

## Call to Artists- Expression of Interest (EOI)

Public Art Commission, Dorsay Community & Heritage Centre- West Garden

**Deadline: March 27, 2026**



Rendering of the Dorsay Community & Heritage Centre- Landscaping with location of future art piece marked.

## Artist Opportunity

The City of Pickering invites artists or artist teams to respond to this Call for Artists to create permanent outdoor public artwork for the west garden of the Dorsay Community & Heritage Centre.

As per the City of Pickering's 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.

The total budget for the project, including artist fees, materials, installation and other associated costs is **\$125,000.00 (including HST)\***

The successful artist/artist team will be selected through a two-stage process. One (1) artist/artist team will be awarded the opportunity.

### **Site Background**

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

The Dorsay Community & Heritage Centre (DCHC) designed by Hariri Pontarini Architects explores the intersection of memory institutions- museum, library, gallery and archive-into an integrated, dynamic facility which will serve as a community gathering place and gateway to the existing components. Located adjacent to a ravine, the building is positioned to be sensitive to the natural ecology of the site while opening up views in all directions to the surrounding landscape. The sustainably sourced materials selected for the building are inspired by existing heritage buildings located in the Village: naturally aged, weathered wood and dry-stacked field stone. User engagement has been critical to the design process and a successful project will be an attraction for the local community and visitors alike. Construction began in Spring 2024, and the building will open in April 2026.

The facility will be located on the Pickering Museum Village site. #1 on the map marks where the Dorsay Community & Heritage Centre will be located.



## About DCHC

The City of Pickering is making an investment in arts, heritage and culture with the Dorsay Community & Heritage Centre. This innovative project will bring the Museum, Library and Community Centre into one dynamic facility.

Construction of this 44,000 square-foot facility was undertaken by J.R. Certus Construction Co. Ltd.

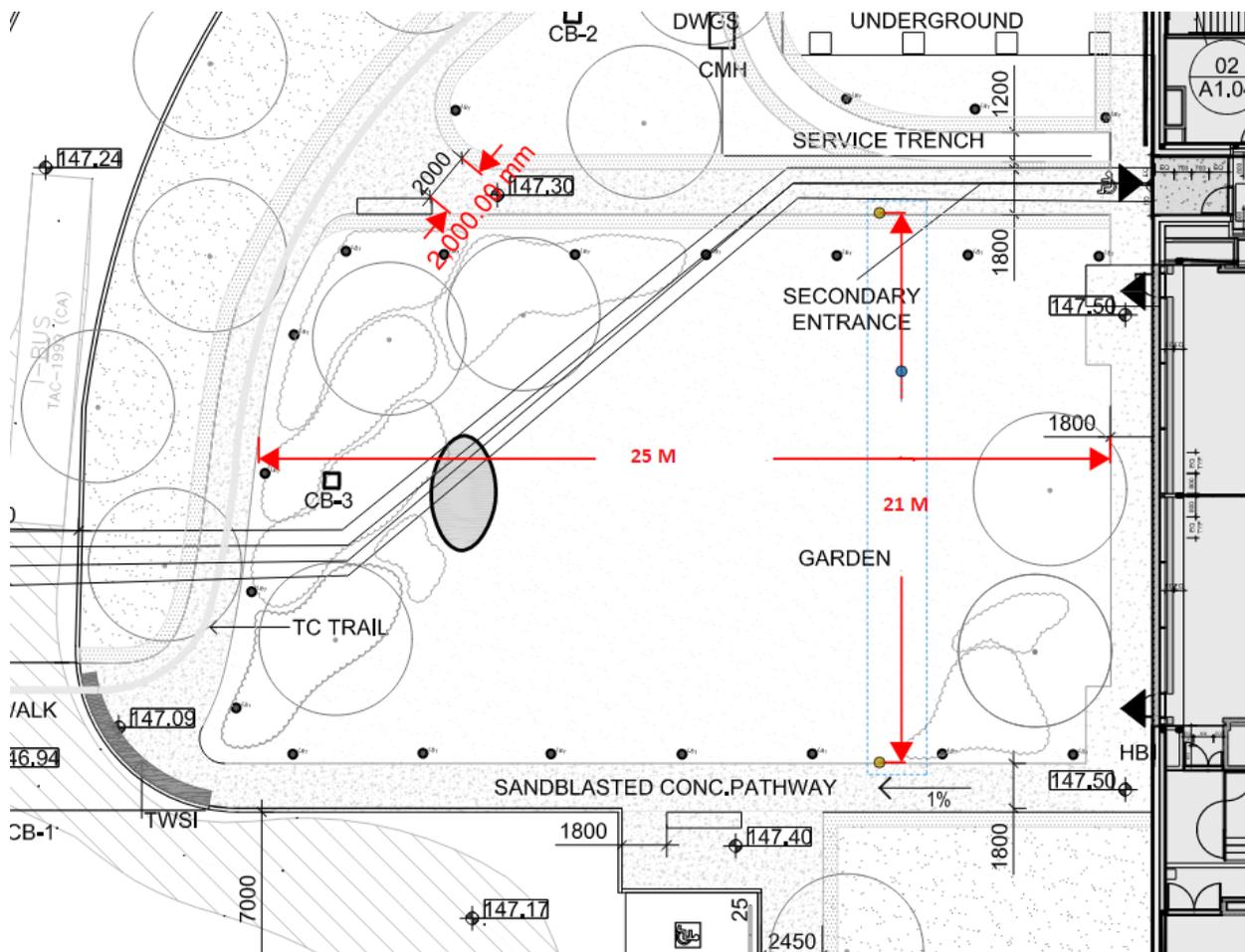
The facility will have the following amenities:

