

# REQUEST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION: Indoor Public Art MNP Community & Sport Centre, Calgary

Call to Artists for Indoor Public Art

Public Art Budget: \$405,000 CAD (exclusive of all applicable taxes)

Submission Deadline: October 24, 2025 at 4:00 PM (MDT)

Online Information Session via Microsoft Teams: September 22, 2025 at 11:30 AM (MDT) [Join the meeting now](#)



Architectural Rendering of South Entrance, GEC Architecture

Moh’kinstsis / Calgary is located where the Bow and Elbow Rivers meet. We acknowledge that our community is located on the ancestral and traditional territories of the Blackfoot confederacy, made up of the Siksika, Piikani, Amskaapiikani and Kainai First Nations; the Îethka Nakoda Wîcastabi First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations; and the Tsuut’ina First Nation.

The City of Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Métis Nation Battle River Territory (Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6).



## INTRODUCTION

### MNP Community & Sport Centre in Calgary

The Lindsay Park Sports Society (LPSS), overseeing the MNP Community & Sport Centre in Calgary, Alberta, invites professional local, national, and international artists or artist-led teams with public art experience to apply for Stage 1 of this two-stage public art competition as part of the Leisure Expansion Aquatics Project (LEAP).

MNP Community & Sport Centre is a world-class sport and fitness facility that inspires individuals and teams to achieve their goals and dreams through innovation, expertise and passion. Established in 1983 following the Western Canada Summer Games, LPSS was formed with a commitment to enhance the overall well-being of Calgarians through training, competition and play. The Society's mission is to be passionate about sport, people and community. This project furthers its dual mandate:

- To provide training and competition facilities and services for the development of Calgary's high-performance athletes in their respective dry land and aquatic sports.
- To provide facilities, programs and services for the wellness and recreational sporting needs of the citizens of Calgary.

As an important part of the Leisure Expansion Aquatics Project at MNP Community & Sport Centre, the public art will:

- Demonstrate excellence in contemporary art
- Contribute to the identity of the project, facility, and place
- Offer welcoming and memorable experiences for visitors to MNP Community & Sport Centre

The public art budget is \$405,000 CAD (exclusive of all applicable taxes). This budget includes all costs directly associated with the creation of all artworks at all sites: fees for design, fabrication, installation, professional services including engineering as required, insurance, travel, and all other incidental expenses.

MNP Community & Sport Centre invites interested artists to submit their qualifications electronically (see Submission Requirements). Indigenous, Métis, Inuit, and urban Indigenous artists with connections to the Treaty 7 region are encouraged to apply. Where applicable, preference will be given to Canadian applicants. Please do not submit concept proposals at this time. Shortlisted artists will be contacted and invited to submit a concept proposal and proceed to Stage 2 of the selection process.

More information about public art at MNP LEAP can be found at <https://mnpcentre.com/unveiling-of-our-expansion-project/>.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### MNP Community & Sport Centre in Calgary

Anticipated to open to the public early in 2027, the Leisure Expansion Aquatics Project (LEAP) at MNP Community & Sport Centre will provide enhanced specialized leisure aquatic amenities to the greater downtown area of the City of Calgary. Located adjacent to Lindsay Park and cradled by the Elbow River just southwest of the city's downtown core, the MNP Community & Sport Centre serves the diverse and fast-growing neighbourhoods of Erlton, the Lindsay Park Community Association, Cliff Bungalow, Mission, Rideau Roxboro, Lower Mount Royal, Inglewood, Ramsay, Dover, Downtown East Village, and the Beltline, among others.

Centred in Erlton, one of Calgary's oldest communities, the location is rich in history. The Elbow River and the land at its banks on which Dr. Neville Lindsay settled in 1901, has been a place traversed by the Indigenous peoples of the Blackfoot Confederacy and the Métis for thousands of years. The Lindsay Estate became the Canadian National Railway Yards in 1911, and the freight trains came and went from here for over 60 years. Other early settler landmarks nearby are MacLeod Trail, St Mary's Cathedral, the Calgary Stampede grounds, and the Reader Rock Gardens, adjacent to Union Cemetery. Post World War Two this area was swallowed up by the rapidly growing city of Calgary and it is now in another state of transformation.

