

Glenbow

**Public Art Competition: Theatre Curtain Textile**

## **Request for Qualification (RFQ)**

In 2020, Glenbow announced it would renovate its 50-year-old building to provide a vibrant, thriving, arts and cultural resource in downtown Calgary.

Before closing for renovations in 2021, Glenbow welcomed approximately 150,000 visitors each year. When the museum reopens in 2026 at the JR Shaw Centre for Arts & Culture, annual attendance is expected to more than double. Thanks to a transformational donation of \$25 million from the Shaw Family Foundation, the JR Shaw Free Admission Endowment will make Glenbow the first major museum in Canada to offer free general admission for everyone, forever. An additional \$10 million from the Shaw Family Foundation is creating the JR Shaw Institute for Art in Canada. In honour of this \$35 million donation, Glenbow's building is being renamed the JR Shaw Centre for Arts & Culture.

Glenbow is transforming the museum's original Brutalist architecture into a modern, welcoming space, enhancing both physical and experiential aspects of the museum. Glenbow's new 312,000-square-foot home at the JR Shaw Centre for Arts & Culture opens all eight floors to visitors and includes exhibition, programming, and event spaces, as well as a gift shop, theatre, and restaurant. A new distinct feature will be the 13,000-square foot rooftop terrace with an all-season pavilion designed by the internationally renowned artist Maya Lin, incorporating a skylight and oculus to filter natural light into the lower floors of the museum.

The museum's programming is being reimagined to prioritize enhanced engagement with the museum's collections, expanding access to those collections through exhibitions and programs that offer enriching art, culture, and history experiences. Glenbow will celebrate diverse voices and support local, regional, national, and international artists and stories, striving to create a space where all visitors will feel welcome, engaged, and a sense of belonging.

As part of Glenbow's commitment to fostering diverse and unique art experiences, the museum is seeking an artist or artist's team to create a theater curtain installation. The public art design will beautify, enliven, and activate the north side of the new theatre, enhancing the theatre space where visitors can enjoy live art, performances, and talks. Glenbow encourages all locally and nationally qualified artists and artists' teams to apply. This is an unencumbered call open to Canadian artists. The successful artist or artists' team will work with Glenbow, the design firm DIALOG, and the construction team EllisDon.

**Budget: \$150,000**

**Closing date for the RFQ: November 26, 2024, 5:00 p.m. MT**

### **Theatre Curtain Site Specifics**

The commission is for a three-part textile work that will function as a retractile light blocking set of curtains for the main floor theatre. The artwork will be visible from both the theatre's interior and outside from the street along 9 Avenue SE. This is a high visibility area that will offer theatre patrons opportunities to appreciate the artwork whether the curtains are opened or closed.

**Budget: \$150,000**

**Closing date for the RFQ: November 26, 2024; 5:00 p.m. MT**

### **Required Submission Materials**

A statement about your interest in public art and how it should engage or respond to its environment and the viewer.

- Annotated image list – twelve (12) images with: date, title, media, and dimensions of past and current work. If the image reflects a public work, include the location of the project and the commissioning agency. Multimedia items (video and/or sound clips) that describe your work may be included as part of the annotated image list but not exclusively so. Links to web-based portfolios are encouraged.
- A selected biography (CV) including current contact information.
- If working as part of a team, a brief resume of each team member and a description of past experiences working together.
- Two (2) or three (3) reviews or news articles about past projects (optional).
- Two (2) professional letters of reference.

### **Selection Criteria**

- Creativity.
- Originality expressed in past work.
- Demonstrated strong understanding of scale.
- Practical understanding of public art and the ability to see the project to completion.
- Proven track record in public art, museum, and gallery work.
- National and international profile through reviews of exhibitions, online texts, and other peer assessments.
- Interested in addressing the challenges of the site, the building, and a willingness to work with Glenbow and the design and build team DIALOG and EllisDon.
- Ability to produce a high-quality work within the project budget.
- Professionalism.

**Closing Date for the RFQ: November 26, 2024: 5:00 p.m. MT**

## Selection Process

A selection committee will evaluate each response and prepare a long list for consideration by a jury. The adjudication and selection of the potential candidates for the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage will be formalized through a professional recommendation authored by the selection committee and Art to Public. Candidates will be notified if they are to move to the RFP process. Those moving to the finalists' process will receive an honorarium of \$6,000 for the development of and support of the final design concept. All applicants will be notified regardless.

## Schedule (subject to change)

- Deadline for the RFQ: November 26, 2024
- RFQ evaluation: Week of December 2, 2024
- Adjudication long list of candidates: Week of January 13, 2025
- Notification of potential candidates: Week of February 10, 2025
- RFP request sent to candidates: March 3, 2025
- Deadline for RFP: April 28, 2025
- Adjudication of RFP: Week of May 12 – 23, 2025
- Finalist selected: May 26, 2025

## Additional information

- All submissions will be treated as confidential between Glenbow, Art to Public, and each respondent. Glenbow and Art to Public will not disclose their contents to other participants or to the public.
- Participation in the RFQ or RFP process does not imply a contract with Glenbow.
- Glenbow reserves the right to withdraw the RFQ, initiate an alternative selection process, or re-issue the RFQ at any time.
- Glenbow and Art to Public has no responsibility for cost incurred by artists or artists' teams for responses to this RFQ.
- All submissions become the property of Glenbow.

## Format and Address

- All documents in your submission must be PDF only and contained in a folder titled with the name of the artist or artists' team.
- You may include up to twelve (12) annotated images with corresponding information in the PDF.
- Documents may contain support material i.e. links to videos and websites.
- Please keep the file submission to a maximum of 50 MB.
- One submission per artist or artists' team only: multiple submissions will not be considered.

