

call to artists

PUBLIC ART
RICHMOND



Figure 1. Relocation of Japanese-Canadians to camps in the interior of British Columbia, 1942-46. Photograph Credit: Tak Toyota/Library and Archives Canada/C-047066

OPPORTUNITY

The Richmond Public Art Program, in partnership with the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, is seeking an artist or artist team with past experience in creating commemorative artworks to develop a Nikkei memorial in acknowledgement of the 75th anniversary of the relocation of Japanese Canadians from Richmond. The public artwork will be located in the Steveston Community Park, 4010 Moncton Street, Richmond, B.C.

This is a two-stage artist call. Following review by the selection panel of the submitted artists' qualifications, up to five artists will be shortlisted and invited to attend an interview. Artists are not to provide concept proposals at the interview stage. The selected artist or artist team will be contracted to develop the concept proposal through a community engagement process.

An honorarium of \$500 will be paid to each of the shortlisted artists or artist teams. A travel allowance will be available for shortlisted artists residing outside of the Greater Vancouver area. All information about the project is contained herein.

Artwork Budget: \$325,000 CAN

Eligibility: Open to professional artists and artist teams residing in Canada

Deadline: Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 5:00 pm, PST

Completion: Before December 2018

Steveston Nikkei Memorial Public Artwork

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

September 2017

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BACKGROUND

Canadians of Japanese descent have been fundamental in the development and growth of Steveston. In the early 20th century, Steveston was home to a vibrant Japanese Canadian (Nikkei) culture, which included the Steveston Japanese School, Japanese Hospital, boatworks buildings, kendo club and a significant wooden boat fishing fleet.

In December 1941, following Canada's declaration of war on Japan, subsequent impoundment of fishing boats owned by Japanese Canadians and the enactment of the coastal exclusion zone for "enemy aliens," Japanese Canadian residents of Steveston were relocated to internment camps in the B.C. interior. It was not until 1949 that Japanese Canadians regained their full rights of Canadian citizenship and were allowed to return to Steveston.

April 2017 marked the 75th anniversary of the relocation of Japanese Canadians from Steveston and Richmond. In 1942, more than 2,500 Richmond residents of Japanese ancestry were evacuated 100 miles from the coast of B.C. They left the community primarily from the Steveston Interurban Tram Station at No. 1 Road and Moncton Street and began to return to the community in 1949.

THEMES

This memorial to Nikkei pioneers must recognize the displacement, and more importantly, the return of Japanese Canadian Richmond residents to become contributing members in the development and identity of Steveston through their community-building initiatives.

The memorial artwork is expected to be a realistic and representational sculpture (though not necessarily including human figures) with a strong symbolic and emotionally resonant theme. It must be durable, timeless, impactful and memorable. The legacy artwork will promote cultural harmony and community development in Steveston and stand as a symbol of solidarity against racism and xenophobia.

The Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre Nikkei Memorial Committee has identified the following themes for this memorial artwork:

- resilience, perseverance and community-building of the first, second and third generations of Nikkei;
- Nikkei pioneers surmounting injustice and racism suffered during WWII; and
- the return of the Nikkei community to Steveston after internment to become contributing members of society.

The Nikkei Memorial Committee is open to a variety of artistic expressions that can address these themes in an artwork that is durable, memorable and

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educational. It is proposed that an artist or artist team will be selected to engage with the Nikkei Memorial Committee to develop a concept proposal that addresses their aspirations for this significant project.

LOCATION

The location proposed for the memorial is in the vicinity of the Steveston Tram Building, the departure point for many of the interned Japanese Canadians. The Parks Department will be consulted on the final site location.

BUDGET

The total budget established for this project is \$325,000 CAD. An initial artist fee of \$25,000 is allocated for community engagement and concept development. A budget of \$300,000 is allotted for implementation of the artwork, including detailed design, fabrication and installation. This budget includes (but is not limited to) artist fees, design, permitting as needed, engineering fees, fabrication, installation, photography, insurance and all taxes. Travel to Richmond and/or accommodation is at the artist's expense.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity aims to engage artists or artist teams residing in Canada. Artists who have knowledge of and/or an existing relationship to the Japanese Canadian community are encouraged to consider this project. Qualified artists will have proven experience developing public artworks including commemorative projects.

SELECTION PROCESS

A two-stage selection process will be used to select and engage an artist to develop a concept proposal and, upon stakeholder endorsement and City approval, fabrication and installation of the artwork. Canadian artists are invited to submit an expression of interest, including:

- qualifications (resume, examples of past work, references);
- statement of interest; and
- approach to community engagement.

The selection panel will review expressions of interest and invite three to five artists for interviews. At the end of the interviews, the selection panel will recommend one artist or artist team for the commission.

For stage one, artists are asked to submit a letter of interest and examples of past work, and to consider their approach to working with the community.

