

Call to Artists – Temporary Public Art Opportunity -Request for Proposals (RFP)

Pride Themed Vinyl Window Wraps at City Hall

Deadline: **March 9, 2026 at 4:00 pm EST**



Pickering City Hall- Front View

Temporary Public Art Opportunity

The City of Pickering invites local artists/teams to apply to submit digital based artwork for the Pride 2026 Vinyl Window Murals project. Selected works will be digitally reproduced as large scale temporary murals installed on the windows of the tower at City Hall (both front and back windows). The artwork will be printed on vinyl and installed by the City. Under the theme of **“Pride Belongs Here”** this temporary public art opportunity will aim to celebrate and affirm 2SLGBTQIA+ residents as valued members of our community. This theme invites artists to explore pride as an inclusive, civic, and transformative force—expressed through 2SLGBTQIA+ joy, care, resilience, and belonging in our city.

The City of Pickering adopted a formal 10-year Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy in 2024. That strategy identified four priority areas of focus: Education & Awareness, Structure & Resources, Community Consultation & Engagement, Policies, Practices & Programs and Measurement & Accountability. This project will help advance some of these priorities of focus by:

- Adapting civic space to reflect and represent the identities and experiences of Pickering's diverse communities.
- Developing targeted awareness programs that are aligned to the needs of the community.
- Fostering belonging through visible cultural expression.
- Affirming 2SLGBTQIA+ identities in civic spaces.
- The creation of digital and physical spaces that promote inclusion by displaying services and symbols that reflect the City's diverse communities.

This activation will be displayed on the windows from June 1, 2026, to July 3, 2026. One artist/team will be commissioned by The City of Pickering to create the works. 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.

A public art jury comprised of professional artists and community members of diverse backgrounds will be established for this single-stage competition.

The City of Pickering recognizes and values that diverse perspectives, skills, backgrounds, and lived experiences contribute to the growth and strength of our community. As such, we actively encourage and welcome applications from Indigenous Peoples and equity-deserving communities including women, persons with disabilities, racialized persons, persons who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, and other diverse communities.

Artists are advised that artwork must adhere to the following specifications:

- Artwork will be professionally reproduced on vinyl, exact sizes to be shared with the selected artists.
- Designs should not include text, current political figures, and/or logos.
- Vinyl production and installation will be undertaken by the City of Pickering.
- The City of Pickering will have reproduction rights to submitted artwork for a period of two years.

- The artist(s) retains sole copyright to their original artwork.
- The City may choose to display images of the artwork for marketing purposes.
- High resolution PDF, Adobe Illustrator .ai files, or .eps files are required for production;

Site Context

The City of Pickering acknowledges that it 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, including the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, and Scugog Island, as well as the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island, and Rama.

This public art opportunity will occupy the main front and back windows of the Tower Room at City Hall (1 The Esplanade S, Pickering, Ontario, L1V 6K7).

Images of the windows below:



Exterior Front of City Hall, Pickering



Exterior Back of City Hall, Pickering

Project Brief

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.

This temporary art piece is intended to be created by an artist to celebrate Pride in 2026. The City of Pickering will commission one artist/team for the creation of the work.

The created work will create a sense of joy, inclusion and belonging for 2SLGBTQIA+ residents and visitors during pride month in Pickering.

Budget

The budget for this project is **\$2,500.00** including HST (maximum)*. This is the total amount available for the commission of these placemaking artworks in addition to all related expenses of this project including, but not limited to: artist fees, all applicable taxes, detailed renderings, materials, and schedules or other expertise as required, insurance, equipment, travel to meetings and to the site, and an artist statement for completed work.

The selected artist will provide a Scope of Work based on the Placemaking opportunity to The City of Pickering. This Scope of Work will address the artist's obligations, which include, but are not limited to:

- Proposed Designs
- Timeline
- Insurance
- Copyright, Intellectual Property and Moral Rights

The City of Pickering will work with a supplier to print, install and remove the vinyl window murals.

Anticipated Schedule

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

Date*	Project Phase
February 19, 2026	Call to Artists – Issued
March 9, 2026	Submissions Due
Week of March 23, 2026	Selected Artist Notified Artist to Issue Scope of Work
Week of May 11, 2026	Final Digital Designs Submitted.
Week of May 18, 2026	Printing and Installation

June 1, 2026

Artwork Unveiling

*Schedule is subject to change

Technical Specifications

Design Considerations

1. The created work must be provided in a digital format.
2. The work is to reflect the theme of Pride Belongs Here.
3. The work is to be inclusive, engaging, and create a feeling of joy and belonging.
4. The total width of one set of windows measure: 120 ½ " High x 230 ½ " Wide. Exact window measurements including mullions will be provided to selected artist.
5. The project calls for one piece of digital artwork to be printed twice and mounted to both the east facing and west facing windows.

Project Terms:

All artwork must be original, made by the artist submitting

- For the submission, artist are expect to submit a rough idea that will provide an insight as to what the final work will look like.
- Absolutely no mechanical reproductions of original works are permitted.
- Digital artwork should be created at a minimum of 300 ppi.
- The format for digital illustrations is vector or raster-based images for digital collage and digitally painted designs.
- The artwork must not include profane language and derogatory imagery.
- Each file submitted must be clearly identified with your full name and an image number. Artwork must be accompanied with an artwork information sheet that details each image's title, material/format, date, etc.
- The artist will submit a statement describing their project and process. This text may be used for educational and promotional purposes.
- Photographs containing clearly identifiable persons must submit a completed model release form with their entry.
- The City of Pickering reserves the right to replace and/or remove any artwork, at any time during the determined installation time.

Selection Process

A jury comprised of professional artists and community members of diverse backgrounds will be established for the evaluation of the proposals. This is a single-stage competition. One (1) artist/team will be awarded the commission.

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

1. Artistic merit, including quality of work, originality, and artistic excellence.
2. Adhesion to location, 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 Request for Proposals submission by clicking the [link](#).

Proposals may be used by the City of Pickering in meetings with stakeholders and staff.

Accessibility

The City will provide accommodation throughout the selection process for applicants with disabilities. Please notify Ellen Tayles-Armstrong, Curator, Public Art, Community Services at 905.420.2660, ext. 3717 or etayles@pickering.ca as to 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/Team is capable of performing the Work. The City reserves the right,

at its sole discretion, to determine the number of pre-qualified Artists/Teams. The City reserves the right to not proceed with awarding a contract.

Publication of Information

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

Additional Information

For any additional information or questions please contact: Ellen Tayles-Armstrong, Curator, Public Art, Community Services at 905.420.2660, ext. 3717 or etayles@pickering.ca.