LEAP is one of several recent major infrastructure projects in this part of Calgary that will enhance leisure and recreation services and contribute to Calgary's cosmopolitan lifestyle. Tailored to the needs of the community, the design builds onto existing amenities to extend the Lindsay Park Sports Society (LPSS) dual mandate to provide training and competition facilities for the development of high-performance athletes, as well as to provide facilities, programs, and services for the wellness and recreation needs of Calgarians.



Architectural Renderings of South Addition, GEC Architecture





Architectural Renderings of West Addition, GEC Architecture



## PUBLIC ART at MNP Community & Sport Centre in Calgary

Public art will play an important part in defining the new identity of the MNP Community & Sport Centre.

Adjacent to Lindsay Park and the Elbow River, the location of MNP Community & Sport Centre provides a unique opportunity for artists to consider the role of the pool and the park in the social life of cities as well as how the leisure and recreational activities at the Centre connect to this place known as Moh'kinstsis / Calgary. The pool, and by extension the aquatic and sport centre, is a site for both communal and competitive activities. It is a complex social space where the private and public, the individual and the collective coexist.

This public art call invites artists to explore the redeveloped MNP Community & Sport Centre in Calgary to creatively engage with ideas specific to the place and space, including how the public art:

- Connects to the project and the histories and stories of Lindsay Park and the surrounding area
- Plays on the sport and recreation activities that occur in the building everyday
- Considers the importance of water to the project and its location on the Elbow River
- Understands Indigenous connections to the land and the river
- Is welcoming and fosters community interest and connectivity with neighbouring communities
- Contributes to the creation of memorable and inclusive spaces
- Considers the relationship between the interior life of the building and its connection to Lindsay Park and the pathways
- Integrates with the facility and contributes to a quality experience for people who use the performance sport and public recreation facilities



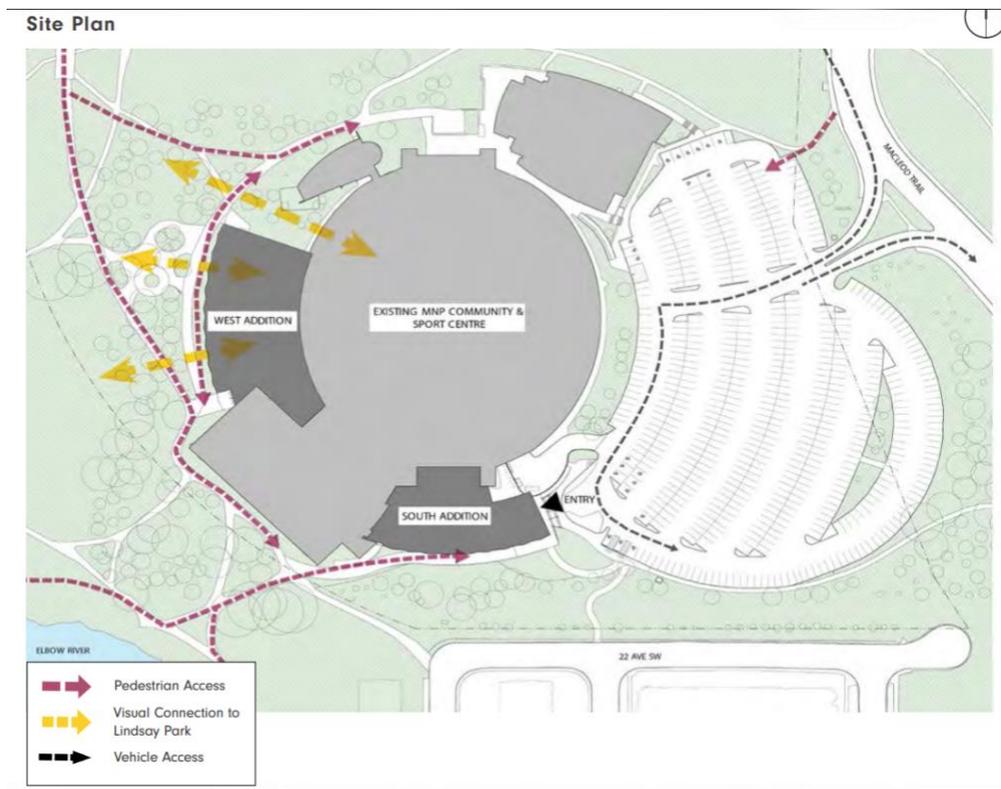
Architectural Rendering, Natatorium Tent Refresh, GEC Architecture

