Integration of Indigenous Art: Call for Proposals

BRIEF:

We are inviting Ontario-based First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists to submit a proposal for a permanent public art mural to be embedded in the University of Guelph’s new 170,000 sq. ft. Guelph Gryphons Athletics Centre. Artists and Artist Teams are asked to propose a work of art that reflects the use of this multi-purpose space while considering territory, wellness, stewardship and engaging viewers of all backgrounds to consider individual involvement in a collective story.

The deadline for proposal submissions is August 31, 2018 with winning design announced on October 1, 2018. Completion of work/installation dates will be decided upon with artist/artist team of winning design - completion between December 2018 and January 2019.

Location: Guelph Gryphons Athletics Centre, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON

Find more information on Gryphon Athletics at: gryphons.ca

SCOPE:

The selected artist/artist team will be responsible for the design and creation of a permanent mural or series of murals¹ that respond(s) to the environment of one or more areas identified within the Guelph Gryphons Athletics Centre to honour and enhance the presence, visibility and history of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and cultures at the University of Guelph. Proposals can be contemporary or historical in nature and must convey the notions of holistic wellness, a place of gathering for all ages, recreation, sport, community and/or shared futures.

Depending on the location chosen within the Guelph Gryphons Athletics Centre, the work may either be a permanent painted mural(s); a smaller-scale artwork of any media to be

¹ Mural, as it relates to this call for proposals, refers to the mounting, pasting and/or painting of a permanent, fixed artwork.
enlarged and printed on vinyl and/or another supportive material and permanently mounted (original artwork to be also housed in Guelph Gryphons Athletics Centre); or a digital drawing or photograph to be printed and mounted in a particular location.

Mandatory requirements for proposal and execution of mural project:

1. The artist/artist team must self-identify as First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit.
2. The artist/artist team must currently reside in Ontario.
3. The artist/artist team must provide all submission materials as outlined below in the ‘Submission’ section by no later than August 31, 2018 by 11:59 pm.
4. The artist must work within the budget and timeline provided by the University of Guelph.

BACKGROUND:

We acknowledge the University of Guelph resides on the ancestral territory of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer our respect to our Indigenous neighbours as we strive to strengthen our relationships with them.

The University of Guelph is determined to create the healthiest campus in Canada, develop the most active community in the country and build a place for health and wellness programs to prosper. As part of this holistic wellness initiative, the Athletics Centre underwent a major renovation project to develop state-of-the-art facilities. Centered around community building, the Guelph Gryphons Athletics Centre has a main entrance with a large information lobby and numerous gathering spaces throughout the building.

The main goal of this project is to make these campus community pursuits visual, through a First Nations, Métis or Inuit Artist’s lens. The University of Guelph intends to embed Indigenous presence throughout the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual spaces of this campus and honour its responsibilities in reconciliation with community.
**BUDGET:**

The budget allotted to this project is $6,000 (inclusive of taxes). The set budget will support artist’s fee(s), materials, fabrication, delivery, contingencies and any or all costs related to the creation and installation of the mural. There are no additional funds available for the mural project, therefore it is absolutely critical that the artist design their work to fit within the parameters of the location/space, guidelines, timelines and budgets of the project at hand. Installation of the artwork will be co-coordinated by the University of Guelph and costs associated with this are to be included in the artist/artist team budget; in-kind support will be discussed further with the winning artist/artist team.

**TIMELINE:**

- Call issued for artists/artist teams: June 25, 2018.
- Optional site visit for artists/artist teams interested in submitting a proposal: By appointment between July 3-20, 2018, exclusive of weekends
- Proposal submissions due: August 31, 2018
- Review and evaluation of submissions: September 2018
- Winning artist/artist team selected and announced: October 1, 2018
- Installation: To be decided upon with winning artist/artist team – Completion expected between December 2018 and January 2019.
- Grand reveal of Installation/Welcoming Ceremony: January 2019

**Note:**

1. During the Design and Preparation for Installation phase, there will be a minimum of two check-ins required with the artist and a University of Guelph representative (TBD). These check-ins will ensure that the work is on track to align with the artist’s original proposal, and to be completed on time.

2. Regular access to the location of interest will be provided based on the project proposal and materials used.

3. It is the responsibility of the artist to coordinate all aspects of design, fabrication, delivery and instructions for installation. The University of Guelph will co-coordinate the installation.
**SUBMISSION:**

Artists are required to submit the following six parts:

1. Artist statement - outlining interest in project, showing relevant experience, ability, and general artistic approach (500 words maximum, PDF format)
2. CV (3 pages maximum, PDF format)
3. Previous work/Images - Image files should be labelled with *LastName_ImageNumber* (separate jpegs or PDF document accepted, up to 10 images maximum)
4. Image List – List should include image number, title, medium, year of completion, budget (if applicable) and short description (PDF format)
5. Written proposal including location of interest and any maintenance that may be required for the work longer term (1,000 words maximum, PDF format)
6. Visual description of the proposal (maximum 4 pages/images)
7. Budget breakdown, inclusive of artist fee
8. Contact information for Artist/Artist Team Members

Submissions must be sent to: Cara Wehkamp at cwehkamp@uoguelph.ca
Subject line should read: **UG-AC Mural Proposal**

**Late or incomplete submissions will not be reviewed.**

Upon being selected as the successful artist/artist team, signed Confirmation of Commitment will be required.

**Note:**

1. All material will be viewed on a computer monitor and shall be formatted to suit. (Materials will not be printed.)
2. Submissions are due by August 31, 2018.

**MURAL LOCATIONS & LIMITATIONS:**

Front Entrance (Left Wall): 7’ 4” (h) x 54’ 3” (w)
Front Entrance (Right Wall): 8’ 2” (h) x 14’ (w)
Larry LP Pearson Lobby: 10’ (h) x 10’ (w)
Equipment Rentals: 12’ 7” (h) x 31’ 2” (w)
Hallway: 9’ (h) x 121’ (w)
Hallway Support Beams: 12.25” (outside w), 10.5” (inside w), 5.5” (inside sides) x 10.5’ (h)

**SELECTION CRITERIA:**
The jury composed of students and staff will use several criteria as the basis for deciding on the selected artist/artist team:

- Qualifications, related experience and artistic merit of the artist/artist team
- Strength, originality, power of the artwork’s message/concept
- Sensitivity and integration of site

**CONTACT:**

During the submission process, all questions, concerns and comments from artists shall be directed to Cara Wehkamp at cwehkamp@uoguelph.ca or (519) 824-4120 ext. 58687.