- Exhibit gallery
- Program room
- Banquet hall (with a stage)
- Kitchen suitable for public programs
- Library Express Kiosk and Local History Experience Centre
- Collections storage
- Gift shop
- Outdoor program spaces

This project is guided by the City's [Cultural Strategic Plan](#), which sets a vision for the place of arts, culture and heritage in the City and identifies strategic directions for policy, investment, partnerships and programs.

The Dorsay Community & Heritage Centre has a strong vision and seven guiding principles in place (Belonging & Wellbeing, Learning & Storytelling, Innovation, Adaption & Responsiveness, Discovery and Play, Sustainability and Decolonization). View the entire Vision & Guiding Principles document [here](#).

### Project Brief



### West Garden Dimensions

The City of Pickering's Cultural Strategic Plan (2014) outlines the City's commitment to collaborate with the community to celebrate our cultural diversity, heritage, and the arts;

to sustain our natural environment; to foster a creative economy; and to strengthen our vibrant neighborhoods.

For this project, the City is seeking artists or artist teams interested in creating a placemaking-focused public art experience in the west garden area adjacent to the building. This outdoor space which is visible from the parking lot and used daily by residents and visitors, is a highly active zone with strong potential for creative transformation.

- Creates a shaded space for public use
- Enhance the garden as a welcoming and meaningful public place.
- Encourage interaction, participation, or exploration by the public.
- May incorporate multi-sensory or experiential elements such as lighting, audio, tactility, or movement.
- Goes beyond traditional sculptural approaches to include site-responsive installations, experiential pathways, interactive environments, or creative place-based interventions

The top three (3) artists/teams will be required to attend an in-person presentation during Artfest for community feedback. The City will facilitate consultation between the artists/teams and the community as well as other project stakeholders. Detailed Terms of Reference will be provided to the shortlisted artist/artists teams to help them prepare their concept.

### **Budget**

**\$125,000.00 CAD including HST (maximum)\*.** This is the total amount available for all related expenses of this public art project including, but not limited to: up to three (3) rounds of revisions, artist fees, all applicable taxes, detailed renderings, materials, technical consultations, community consultation, foundation and approvals or other expertise as required (engineering review), fabrication, installation, insurance, equipment, travel to meetings and to the site, and an artist statement for completed work.

The selected artist will enter into a written agreement with the City of Pickering following the approval of the acquisition of the public art outlined in the City's Public Art Policy.

