

CALL TO ARTISTS – Request for Proposals (RFP)

Winter Nights City Lights 2022

Deadline: Friday, August 26, by 11:59 p.m. EST

Photo from Winter Nights, City Lights 2021

Artist Opportunity

The City of Pickering invites artists or artist teams to submit proposals for light-based artwork to be a part of Winter Nights, City Lights 2022.

Winter Nights, City Lights will take place between November 25, 2022 to January 31, 2023 and will feature a diverse range of outdoor light art installations inside Esplanade Park. The installations will transform the park by providing visibility and create a sense of joy and excitement for residents and visitors.

Eligibility

As per the City of Pickering Public Art Policy (CUL 130) an artist is defined as the designer/creator of an artistic work and can include, but is not limited to, a professional artist, graphic designer, collaborative team, architect, or landscape designer. Priority will be given to local Durham Region artists; however, we will consider all including national and international artists.

Project Brief

The City of Pickering resides on land within the Treaty and traditional territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and Williams Treaties signatories of the Mississauga and Chippewa Nations

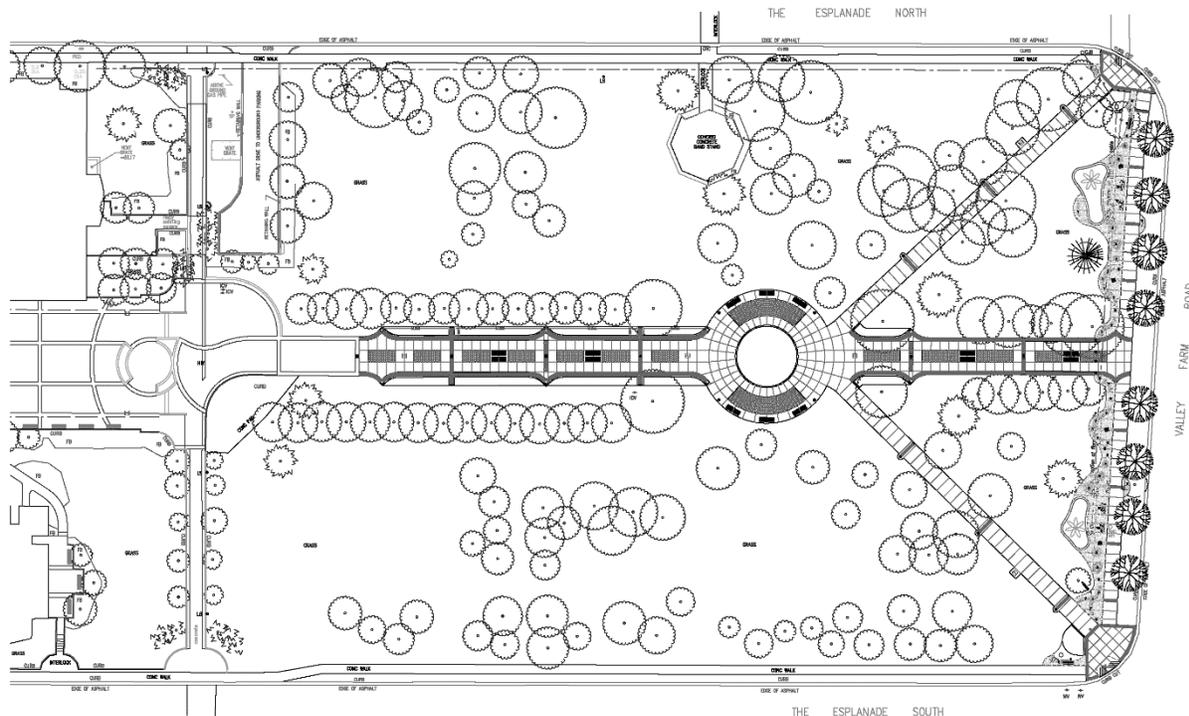
Winter Nights, City Lights is an outdoor event that marks the start of the winter season at Esplanade Park and in the City of Pickering. The event includes the lighting of the seasonal décor for the first time each year.

For this year's Winter Nights, City Lights, sponsored by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and Elexicon Energy, we ask that artists interpret the warmth of the light in their installations as a beacon of celebration. The proposed installation should reflect how light illuminates some of the most meaningful moments, creating harmonious connections between experiences and people, and ultimately shaping stronger communities and a better world.

We are seeking proposals for light-based artworks, preferably existing, and can be either a sculpture, installation, multimedia, or projections that can withstand the harsh outdoor winter conditions and activate the space at dusk.

Site Context

Winter Nights, City Lights takes place inside Esplanade Park located at One The Esplanade, Pickering, ON L1V 6K7, right in Pickering's City Centre. Esplanade Park is used as the main grounds for many community events, including the signature winter event running November 25, 26 and 27, 2022.



Site plan of Esplanade Park

We are looking to accept between two (2) to four (4) proposals as part of Winter Nights City Lights 2022. Selected works will receive a **minimum fee of \$1,000.00 CAD inclusive of HST and up to \$4,000.00 CAD inclusive of HST***.

*The fee encompasses: artist fees, technical consultation, travel to site for visits and meetings, purchase and/or rental of relevant materials and equipment, insurance**, production and installation of artwork as well as maintenance plan.

