



Canadiana Block Sparks Street Project

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The City of Ottawa, in partnership with Downtown BIA, invites professional Canadian street artists or artist collectives to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to qualify for consideration to design and install temporary concrete pavement artwork on Sparks Street as outlined in this Call to Artists.

Deadline for Submission of Qualifications: December 8, 2025 at 12:00pm (noon) EST.

Commission Value: \$65,000

Information: publicrealm@ottawa.ca

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Canadiana Block Sparks Street project is seeking to implement a Canada-themed decorative pavement artwork, representing each of Canada's 10 provinces and 3 territories. The installation will be located within a block of Ottawa's pedestrian promenade, Sparks Street, between Kent Street and Lyon Street within the Parliamentary District of downtown Ottawa.

In collaboration with the Downtown BIA, this public art initiative builds upon the branding of Sparks Street as "Canada's Street". It aligns with citywide momentum celebrating Canadian identity and keen interest in bringing more decorative, culturally meaningful artworks to the downtown core. Placemaking and public realm initiatives in Centretown, including beautification through public art, will elevate the downtown experience for workers, residents, visitors and businesses. The area has been chosen for its proximity to Parliament Hill and its importance as a pedestrian connection to the historic Lebreton Flats and the Ādisōke Library.

Further, this project aims to build on civic pride by celebrating Canadian identity and showcasing Canadian artist(s) within our Nation's Capital.

SITE AND DESIGN AREA

The Canadiana Block will be featured along Sparks Street between Kent Street and Lyon Street. The surface treatment of this pedestrian street is a mix of concrete panels that form strips separated by areas of interlocking brick. This block receives heavy pedestrian foot traffic during the day, and motor vehicle travel is prohibited except for service vehicles during overnight hours.

The design area where the artwork will be installed will only be within the 13 individual concrete strip surfaces that are made up of 3 square concrete panels. The concrete strip surface areas measure 6.5 feet in width by 19 feet in length. Each Province and Territories will be represented on their own strip. The artwork is to remain within the surface area provided and will not be permitted to bleed into the adjoining spaces.

Refer to the map below identifying the site and the 13 orange strips as the designated design area.

Canadiana Block



Kent to Lyon

13 Provinces and Territories represented in one block

There is also an opportunity to bookend the provinces and territories art installation with a separate Canadiana theme artwork on the remaining concrete strips as noted in the red maple leafed area above. The dimensions of these bookended strips are 30 feet in width by 19 feet in length for the left, western, portion and 20 feet in width by 19 feet in length for the right, eastern, portion.

Acknowledgment:

Honouring the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation, and First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples Ottawa is built on un-ceded Anishinabe Algonquin territory. The peoples of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation have lived on this territory for millennia. Their culture and presence have nurtured and continue to nurture this land. The City of Ottawa honours the peoples and land of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation. The City of Ottawa honours all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and their valuable past and present contributions to this land.

ELIGIBILITY

This Expression of Interest is an equal opportunity, open to professional Canadian artists with experience in creating temporary and permanent public art and working with multidisciplinary teams. Preference will be given to artists with experience in large-scale public or street art. Additional consideration will be given to those with previous asphalt art experience, including streets, crosswalks, pathway or civic art or exterior mural project experience. City of Ottawa employees are not eligible to apply.

The Project Team supports cultural activities that are inclusive of Canada's diverse communities, including people from diverse ancestries, abilities, ages, countries of origin, cultures, genders, incomes, languages, races and sexual orientations. Applications from First Nations, Inuit and Métis are welcome and encouraged. The City of Ottawa recognizes both official languages (English and French) as having the same rights, status and privileges.

PROJECT DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

The completed public realm artwork needs to adhere to the following design requirements:

- One artist or team of artists will represent Canada by providing 13 separate designs which reflect each of the 10 province and 3 territories via a sophisticated and tasteful design.
- The artwork will be applied using paint material provided by the City of Ottawa that is highly durable and suitable for the environment and will require minimal maintenance.
- The artwork will remain for a minimum of two (2) years (2026-2027) with possible extension. Any renewal work and/or maintenance to be conducted by the artist(s) or a local team as chosen by the artist(s).