Two potential sites for public art have been identified:

1. South Entrance Lobby
2. Northwest End Wall of the Natatorium

Shortlisted artists may consider developing concept and design proposals for either or both sites. Alternate sites may also be considered if artists identify other key opportunities. An artist may also develop a single concept that connects the two sites with distinct interventions at each site. One artist will be commissioned and work within the total public art project budget of \$405,000 CAD (exclusive of all applicable taxes). This budget includes all costs directly associated with the creation of the artwork at all sites: fees for design, fabrication, installation, professional services including engineering as required, insurance, travel, and all other incidental expenses.

Shortlisted artists will receive full architectural and technical specifications for each site at Stage 2 Request for Proposals of the artist selection process.



Site Plan with South and West Addition, GEC Architecture

Public art for the **South Entrance Lobby** will be a memorable aesthetic gesture that complements the extension’s minimalist modern design. The site is well-suited to a three-dimensional artwork that is suspended from the ceiling, however alternative approaches to public art that meet the structural constraints of the new building will also be considered. The artwork will be visible from the exterior of the building as one enters from the east plaza. Patrons will be able to see and experience the work as they enter the building and traverse the entrance lobby. The work will also be experienced by viewers who are looking at it from the concourse level walkway. The below images of the South Lobby include a placeholder indicating how the art might be integrated into the space, but this is only an example and does not preclude other art installations that may activate the space.



Architectural Rendering, South Lobby, GEC Architecture



Architectural Rendering, South Lobby, GEC Architecture

An artwork will be commissioned for the **Northwest End Wall of the Natatorium** in the west addition. The site is well suited for an integrated tile mural or mosaic, possibly including low relief or sculptural elements. Other materials and mediums will be considered if they are compatible with the architectural and environmental conditions of this unique space. The artwork will add colour and dynamic visual interest to the space. Given the proximity of the wall to the floor-to-ceiling windows that run perpendicular to it, it may be possible to draw connections between the interior life of the building and Lindsay Park. This wall is also viewable from the on-deck spectator viewing space. Bands of coloured tiles seen in the below images of the natatorium show a possible site for public art in this location. This area may be used in whole or in part by the artist depending on budget constraints.



Architectural Renderings, Natatorium, West Addition, GEC Architecture



## BACKGROUND

### MNP Community & Sport Centre in Calgary

LPSS was formed in 1983 to manage and operate a facility, then called the Lindsay Park Sports Centre, that was built to accommodate athletes participating in the Western Canada Summer Games and to provide a sports centre legacy for Calgarians into the future. MNP Community & Sport Centre, as it is now known and operating as, and the surrounding land, are owned by The City of Calgary (“The City”) and managed by the Society on behalf of Calgarians pursuant to a Management and Operating Agreement between The City and the Society.

In 2004, the Centre completed an expansion that saw its space nearly double in size. The Centre now has two Olympic pools, one dive tank, one teach pool, five gymnasiums, two tracks, meeting rooms, a childcare centre, a 25,000 square foot fitness centre for cardio and weight training, a kickboxing studio, spin studio, yoga studio, personal training studio and a sport performance training studio. In addition, the Centre has tenants that provide physiotherapy, sports medicine, and food services. The facility can now accommodate upwards of one and a half million visitors annually. It is not uncommon to see Olympic and Paralympic athletes training alongside regular citizens at the Centre, as more than 200 of Canada’s Olympic, Paralympic and World medalists have trained there.

An analysis conducted in 2021 as part of a city-wide pool study and a needs assessment for aquatic amenities in the Greater Downtown Area identified a lack of aquatic facilities with specialized leisure aquatic amenities available in the city centre. After evaluating a variety of options, the MNP Community & Sport Centre (MNPCSC) was identified as the preferred location to provide these amenities due to its key location, existing amenities, accessibility, and dual mandate to provide training and competition facilities for the development of high-performance athletes and to provide facilities, programs and services for the wellness and recreation needs of Calgarians. The project is funded by contributions from the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta, the LPSS, individual donors and corporate sponsors.

