

# Tsuut'ina Curatorial Mentorship in public art

## Call for curatorial mentee

**Who:**

Artists and individuals interested in gaining work experience as a curator

**What:**

Curate a Tsuut'ina educational travelling exhibit for The City of Calgary public art collection

**Where:**

Hybrid work, online research, in-person research and events as needed, regular meetings with City of Calgary public art staff

**When:**

Deadline to apply: April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Project start: May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Project end: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**How much:**

Curatorial fee of \$7,000 + GST total

The City of Calgary recognizes and values [equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging](#); and unique dimensions of diversity including race, ethnicity, gender, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, work style, communication style, learning preferences and others.

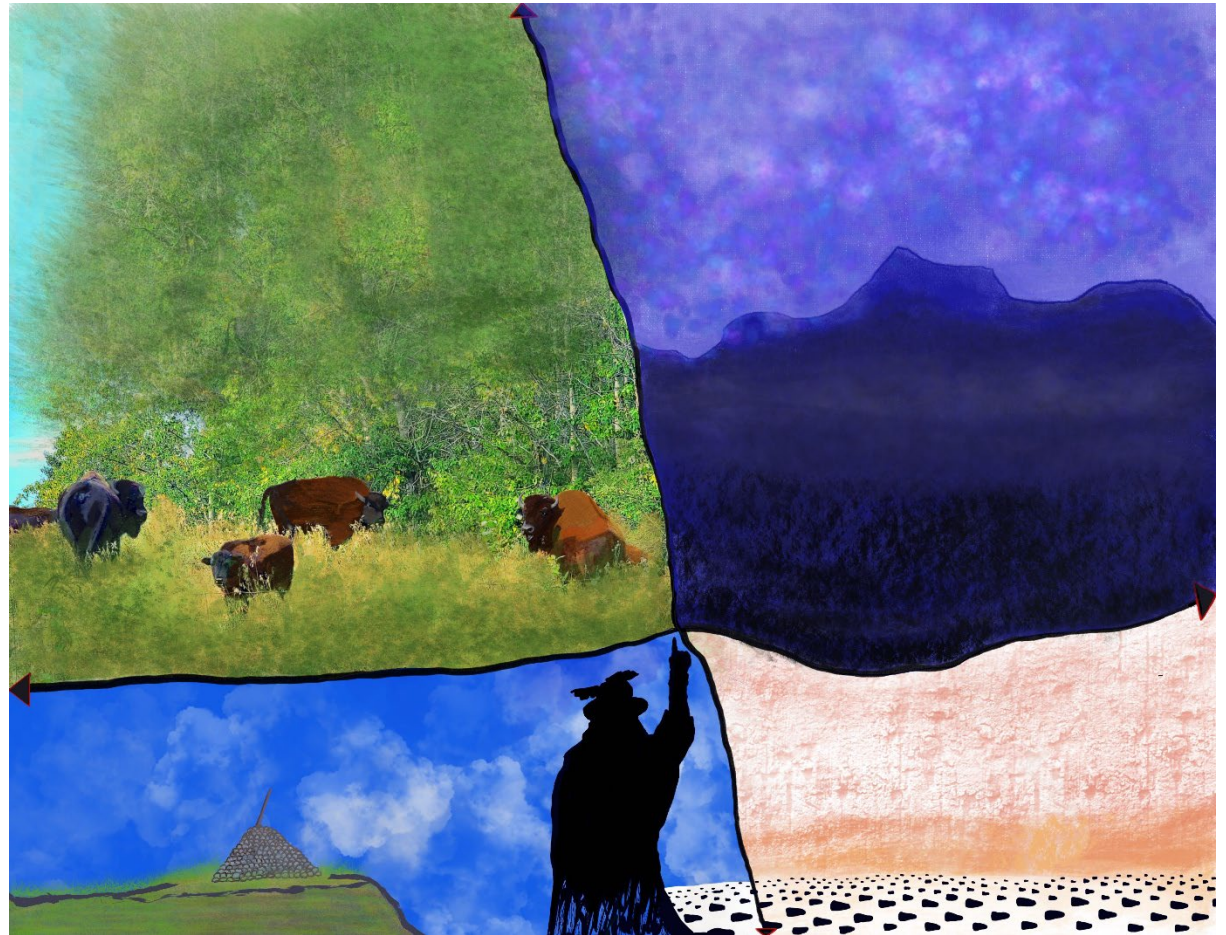


Figure 1 Guts'ists'i, Stephanie One Spot, Licensed for City of Calgary Public Art



**Request for qualifications**  
**Date of issue: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**  
**Submission deadline: 4:30 PM April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## About the project

The City of Calgary Public Art Program invites members of the Tsuut'ina First Nation to apply to this paid mentorship opportunity. Individual artists who have an interest in curation are encouraged to apply. Prior curatorial experience is not required. This opportunity is open to Tsuut'ina nation members.