For stage two, artists will be asked to prepare a presentation about their practice and attend an interview. An honorarium of \$500 will be paid to each of the shortlisted artists or artist teams. Out-of-town finalists will be reimbursed for travel and lodging expenses to attend the interview in Richmond to a maximum of \$1,000. If applying as a team, the allowance for

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travel may not fully reimburse all team members. A five-member selection panel comprised of art and design professionals and representatives from the Steveston Japanese Canadian community group will review the applicants' materials. Staff representatives will serve as advisors to the panel.

On the basis of the second-stage presentation and interview, the selection panel will then recommend one artist or artist team for the commission. The panel reserves the right to make no recommendation from the submitted applications or finalist interviews.

City staff, Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (SJCCC) and community members will provide an orientation for the selected artist on the community cultural context of the Steveston Nikkei community and the project vision and goals.

The artist will hold additional meetings to engage with the SJCCC and the community to discuss intentions of the project and background context, additional research, solicit ideas from the community and discuss their approach to developing the concept proposal.

The recommended artist will enter into a phased artist agreement with the City. A budget of \$25,000 has been allocated for the concept design phase. The artist will develop one or more concept proposals for SJCCC review and feedback. Based on feedback and endorsement from the SJCCC, the City will a) authorize the artist to prepare alternative concept proposal(s), b) make revisions to the presented concept proposal(s) or c) proceed to developing a preferred concept proposal. The artist will be compensated if additional concepts are requested.

Once a final detailed concept proposal is endorsed by the SJCCC and City staff, the artist will submit a preliminary budget based on a maximum allocation of \$300,000, schedule for completion, concept design drawings and/or a maquette suitable for public display, preliminary list of materials and outline of maintenance requirements. The detailed concept proposal will be presented to City Council for endorsement to proceed with detailed design, fabrication and installation.

ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

Submissions to the call will be reviewed and decisions made based on:

- artist qualifications as demonstrated by creativity, quality and skill of previous work;
- artist's potential for making an engaging artwork of remembrance, suitable for a diversity of audiences;
- artist's understanding of the relevance of the site and its histories; and
- artist's capacity to work with other design professionals and the community.

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Email all documentation as one (1) PDF document, not to exceed a file size of 5 MB to: publicart@richmond.ca

- INFORMATION FORM – Please complete the information form attached to this document.
- LETTER OF INTEREST – (1 page maximum), explaining why the artist is interested in this opportunity and reference to relevant experience and art practice.
- ARTIST CV – (1 page maximum). Teams should include one page for each member.
- WORK SAMPLES – Up to ten (10) supporting image examples of previous work. One image per page. Please include artist name(s), title, year, location and medium information to be on each image page.
- REFERENCES – Two references. Please only submit name, title, contact email and telephone number of individuals who can speak to your experience and art practice.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 5:00 pm, PST

Artist Selection Process: November 2017

Finalist Notifications: December 2017

Completion: Before December 2018

SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Richmond Archives: www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/search-archives
- Richmond Public Art Policy: www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/plans
- Steveston Community Society: stevestoncommunitysociety.com
- Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre: centre.nikkeiplace.org
- Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre: 4255 Moncton Street, Richmond, BC Phone: (604) 277-4692
- Steveston Interurban Tram: www.richmond.ca/culture/sites/tram.htm

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. All supporting documents must be complete and strictly adhere to these guidelines and submission requirements (above) or risk not being considered.
2. All submissions must be formatted to 8.5 x 11 inch pages. Portfolio images and concept sketches would be best formatted to landscape format.
3. Submission files must be 5 MB or smaller.
4. If submitting as a team, the team should designate one representative to complete the entry form. Each team member must submit an individual resume/curriculum vitae. (See Submission Requirements)
5. All documents must be sent by e-mail to: publicart@richmond.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The selected artist will be required to show proof of WCB coverage and \$2,000,000 general liability insurance.
2. Please be advised that the City and the selection panel are not obliged to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The City reserves the right to reissue the Artist Call as required.
3. All submissions to this Artist Call become the property of the City. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright in the concept proposal. While every precaution will be taken to prevent the loss or damage of submissions, the City and its agents shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused.
4. Extensions to this deadline will not be granted under any circumstances. Submissions received after the deadline and those that are found to be incomplete will not be reviewed.

QUESTIONS

Please contact the Richmond Public Art Program:

Tel: 604-247-4612

Email: publicart@richmond.ca

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STEVESTON NIKKEI MEMORIAL PUBLIC ARTWORK

Attach one (1) copy of this form as the first page of the submission.

Name: _____

Team Name: (if applicable) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____
(One website or blog only)

Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. E-mailed submissions over 5 MB will not be accepted. Information beyond what is listed in the checklist will not be reviewed.

List Team Member Names, if applicable: (Team Lead complete above portion)

Please let us know how you found out about this opportunity:

Would you like to receive direct e-mails from the Richmond Public Art Program? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit applications by e-mail to: publicart@richmond.ca

Additional Information

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