After almost 10 years of planning, the Leisure Expansion Aquatic Project (LEAP) features a newly added west expansion housing leisure water amenities, a south community hub expansion supporting additional change rooms and supportive infrastructure, and interior tent renovations to the existing facility. GEC Architecture’s plan improves connections with Lindsay Park, the Elbow River, and the pathways. The original building is a Calgary landmark recognized by its distinctive white fabric roof, a sculptural tent-like design that encloses the aquatics facilities. The tent renovation refreshes the competition pools and support spaces. It also unifies the existing tent structure with the south and west additions. The south addition has a bold new main entry and lobby that welcomes people to gather and socialize while accessing the reception, and stairs to the lower-level universal change rooms and administration spaces. The new entrance faces a plaza and drop-off areas by the parking lot off MacLeod Trail.

The west expansion includes fully accessible leisure aquatic facilities for all ages including water slides, an accessible lazy river, a teach pool, a wading pool, multi-functional spaces and a spa. Stunning views to Lindsay

Park will be made through new windows in the exterior wall of the tent natatorium. An enhanced pedestrian connection to the facility from the park will be accomplished through the landscaping, pathways, and south and west entrances. Pedestrians will be brought up to and alongside the building through the pathways and glazing, allowing those visiting the park to engage with the building without going inside. The park has an abundance of mature trees and pathways that run along the Elbow River. New landscaping at the site will include grass, trees and shrubs and ornamental grasses selected from Chinook-hardy adaptive and native species.

The public concourse level includes administrative spaces, guest services, and spectator viewing and gathering areas to support facility activities. Functional interior finishes provide continuity between the existing and new additions while brightening and refreshing the space with warm wood tones and areas of subdued contrasting colour. The new building exteriors complement the existing tent form. Swooping and curved roofs personify the main arch, and the architectural wall surface mimics the tent's catenary rib structure. The exterior material palette is minimal and bright, made primarily of glazing, white metal cladding, and concrete panels. The overall design provides a cohesive clean, modern aesthetic, and a bold entrance with clear wayfinding leading to the aquatic facilities and social spaces.

## ARTIST ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Lindsay Park Sports Society and CMCK Public Art invite local, national, and international professional artists<sup>1</sup> and artist-led teams with public art experience to apply. Indigenous, Métis, Inuit, and urban Indigenous artists with connections to the Treaty 7 region are encouraged to apply. Selection process stages include:

**Stage 1** is an open Call to Artists (Request for Pre-Qualification RFPQ). Artists' submissions will be reviewed by a five-person Public Art Selection Panel.

Evaluation criteria include:

- **Artistic Merit and Past Work (40%)**—Artist's practice demonstrates excellence in contemporary art and is recognized as making significant contributions to their field by their peers. Past work demonstrates the artist's interest and ability in creating artwork specific to the opportunity and context.
- **Project Understanding (30%)**—Artist demonstrates a thorough understanding of the project goals and geographical context for which the public art is being commissioned.
- **Public Art Experience (30%)**—Artist's public art approach is context responsive, flexible, and adaptable to the site. Artist has experience working with teams and/or in a collaborative way. Artist has completed public art projects of a similar scale on time and within budget.

**Stage 2** A Request for Proposals (RFP) will invite three shortlisted artists to prepare a detailed concept proposal for the site. Shortlisted artists will be expected to attend a public art information session and land tour with Indigenous collaborators as part of the RFP process. A CARFAC<sup>2</sup> honorarium will be paid to each of the invited artists upon submission of their concept proposal and an invoice.

Shortlisted artists will be required to participate in an in-person interview at the MNP Community & Sport Centre in Calgary. All travel costs and expenses associated with the presentation will be included within the artist's honorarium.

**Artist Selection** is not considered final until an agreement between the artist and the Lindsay Park Sport Society has been executed.