- The selected artwork should incorporate community, cultural, nature-based or other symbolic references to a dedicated space for each of the 10 Provinces and 3 Territories.
- The selected artist or artist team will be expected to lead the installation of the artwork according to the schedule outlined below.
- Artwork submissions should be visually clear, organized and avoid advertising or political language.

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Celebration of National Identity and Civic Pride

This street art will highlight icons, symbols, and styles from each province and territory, reinforcing a shared national narrative while honoring regional uniqueness.

It will serve as a public visual reminder of Canada's diversity, unity, and heritage—right in the heart of federal policy-making and steps away from Parliament Hill.

2. Educational & Cultural Value

An educational experience for locals and tourists alike to learn more about Canadian history and culture of each region. This could include QR codes for more in-depth stories, tying street art into education and urban storytelling through placemaking.

3. Connection to Place

Canadiana Block will serve as a “connector” and symbolically mirror how Canada's regions come together in Ottawa. It should make the pedestrian experience feel more meaningful, inclusive and engaging.

4. Fostering National Unity

In a country as geographically vast and culturally varied as Canada, showcasing all regions in a centralized space within the Nation's Capital encourages a sense of unity and respect.

5. Celebrating Arts + Culture in the Downtown Corridor

Bringing together and showcasing national artists through a design competition encourages diversity and inclusion, while the installation downtown supports the development of an arts and culture corridor in the city's core.

PROJECT BUDGET

Up to five artists or artist team will be selected from the Expression of Interest to advance their concepts to the design and mock-up stage. The chosen artists or artist teams will each receive \$1,500.00 honorarium for their concept(s).

The total commission budget for this project is \$65,000 in Canadian Dollars (CAD), inclusive of Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), that will be allocated to the final awarded artist or

artist team. This amount must include all costs required to design, provide artist supplies (rollers, brushes, stencils etc.) and installation of the public art. In addition to the allocated budget provided, the City of Ottawa will subsidize costs to the artist or artist team for travel and lodging expenses during the artwork installation.

The artist(s) commission fee will cover all ongoing maintenance costs for the installation term, including artist(s) supplies. Renewal work and/or maintenance to be conducted by the artist(s) or a local team as chosen by the artist(s). Specific maintenance requirements, responsibilities and associated costs will be detailed in the contract or statement of work provided to the selected artist or artist group.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PROCESS

This project will be awarded following a two-stage competitive process as follows:

Stage I: Expression of Interest (Refer to page 7 for EOI breakdown)

Submissions of qualifications from each Artist or Artist team will be evaluated by a Peer Assessment Committee who will shortlist between three to five artists or artist team to move forward to Stage II.

Shortlist selections will be based on the artist's experience and qualifications (resume), previous artwork (digital images) and a one-page (maximum) summary that addresses the key project goals and objectives. No designs are expected with the Stage I submission.

Stage II: Request for Proposals

Shortlisted artists will be awarded an honorarium of \$1,500.00 inclusive of HST for the submission of a project design and a detailed Terms of Reference will be provided for preparing artwork proposals, drawings and budget breakdown for Stage II of the competition.

Each submitted artwork proposal will then undergo a technical review that will provide feedback from the Project Team on the technical and logistical feasibility of the proposed artwork. Once artists incorporate these comments and make edits to their proposals, a final design submission will be circulated to the Peer Assessment Committee.

At a date following, artists will be invited to individually meet and present their proposals virtually with the Peer Assessment Committee and answer questions. The Peer Assessment Committee will review artists comments and select the winning design.