Anticipated Schedule

Winter Nights City Lights will take place outdoors throughout Esplanade Park between November 25, 2022 and January 31, 2023. Esplanade Park is a park that is open and accessible to everyone. It would be preferable to have artworks that can be illuminated through a timer.

It is expected that the commissioned artist(s) will comply with the project's general timeline dates, as stated below:

Date*	Project Phase
August 26, 2022	Submissions due for Call to Artists
Week of September 5, 2022	Selected Artist(s) notified Agreement is signed
September to November, 2022	Exact site confirmation Technical Design Review
November 24, 2022	Artwork Installation
November 25, 2022	Winter Nights City Lights Opening Ceremony and Event
February 1, 2023	Artwork Removal

**Schedule is subject to change*

Technical Specifications

Design Considerations

1. This call is primarily targeting existing light-based artworks suitable for outdoor winter weather – including but not limited to: sculpture, installation, multimedia and projections.
2. Installations are to reflect the theme of the impact of COVID-19 on our community and our resilience.
3. The artworks are to be inclusive, engaging and create a feeling of joy.
4. Proposals must consider the length of time (November 24, 2022 to February 1, 2023) including installation and removal of the artwork.

Technical Requirements

All proposals must meet the following criteria:

1. Installations must be durable, and able to withstand unpredictable winter weather conditions and physical contact by the public for the duration of the installation.

2. There is a circuit monitoring at City Hall, however there is no overnight security in the space. Installations must be robust, and able to be installed in a public space unmonitored, without being bolted to the ground. The artwork will be actively monitored with daily visual inspections conducted by City Staff, including weekends, as well as intermittent security patrols by the City's Security team. Artwork should not require security, or onsite support outside of load in and load out.
3. Artists will need to be willing to work with the project team on the technical set up and electrical capabilities, and addressing safety concerns. This includes securing all electricals and support cabling with durable covers/cable ramps to eliminate tripping hazards. Site Map for further information about the electrical capabilities of the space will be provided upon request.
4. Installation should comply with safety and accessibility design standards where possible
5. Artist(s) must be able to set-up, dismantle or provide clear instructions for City staff to install/deinstall the work. City staff may be available to help set-up and deinstall installations on request if necessary.
6. Selected artists will be expected to provide proof of general liability insurance.

Selection Process

A public art jury comprised of city staff, practicing arts professionals, and community members will be established for the evaluation of the proposals. This is a one stage competition. Between two (2) and four (4) proposals will be accepted as part of Winter Nights City Lights 2022 depending on the composition of the proposed budgets.

The Jury will recommend an artist or artistic team for the award of the commission based on the following criteria:

1. Artistic merit, including quality of work, originality, and artistic excellence in the field of light-based outdoor temporary art installation.
2. Adhesion to theme and expressed desire in this project; and,
3. Artist's demonstrated ability and proposal feasibility to meet the artwork goals and technical requirements, within the set timeline and budget.

The City of Pickering reserves the right to select and retain the artist deemed most appropriate for the project at its sole discretion.

Submission Requirements

Complete your RFP submission and email it in a single PDF. Please include:

1. **Artist statement:** describe the way you incorporate the theme and your interest in this project. You can submit a written document (1-page max) or record an audio or video message (MP3 or MP4 file, max 20 MB).
2. **CV:** Professional resume (3-pages max). If submitting as a team, an individual resume should be submitted for each team member.
3. **Portfolio of past work:** Examples of relevant light-based work. You may include multiple images per project on 1 page of a maximum to 10 projects (10-pages). Add title, year, scope and a short description.
4. **Artwork Design:**

- a. For existing work: photographs, plans, and/or videos of the proposed work along with dimensions, materials and electrical requirements.
 - b. For new commission: concept sketch, photos, and other images/details as applicable along with proposed dimensions, materials and electrical requirements.
5. **Proposed Budget and Delivery/Installation/Deinstallation Plan**: for artist fees, delivery, installation and de-installation.
 6. **References**: A list of at least two professional references familiar with your work and working methods. The list must include complete addresses and telephone numbers.

Submissions must be sent by email to:

sbarakov@pickering.ca

Subject: Artist Proposal – Winter Nights City Lights 2022

If the file exceeds 20 MB, artists are asked to use an external file share program. Incomplete submissions or submissions received after the deadline will not be juried.

The proposals may be used by the city of Pickering in meetings with stakeholders and staff.

Accessibility: The City will provide accommodations throughout the selection process to applicants with disabilities. Please notify Stoyan Barakov, Coordinator, Public Art at 289.200.7829 or sbarakov@pickering.ca of the nature of any accommodation(s) that you may require in respect of any materials or processes used to ensure your equal participation.

Reserved Rights of the City of Pickering

The City of Pickering, at its sole discretion, may request clarification or request additional information, as deemed necessary to evaluate the submissions. The City retains the sole discretion to determine whether a submission is responsive and if the prospective Artist or Artist Team is capable of performing the Work. The City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to determine the number of pre-qualified Artists or Artist Teams. The City reserves the right to not proceed with awarding a contract.

Publication of Information

The City of Pickering shall have the exclusive rights to issue all public announcements regarding the competition.

Additional Information

For any additional information or questions please contact: Stoyan Barakov, Coordinator, Public Art at 289.200.7829 or sbarakov@pickering.ca.