

## ***We Are Weaving: A Public Art Call to Commission New Weavings from Local Nations Wool Weavers***

### **Land acknowledgement**

The City of Vancouver respectfully acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) who have stewarded these lands, air and waters since time immemorial.

We are honoured to support the cultural presence of these Nations in the public realm through this call. We extend our gratitude to the staff and artists of the local Nations who are collaborating on this initiative.

### **Summary**

- Number of Commissions: Six weavings (two from each Nation)
- Artist Fee: \$20,000 CAD per artist (phased payments, inclusive of all expenses)
- Deadline for Applications: April 22nd, 2026, at midnight (PST)
- Dimensions: Approximately 60" wide × 50" high
- Location: Atrium of Vancouver City Hall

### **Background**

The Public Art Program operates under the umbrella of the City of Vancouver's cultural policy, *Culture | Shift: Blanketing the City in Art & Culture*. *Culture | Shift* is the City's 10-year plan (2020–2029) that places arts and culture at the centre of city building. The subtitle *Blanketing the City in Art & Culture* acknowledges that Vancouver is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, whose languages, teachings, and cultural expressions should be visible and celebrated throughout the city.

The Public Art Program is also guided by the *City's UNDRIP Strategy and Calls to Action in the Public Realm*, which:

- Support greater visibility for xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh, and səliłwətał Nations
- Prioritize cultural expression, art, and language from these Nations
- Ensure selection processes include representation from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh, and səliłwətał

## The Opportunity

The City of Vancouver's Public Art Program, in collaboration with Real Estate, Environment, and Facilities Management, invites artists and artist pairs from the three local Nations to apply for the commission of six Coast Salish woven blankets.

The intention of this call is to:

- Celebrate the rich weaving traditions of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətaʔ Nations
- Honour the history of intergenerational knowledge transfer
- Showcase the resilience and ingenuity of self-taught weavers
- Make visible the cultural expressions and presence of local Nations in Vancouver
- Permanently install the weavings in the atrium of Vancouver City Hall, a central and highly visible civic space

Artists may apply individually or in pairs. If applying as a pair, each artist will create one weaving.



Atrium showing 3 of the 6 locations for the weavings

## Precedent Example:



Te-Awk-Tenaw Caitlin Aleck, *Matriarchs in the Making*, 2023, Commissioned by the City of Vancouver Public Art Program

## Eligibility

This call is open to individual artists or artist pairs from the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətał Nations.

An artist is defined as someone who:

- Has completed academic training or apprenticed with an accomplished practitioner, **or**
- Maintains an artistic practice and has publicly shared work for at least two years, **or**
- Is recognized as an artist by peers within their community

Applicants must identify as members of one of the three local Nations and be recognized as such by their Nation.

## 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. **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) a synopsis of your art practice and any former training
4. **Sample Artwork:** 4–6 images of your artwork, with brief descriptions. (JPG, PNG, PDF)
5. **Statement of Interest:** (300 words) Why are you excited about this project?

## Application and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed through an Expression of Interest (EOI) process. During this stage, an adjudication panel, comprised of representatives from the x̄w̄m̄ə̄θ̄k̄w̄ə̄ȳəm, S̄k̄w̄x̄w̄ú̄7̄mesh, and s̄əl̄il̄w̄ə̄t̄ Nations, will assess each applicant's portfolio of past work and select artists to advance to the weaving design phase. Panelists will be chosen for their demonstrated experience in Public Art and Public Realm design.

## Criteria for Selection of Artists

The adjudication panel will assess applications based on:

- Strength and creativity of past work, most notably textile/weaving artworks
- Demonstrated ability to produce and present artwork
- Capacity to meet the requirements of the project
- Shows meaningful connection to the project

## Important Dates (subject to change)

Artist Call Opens	Tues. February 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
Application Deadline	Wed. April 22nd, 2026 at midnight (PST)
Adjudication Panel Selects Artists	Mid-May
Applicants Notified	Soon after Adjudication
Artists Contracted	May
Concept Proposal and Draft Design Due	Mon. June 22nd, 2026
Mid-way Check in on Project	Mon. September 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
Final Artwork Due	Mon. November 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
Weavings Installed	December 2026 (est)
Blessing Ceremony	January 2027 (est)

## Send Submissions To/Contact For Questions or Application Support

By Email: Faith Moosang at [faith.moosang@vancouver.ca](mailto:faith.moosang@vancouver.ca)

Subject Line: *We Are Weaving* Application

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.