### Project Schedule (Projected)

- Issue Call for Artists (Stage 1 Pre-Qualification) \_\_\_\_\_ September 16, 2025
- Artist Information Session (Microsoft Teams) September 22, 2025 at 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM (MDT)
- **Deadline for Stage 1 Call for Artists \_\_\_\_\_ October 24, 2025 at 4:00 PM (MDT)**
- Shortlisted Selection and Artist Notification \_\_\_\_\_ November/December 2025
- Shortlisted Artist Site Visits and Information Session \_\_\_\_\_ November/December 2025
- Stage 2 Concept Proposals Due \_\_\_\_\_ January 30, 2026

<sup>1</sup> <https://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/professional-artist>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.carfac.ca/2-public-art-proposal-fees/>

- Shortlisted Artist Presentations \_\_\_\_\_ February 12, 2026
- Final Artist Selection and Notification \_\_\_\_\_ February 2026
- Design, Fabrication, Site Planning \_\_\_\_\_ Spring 2026 – Fall 2026
- Installation, Completion \_\_\_\_\_ Early 2027

The final project schedule will be confirmed in the agreement with the Lindsay Park Sports Society.

## Stage 1 Submission Requirements

Artists must include the following information:

1. Written statement—2 pages max.—addressing
  - Why they are interested in the opportunity
  - Why their artistic practice is suited to this project/context
  - What their experience in public art brings to the project
  
2. Artist Resume (4 pages max.)
  - Artist’s name and contact information
  - Public art and exhibition history, education, relevant work experience
  - List three (3) references including name and contact information, title/organizational affiliation and relationship to the artist. Reference letters are not required.
  
3. Examples of Past Work
  - Up to 8 completed artworks relevant to this opportunity, including date of completion, budget, materials, description of concept and commissioning process.
  - No more than 8 PDF pages of images. Any video and audio files must be Window and Mac compatible (MP3 and MP4 files are preferred), and accessible via a secure link in the PDF application.

This Call to Artists (Request for Pre-Qualification RFPQ) is for Stage 1 of a two-stage artist selection process and does not require the preparation of a concept proposal.

**Submission Deadline is 4:00 PM (MDT) October 24, 2025.**

**Submit applications to CMCK Public Art @ [cmckpublicart@gmail.com](mailto:cmckpublicart@gmail.com).**

Submissions by other methods may not be accepted. Submissions must be saved in PDF format as a single consolidated document of maximum size 6 MB. Each page of the submission should include page numbers and the artist’s name.

Artists will receive an email confirmation once their submission is received.

All information provided will be used solely for the purpose of evaluation. Thank you for your interest in this call.

## Questions

For questions about the Call for Artists, contact Ciara McKeown, CMCK Public Art at [cmckpublicart@gmail.com](mailto:cmckpublicart@gmail.com).

## Alternative Submission Formats

Artists may submit their Written Statement orally, in the form of a 3 to 5 minute recording. Please ensure your recording is easily accessible in Window and Mac compatible files (MP3 and MP4 files are preferred) via a secure link in your PDF. Artists who choose this method of presentation are still required to submit an Artist Resume and Examples of Past Work as described above.

## Information Session

M3, the Lindsay Park Sports Society, and CMCK Public Art will host an online information session for interested artists to learn more about the project and to ask questions.

**Online Information Session via Microsoft Teams:** 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM (MDT) September 22, 2025

[Join the meeting now](#)

## Notification and Selection

All artists who submit will receive notification of results by email. Please do not call for results. Those artists selected to provide a concept proposal will be contacted directly.

# REQUEST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Submissions will not be opened publicly.

The Request for Pre-Qualification does not constitute an offer to contract. Proponents shall make no claim for compensation because of participating in the Request for Pre-Qualification. LPSS shall not be liable for any costs incurred by proponents for the preparation or presentation of submissions.

LPSS at its sole discretion may abandon the Request for Pre-Qualification process.

LPSS reserves the right not to consider the merits of any Pre-Qualification submission not submitted in accordance with the requirements stated in this Request for Pre-Qualification. In considering the merits of each submission:

1. LPSS may not accept any submission, may accept any part of a submission;
2. The criteria specified in the **ARTIST ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION PROCESS** section above are the sole criteria that will be used;
3. LPSS may request further clarifications or a presentation or an interview from any proponent prior to a final selection;
4. LPSS's decision related to this Request for Pre-Qualification is final.

The Submission and any accompanying documentation submitted by the proponent will become the property of LPSS and will not be returned.



2225 MacLeod Trail SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2G 5B6

[mnpcentre.com](http://mnpcentre.com)