Shortlisted artists will have their final designs presented to the public through an online platform hosted by the City of Ottawa

PROJECT TIMELINE

EOI, Call To Artists Issued	November 4, 2025
Deadline For Submission Of Stage I	December 8, 2025
Notify Phase I Shortlist And Issued With Terms Of Reference	January 12, 2026
Deadline For Stage II Proposals	February 27, 2026
Peer Assessment Committee Review Of Stage II Proposals	March 2026
Notification Of Successful Proposal	April 2026
Contracting Of Final Artist (s)	May 2026
Project Installation Begins	June 1, 2026
Project Completion By	June 15, 2026
Maintenance Minimum Two (2) Year Term	As Required

**Timeline subject to change.*

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Eligible submissions must comply with following:

- o Support material may be written in English or French
- o Written documents must be submitted as a single PDF file
- o Digital images must be in JPG format (maximum of 1,240 pixels)
- o Submission must be received by the deadline of **December 8, 2025** at 12:00pm (noon) EST
- o All submissions are to be sent electronically to City of Ottawa
publicrealm@ottawa.ca
- o Late or incomplete submissions will not be reviewed

The Project Team will send a confirmation email when the application has been received and processed. If you do not receive an email from the Project Team three days after submission, it is the submitter's responsibility to contact us for confirmation at publicrealm@ottawa.ca.

All participants will be notified of the results of the selection process by email.

Complete submissions must include the following three (3) requirements that help showcase and identify your unique portfolio:

1. **Expression of Interest**

Submit a maximum one page written artist statement explaining why you are interested in this opportunity along with identifying how the artist will approach this project based on previous experience and the key project goals.

2. **Resumé and References**

Submit a current CV/Resumé of your art training, public exhibitions and commissions of your artwork and projects and any other experience directly relevant to this opportunity on a maximum of three (3) pages. Include your name, mailing address, telephone number and email address. If you are applying as a team, submit a separate resumé for each team member and clearly identify the lead contact for this project. Please also include three references who are familiar with you and/or your teams work, Provide the name, title, phone number, and email for each reference listed.

3. **Portfolio**

Submit an electronic portfolio of up to three (3) separate projects of previous artwork that represents the artist or artist team undertaken or completed in the past ten (10) years.

Each project should demonstrate experience in related public art projects and is required to include:

- a) **Description** - A maximum one (1) page summary detailing the project title, artist or artist team members, client name, location, detailed budget, duration, fabrication and installation process, project overview, role on team, methodology and any other unique or relevant information.
- b) **Images** – A maximum of two (2) digital images that best represents the project provided with hi-res JPG image files. An image file may include a collage of multiple images of the same project, to show details or alternate views. Each image file is to include a title, date, medium, and dimensions.

PROJECT SUPPLIES

The artist or artist team is responsible for providing their own art supplies for the artwork installation such as brushes/rollers, drawings, images and stencils. The paint itself will be environmentally sensitive paint supplied by the City of Ottawa and is separate from the artist fee. Note that the brand is not yet determined, but submitters should expect to work with a durable paint material such as [StreetBond epoxy](#).

Please note, the artwork installation must remain for a minimum of two (2) years (2026-2027). Seasonal maintenance will be required to be conducted by the artist or a local team as chosen by the artist(s) to match its original installation design and colouring.

The surface area will be prepared for artwork installation in advance by the City of Ottawa.

QUESTIONS?

For any questions about the Expression of Interest, please contact publicrealm@ottawa.ca.

ADDITION INFORMATION

City of Ottawa's Project Team reserves the right to reject any or all submissions, or any part thereof, or to terminate or re-advertise the project. The decision of the Peer Assessment Committee is final.

Copyright and Moral Rights

Copyright, including any and all designs, drawings and final works of art, shall remain the property of the Artist. Moral rights remain with the Artist.

Confidentiality of Information

City of Ottawa's Project Team, the Downtown BIA and Peer Assessment Committee members are required to treat the deliberations of the committee as confidential. Information provided by the applicant may be available to project team members and members of the peer assessment committee. Personal information will only be used for evaluating your submission.

