

**Call for Artists – Youth Engagement Pilot Project  
Artist Information Package  
October 2024**

**Project Intent**

The City of Lethbridge Public Art Program is inviting artists to participate in a Youth Engagement Pilot Project. The selected submission will receive a commission to coordinate a youth-led project to paint a pedestrian underpass located in west Lethbridge near the communities of Heritage Heights and Willow Park.

Public engagement is a participatory process that heightens a sense of shared responsibility and community. In context with public art processes, it harnesses the will of the people and utilizes the public as an important asset during the development and execution of a project.

**Background**

The pedestrian underpass that has been identified for the pilot project is located on the westside of Lethbridge, near multiple schools and playgrounds. Because of the nature of the underpass, it is a site of frequent graffiti interventions and consideration for graffiti mitigation in the design (i.e. minimal negative space) is important. The pedestrian underpass is activated by walking and biking commuters throughout the year and connects the communities of Heritage Heights and Willow Park to four local elementary and junior high schools (Father Lord Van Tighem, St. Frances, Mike Mountain Horse, and St. Patrick's Fine Arts).

Father Lord Van Tighem School (FLVT) has agreed to be a participant in this initiative and will assist in securing parental consent for underage participants and serve as a possible location for the engagement initiatives which will inform the design.

**Site and Safety Considerations**

Due to the nature of working with a vulnerable population, several safety steps will be taken. The selected artist will be required to provide a Hazard Assessment compliant with Part 2 of the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code as well as an emergency response plan compliant with Part 7. The City has resources available to assist with this process and the Health and Safety department will review and approve of the plan prior to sharing the documents with guardians and caregivers for informed consent. Additionally, the successful applicant will be required to submit a criminal record check and vulnerable sector check. These will need to be provided prior to any engagement work beginning with school attendees.

The pedestrian underpass itself is 87' long and approximately 9' high; given the space restrictions, the height can be lowered. The tunnel has several internal lights. On both sides of the underpass are two large, scalene triangles which are part of the project. See image below.



### **Project Timeline and Engagement Framework**

Because of the nature of this project a minimum of four site visits is recommended, one for each stage outlined below. The windows outlined below for each stage of the project are not negotiable and should be taken into consideration when applying.

#### Stage 1: Engagement to inform Design

- January-February 2025.
- During this phase, the selected artist will fulfill a full school engagement session at FLVT, which will produce visual and thematic information to be used throughout the remainder of the stages.
- Engagement should be a two-way process, where both artist(s) and school community are in dialogue around potential outcomes of the mural.

#### Stage 2: Design Development and Presentation

- February-Early April 2025.
- Artist/artist team will take the information provided by the FLVT engagement session(s) and create a proposed mural. Following completion of the proposal, the artist/artist team will meet with the school community to unveil the design.

#### Stage 3: Student Artist Recruitment and Onboarding

- April-May 2025.
- Establish and execute process to recruit older students in the school to help install the mural.

#### Stage 4: Installation of Mural

- June 2025.
- Mural must be completed by end of school year June 30, 2025.

### **Eligibility**

This competition is open to artists experienced in mural painting. Artists should have experience working with groups and/or have previous community engagement experience.

## **Budget**

The total budget for the Youth Engagement Pilot Project is \$60,000 + GST.

This fee will be inclusive of all project costs including not limited to:

- Artist Fees.
- General Administrative Expenses.
- All Materials.
- Shipping, delivery, and installation costs including any required equipment rentals, labour, site management and required permits.
- Any travel and accommodation expenses, including site visits and installation.
- Expenses associated with student engagement at both design and execution stages.
- Insurance, including general commercial liability insurance of not less than \$2,000,000 from commencement of the Artist's services until written acceptance by the City of the artwork (as required.)
- Preparation of a hazard assessment report and emergency response plan for installation.
- Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check fees for newly acquired checks. Previously obtained records can be used, provided they remain valid during the entirety of the project.
- WCB coverage or proof of exemption will be required.
- Contingency fee.

Newly published guidelines from CARFAC recommend an artist fee of 25% for public art projects in this budget range. The City of Lethbridge Public Art Program recommends a maximum contingency fee of 10% for all artist-managed projects.

## **Selection Criteria**

- Strength of application and engagement approach (40%)
- Prior engagement experience working with youth (30%)
- Quality of work, as demonstrated in the documentation of previous work (20%)
- Completeness of application (10%)

## **Evaluation Process**

Interested artists are asked to submit a complete Proposal Package including:

- Up-to-date CV.
- An Expression of Interest (EOI) letter that outlines your interest in the project. The EOI should include a high-level written description of your approach to this project, including how you intend to engage with younger students in conceiving of the design components and middle school students in the execution of the painting.
- Annotated budget.
- Up to 10 high-resolution images of relevant work with a supporting image list, including: date, medium, dimensions, and a brief description of each work. Images should be combined into a PDF with image list.
- All materials must be submitted as one PDF file.

The Project Selection Committee, using the indicated selection criteria, will select an artist from the pool of applications.

**Project Timeline**

Proposal advertising: October 28, 2024

Submission deadline: December 6, 2024 at 4:30pm

Commission Awarded and Announced: January 2025

Engagement sessions: Winter 2025

Installation to commence: Spring 2025

Deadline for completion of project: June 30, 2025

**How to Apply**

Complete packages are to be submitted electronically to [publicart@lethbridge.ca](mailto:publicart@lethbridge.ca) with the subject line, "Public Art – Youth Engagement Pilot Project" by 4:30pm local time on December 6, 2024. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered. Artists requiring further information are asked to forward inquiries to [publicart@lethbridge.ca](mailto:publicart@lethbridge.ca).