist or artist team to create a production ready digital vector design for application on perforated/mesh fencing around the Thornton Pump Station. The selected artwork will be integrated directly into the perforated/mesh fencing system. Fabrication and installation are the responsibility of the City. The fabrication method will be finalized by the City and vendor; artists are only required to deliver the digital design.

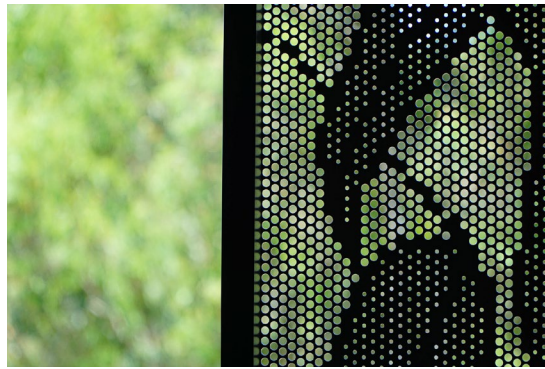
The fencing is approximately 3.05 metres high and 43.85 metres in total length. The City is looking to have artwork designed for up to approximately 30 metres of this fence length. The fencing is prominently visible from Main Street, the park pathway network, and the Pacific Central transit hub, making this design a significant visual element in the public realm. Below is a plan view of the fence highlighted in yellow, and dimensions shown in red:



Deliverables include:

- A scalable vector design suitable for perforated/mesh substrates
- Attention to visibility, contrast, viewing distance, and perforation/opacity effects
- Final files in DXF and PDF
- Colour and production notes
- Low-res proof for review

Precedent Examples:



Detail of bespoke leaf design by Bickerton Masters Architects, c. 2022
Located at: Riverview Assisted Living Complex, Australia



Good Home Community Centre, Hendrick Architectural, 2018
Located at: Silver Spring, MD



High School Mascots, Arrow Metal and Advantage Signs, 2025
Located at: Thuringowa State High School, Australia

Guiding Frameworks

This artist call is guided by the City of Vancouver’s cultural equity 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 this opportunity, with a focus on advancing equity, Reconciliation, accessibility, and meaningful inclusion.

Eligibility

This call is open to Vancouver-based artists and local Nations-based artists.

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

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 of Vancouver

For the purposes of this call, the definition of a local Nations-based artist is:

- someone who identifies as a member of one of the three local Nations xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and/or səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation), and
- who is recognized as such by their Nation.

Submitted Applications will be checked for eligibility and completeness by City Staff. Qualifying applications will move forward to the selection panel for adjudication. If applications are not complete, they will not move on to 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. **Artist Bio:** (max. 2 paragraphs) a short synopsis of your art practice and any former training
3. **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
4. **Statement of Interest:** (300-500 words) Why are you excited about this project? What preliminary idea or early direction are you interested in exploring for this opportunity? (At this stage, we are not requesting a finished concept.)

Application and Selection Process

- Staff Screening: Eligibility + completeness; shortlist forwarded
- Adjudication Panel: Panel will be composed of four persons with previous experience in public art and public realm projects. They will review submissions and make a recommendation for one artist/artist team to proceed towards commissioning.
- Design Development:
 - Detailed Draft Design (≈75% complete), due June 15, 2026
 - Final File (production ready vector) due July 1, 2026

The overall project timelines are determined by the timeline of construction which is currently underway. Completion date TBD.

Criteria for Selection of Artists

The adjudication panel will score applications based on:

- Strength and creativity of past work (25% of score)
- Demonstrated ability to produce and present artwork (25% of score)
- Technical ability with digital vector design (25% of score)
- Shows meaningful connection to the project (25% of score)

Important Dates (subject to change)

Artist Call Opens	Wed., March 18 th , 2026
Application Deadline	Wed., April 29 th , 2026 (11:59 pm PST)
Adjudication Panel Selects Artists	Wed., May 13 th , 2026
Artist or Artist Team Notified	Thurs., May 14 th , 2026
Artist Detailed Draft Design Due	Mon., June 15 th , 2026
Final Vector File Delivered	Wed., July 1 st , 2026
Fabrication + Installation	Subject to construction sequencing

Send Submissions To/Contact For Questions

By Email: Faith Moosang at faith.moosang@vancouver.ca

Subject Line: Thornton Pump Station Art Opportunity

Accessibility Needs

We are committed to making this opportunity accessible to all artists. If you have any accessibility needs, require accommodations, or would like assistance preparing or submitting your application, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are happy to provide support and will work with you to ensure the application process is as accessible and inclusive as possible.

Email: Faith Moosang at faith.moosang@vancouver.ca

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.