The selected individual will work closely with the Indigenous curator, public art conservator, public art liaison, and collections specialist to curate a Tsuut'ina specific, loanable exhibit that will be available for communities and schools to host. The mentorship will include all aspects of working on a public art exhibit, including and not limited to budgeting, artist visits, exhibit design, curatorial writing, etc. The curator will work with artists from the community to reflect their voices through the exhibit. The curator's own artwork will not be eligible for the exhibit.

The curated exhibit must be created within a set budget, and will include between 4- 12 artworks/art objects. The curatorial mentee will work under the guidance of the Indigenous curator to create a theme and select artworks to be purchased for the exhibit. They will also work with the public art team to create an exhibit that is portable and ensure the artworks are protected during moves/travel.

## Questions and clarifications

Submit all questions in writing to [indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca](mailto:indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca) prior to 4:00 p.m. MST on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Goals

This project will:

- Create opportunities for schools and communities to learn about and connect with Tsuut'ina culture through art
- Engage with Tsuut'ina artists
- Grow the public art collection
- Create a loanable exhibit that schools and communities will be able to host for 3-6 months at a time

## Artist information sessions

Free online and in-person artist information sessions are available for those interested in applying. Please email [indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca](mailto:indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca) for dates, times and locations. Attendance is **not** mandatory in order to qualify for this opportunity.

## Budget

The curatorial mentee receives an all-inclusive, maximum budget of **\$7,000.00 + GST** (if applicable) inclusive of travel and expenses. This does NOT include an artwork purchase budget.

The total budget includes, but is not limited to supplies and materials, consultation, time for public engagement, travel, insurance and design fees.

The mentee will be responsible for their project budget and will be paid based on deliverables as per their Scope and Fee contract.



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\*References from City of Calgary staff members will not be counted as part of the required references.

## How to apply

### Submission package

Eligible submissions will contain:

- a) **Letter/email of interest**/oral submission maximum of 1500 words) including:
  - Your interest in this position.
  - Description of how your Indigenous identity and/or cultural understanding will contribute to this work.
  - A statement of interest in learning curatorial work.
  - Connection to your community
  - Contact information (phone number, alternate number and email address)

\* Your submission will be rated out of a possible 100 points as outlined in the Evaluation criteria below.

- b) **OPTIONAL: Up to 10 images** of your artwork, or artwork that interests you. This is **optional** and is for us to get to know you more.
- c) **Three references** including contact name, company, current telephone number, address, and email address. You may use past clients, Elders, and community members familiar with you.

\*The City reserves the right to contact references without prior notification.

**Questions?** email [indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca](mailto:indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca) phone (403) 268-2994

### How to submit

- Email [indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca](mailto:indigenouspublicart@calgary.ca) and attach all the required documents.
- Email subject line should include: Tsuut'ina Curator
- Note that the maximum file size for an email is 10 MB. You may submit multiple emails to ensure all files are received.
- Submissions are accepted in electronic form only.
- Links to past exhibits/curatorial writing will be accepted
- Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

## Selection process

All eligible submissions are reviewed by a selection panel and is stewarded by a City business unit representative. A member of the Curatorial Panel, an Indigenous member of the public, and city representatives may be on the selection panel.

Applicants may be invited to an in-person or online interview with the selection panel.

Submissions will be rated out of a possible 100 points according to the Evaluation criteria below.

\*The selection panel has the right to not award any of the submissions, and The City reserves the right to cancel/reissue this opportunity at any time.



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## Evaluation criteria (100 points)

- A. Understanding of the project: <50 points>
- Why this opportunity appeals to the applicant
  - How the applicant's knowledge of art and Tsuut'ina world view will contribute to this project
  - Connection to the Tsuut'ina community.
  - Effective communication.
- B. Skills & interests: <40 points>
- Clear writing/speaking and understanding of their own culture.
  - Clear interest in art and supporting artists from their community
  - Cultural and artistic knowledge
- C. Public art experience <10 points>
- Public art experience is an asset but not required
  - Experience curating an exhibit is an asset but not required.
- D. Bonus points- extra points may be score if the applicant can:
- (20 points) provide proof of verifiable Indigenous ancestry.
  - (up to 20 points) Provide examples of being connected to communities with letters of reference or providing phone numbers for members of Tsuut'ina who can speak to your connection and presence in community.

## Working with The City

To ensure the public art project meets project goals, as well as the requirements of the Public Art Program, the artist or artist team will be required to work closely throughout the project with Public Art Program staff as well as other stakeholders.

Prior to confirmation of award, the selected artist or artist team will be required to:

- Provide proof of verifiable Indigenous ancestry
- Complete a Scope and Fee contract defining project deliverables and payment schedule;
- Sign a City of Calgary Artist Agreement which includes Artist General Terms and Conditions.

## Administration

The commissioner for this project is:

The City of Calgary  
Box 2100, Station M, Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2M5  
Mail code #63

There will not be any public opening of submissions.  
There is no cost to the applicant to provide a submission.  
Submissions must currently be provided in English.