Glenbow Public Art - Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

C/O Art to Public at: [info@arttopublic.net](mailto:info@arttopublic.net)

**Link to Art to Public website to upload submissions: [Art to Public](#)**

## **Deadline**

Proposals will be accepted until **November 26, 2024; 5:00 p.m. MT**. Responses that do not fully meet the criteria above will not be considered at the sole discretion of Glenbow. It is the respondent's responsibility to request clarification of any item that is unclear or uncertain within the context of the RFQ package by contacting:

Art to Public at: [info@arttopublic.net](mailto:info@arttopublic.net)  
+ 403-244-2066; ext. 4

## **About Glenbow**

Glenbow is an independent, non-profit art museum in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The museum was founded in 1966 by Eric L. Harvie, who donated his immense collections to the people of Alberta with a vision to provide access to art and history that shaped the province, Canada, and societies around the world. In 1976, Glenbow opened its current building in the heart of downtown Calgary on Stephen Avenue, a historical main street and pedestrian thoroughfare. The original building was designed in the Brutalist aesthetic by A. Dale & Associates.

Glenbow's diverse and expansive collections set it apart from other museums and public art galleries in Canada. There are more than 250,000 works of art and historical belongings in the museum's collections, including the largest public art collection in Western Canada with over 33,000 historical and contemporary works of art, and a history collection that captures the settler and immigrant experience in the West. The collection also includes extensive collections of Indigenous cultures, as well as collections of cultural belongings from Africa, Asia, and South America.

For almost 60 years, Glenbow has been a significant part of the arts and culture fabric of Calgary, Alberta, and Western Canada, committed to expanding accessibility and impact in the community through its collections, exhibitions, and programming. Since the museum's establishment, Glenbow has welcomed over 8 million visitors.

To date, the *Glenbow Reimagined* capital campaign has raised \$172 million of its \$205 million goal, including capital commitments from the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, and The City of Calgary, as well as generous support from the community.

Glenbow is committed to fostering diverse and unique art experiences for the public. Through these commissions Glenbow will support artists living in Treaty 7, across Canada, and around the world in creating artworks that welcome and inspire visitors.

## **The Construction and Design Team**

### **Architect: DIALOG**

**DIALOG** is an international firm and as such has undertaken projects with client groups large and small over the history of its practice. It is an integrated firm with architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical team members, who collaborate among studios in San Francisco, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Toronto.

DIALOG places great importance on working closely with its clients. It has been fortunate to contribute critical design thought to understanding the cultural, social and economic shifts, and the challenges they present for their clients. From a fully revitalized Glenbow in downtown Calgary to the creation of a creative arts hub for National accessArts Centre, to the complete reimagining of the MacKimmie Library into high-performance learning spaces at the University of Calgary.

Key cultural projects include:

- Glenbow
- National accessArts Centre
- Southern Alberta Art Gallery
- MacKimmie Complex for the University of Calgary
- Vivo for Healthier Generations
- Calgary Central Library
- Royal Alberta Museum
- Telus Spark Science Centre
- Decidedly Jazz Danceworks Centre
- Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre
- Francis Winspear Centre for Music
- Shadbolt Centre for the Arts

### **Construction: EllisDon**

**EllisDon** is an employee-owned construction services company with over 5,000 salaried and hourly employees across 15 national and international offices. Growing beyond its modest origins in London, Ontario, where the company was founded in 1951, it now completes over \$5 billion worth of construction volume annually across a wide spectrum of projects and locations. EllisDon has become a leader in every sector and nearly every facet of the construction industry and is now the second largest construction company in Canada by revenue.

The company motto is “*We build on relationships*” – it is how they approach every project. EllisDon prides itself on building and maintaining relationships with clients, stakeholders, and the communities it builds in – relationships that promote trust, collaborative decision making, and problem-solving. EllisDon is determined to lead the coming disruption in the construction sector, having recently created pioneering initiatives in energy management, smart buildings software, and data analytics.

The corporate culture and approach to business reflects the company’s core values and principles: freedom, trust, complete openness, mutual accountability, entrepreneurial enthusiasm, integrity, and mutual respect. Applying these values allows EllisDon to work collaboratively, openly, and transparently with its clients and project teams toward the common goal of creating a one-of-a-kind project.

Key cultural projects include:

- Glenbow
- Arts Commons Transformation
- Vivo for Healthier Generations

- Historic City Hall Restoration
- Platform Calgary (9 Avenue Parkade and Innovation Centre)
- Calgary Stampede SAM Centre

### **Public Art Consultant: Art to Public**

**Art to Public** is an art consultancy located in Calgary, Alberta that specializes in providing comprehensive services in public art. Art to Public manages public art projects and commissions for a diverse group of clients ranging from municipalities, government agencies, corporations and private collectors. Art to Public has successfully realized art projects ranging from intimate private commissions to large-scale multi-million-dollar projects.

Noted for its extensive network of artists working in all media, Art to Public takes a careful hands-on approach to project management ensuring the best possible outcomes for its clients and the artists involved in each project. Art to Public helps guide its clients through the initial processes of conceptualization to the final installation of the work on site.

Key projects include:

- BMO Centre expansion commission, *Spirit of Water* by Gerry Judah
- The District for Spear Street Capital, by Fluke
- Oxford Properties commissions, *thing's end (Eau Claire – red and yellow)* by James Carl
- Calgary Central Library commissions, *Trio* and *Fish* by Christian Moeller
- East Village commission, *Promenade* by Julian Opie