This agreement will address the artist's obligations, which include, but are not limited to:

- Materials

- Timelines
- Installation
- Maintenance and/or conservation plans
- Warranty
- Copyright, Intellectual Property and Moral Rights
- Payments to sub-contractors

## **Selection Process**

### **Stage 1: Call to Artists – Expression of Interest (EOI)**

A public art jury comprised of practicing arts professionals, project stakeholders and community members will be established for the evaluation of the Stage 1 submissions.

**Expression of Interest (EOI) Submissions:** Artists/ Artist teams are invited to respond to this EOI by submitting a single pdf document including:

- **CV:** Professional resume (3-pages max). If submitting as a team, an individual resume should be submitted for each team member.
- **Artist statement:** describe your interest in this project and share your experience in the field. You can submit a written document (1-page max) or record an audio or video message (MP3 or MP4 file, max 20 MB).
- **Portfolio of past work:** Examples of relevant work. You may include multiple images per project on 1 page of a maximum of 10 projects (10-pages). Include title, year, scope, budget and a short description.
- **References:** A list of at least two professional references familiar with your work and working methods. The list must include name, title, complete e-mail addresses and telephone numbers.

**Submissions must be uploaded through the [link](#) here.**

**Deadline: March 27, 2026 at 4:00 pm EST**

If the submissions exceed 20 MB, artists should contact Ellen Tayles-Armstrong, Curator, Public Art who will provide a link to an external file share program.

**Incomplete submissions or submissions received after the deadline will not be juried.**

### **Stage 2: Request for Proposal (RFP)**

The Public Art Jury will review all submissions and identify a short-list based on artistic

excellence and demonstrated or perceived ability to create and execute an innovative, engaging public artwork that is complementary to the overall design scheme and community context.

The Jury will select a short-list of three (3) artists/artist teams for Stage 2 – Request for Proposal (RFP). Each of the three (3) artists/artist teams will be compensated \$1,500 CAD including HST for their time and the creation of concept for Stage 2.

The short-listed artists will be notified by the week of April 22, 2026 and invited to present their concept to the community and the public art jury during “Artfest” held on May 23 & 24, 2026\*. This concept presentation and community consultation will be based on the Terms of Reference provided prior. As part of the process, short-listed artists must attend the in-person presentation (online presentations may be accommodated).

When evaluating specific artwork proposals, the Public Art Jury will consider the vision, mandate and objectives of the Public Art Program and the objectives listed in the Public Art Opportunity outlined on Page 1 of this Call to Artists. The Public Art Jury (as per section 07.02 of the City of Pickering Public Art Policy (CUL 130) will also consider the artists:

- Artistic excellence of previous work;
- Ability to achieve the highest quality of contemporary artistic excellence and innovation;
- Professional qualifications and relevant working experience as related to the public art project brief;
- Ability to manage a project and experience working with a design team, project team and/or community group, as appropriate;
- Potential to comprehend, access and interpret relevant technical requirements; and,
- Interest in and understanding of the public art opportunity and the context.

The proposals may be used by the City of Pickering in meetings with community groups, stakeholders and staff.

### **Anticipated Schedule**

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

<b>Date*</b>	<b>Project Phase</b>
March 9, 2026	Issue Call to Artists: EOI
March 27, 2026	Call to Artists: EOI Submissions due
April 22, 2026	Shortlisted Artists notified Issue Terms of Reference
May 19, 2026	Conceptual Proposals due
May 23 & 24, 2026	Community Presentation during "Artfest"
June 5, 2026	Final Conceptual Proposals due
September 22, 2026	Selected Artist notified Contract Execution
October, 2026	Technical Review with project staff. This meeting will provide the selected Artist with further technical specifications and feedback on the submitted conceptual artwork from lead project staff from the City
October 2026 to April 2027	Artwork Fabrication
April 30, 2027	Anticipated installation date

\*Schedule is subject to change

### **Accessibility**

The City will provide accommodations throughout the selection process to applicants with disabilities. Please notify Ellen Tayles-Armstrong, Curator, Public Art at 905.409.0567 or [etayles@pickering.ca](mailto:etayles@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: Ellen Tayles-Armstrong, Curator, Public Art at 905.409.0567 or [etayles@pickering.ca](mailto:etayles@pickering.ca)