

Glenbow

Public Art Competition: Vinyl Appliqué Mural for Main Entrance – Treaty 7

Request for Qualification (RFQ)

Oki, Aba Washde, Dānast'ādā, Taanishii

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, programing, 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 Indigenous artist or artists' team to create a vinyl appliqué mural for the primary entrance to the museum on Stephen Avenue. The appliqué vinyl mural commission will serve as a striking welcome for visitors, grounding Glenbow in its location within Treaty 7 territory. This artwork honours the original storytellers of these lands and will not only enrich the museum's visual landscape but also invite guests to engage with the profound stories and traditions that have shaped the region.

The entryway mural will be installed for approximately two years, after which Glenbow will issue another open call for another work to take its place.

Glenbow encourages all qualified Indigenous artists and artists' teams 18 years of age and older with traditional ties to Treaty 7 to apply. Participating Nations include: the Blackfoot Confederacy, consisting of the Siksika, Piikani, Kainai, and Amskapi Piikani First Nations, Tsuut'ina First Nation,

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and the Stoney Nakoda First Nations including the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Good Stoney First Nations. This call is also open to Métis artists with traditional ties to Treaty 7 territory. Respondents to this call will be asked to include information regarding your familial and personal ties to Treaty 7 in your biography.

The successful artist or artists' team will work with Glenbow's Executive Advisor, Indigenous Relations, the Glenbow museum team, and the design firm DIALOG.

Vinyl Appliqué Mural Site Specifics

The vinyl appliqué will be located inside the JR Shaw Centre for Arts & Culture's main entrance on Stephen Avenue. The artwork will greet visitors as they arrive, welcoming them to Glenbow. The chosen artwork for this space will form an important part of the museum's identity. The mural will be highly visible, giving many guests the opportunity to appreciate the artwork.

Budget: \$45,000

Closing date for the RFQ: December 3, 2024; 5:00 p.m. MT

Information Session: November 6, 2024; 5:00 p.m. MT via ZOOM

A recording of this session will be available at glenbow.org on November 7, 2024.

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. 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.
- Respecting oral traditions and traditional storytelling, the above may be provided in an oral and/or video format. The oral and/or video submission must also be included with the above information.

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, and 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.

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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 \$2,500 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: December 3, 2024
- RFQ evaluation: Week of December 9, 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: Week of 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 costs 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 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 submission.
- Submissions 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

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

Deadline

Proposals will be accepted until **December 3, 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

+ 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 & 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
- Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre
- 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
- 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, *things end (Eau Claire – red and yellow)* by James Carl.
- Calgary Central Library Commission, *Trio* and *Fish* by Christian Moeller.
- East Village Commission, *Promenade*, by Julian Opie.