

Call to Artists – Temporary Public Art Opportunity

Indigenous Themed Wrapped Bench at Pickering Museum Village

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



Pickering Museum -Path to Village

Temporary Public Art Opportunity

The City of Pickering invites local artists/teams to apply to submit digital based artwork for the Pickering Museum Village Indigenous Bench Wrap project. Selected works will be digitally reproduced, printed on vinyl and installed onto one (1) bench. As part of the new permanent First Nations exhibit down the path to the Museum from the Dorsay Community & Heritage Centre; the bench will provide a place for visitors to rest and reflect.

The First Nations exhibit will consist of 5-10 interactive signs down the pathway. The topics that have been identified are the clan system, medicines that relate to the clans, and the relationship to the waterway.

This opportunity is open to Indigenous artists, with eligibility limited to artists who are members of Williams Treaties First Nations to reflect the specific cultural teachings and territorial relationships represented in this site specific project.

The bench will be displayed on the path for three to five years. 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 with diverse backgrounds will be established for this single-stage competition.

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.

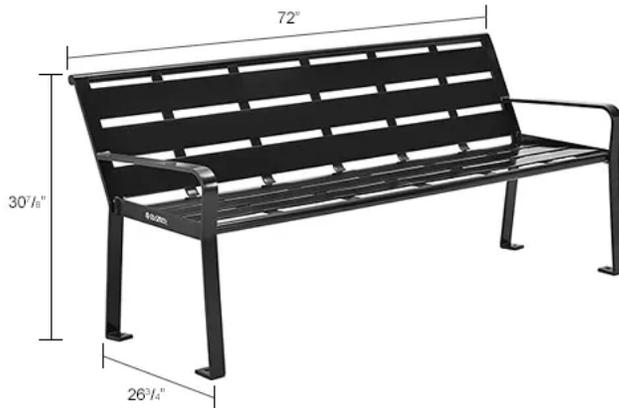
This opportunity will be located on the path between the Dorsay Community & Heritage Centre (2365 Concession Road 6) and the Pickering Museum Village (3550 Greenwood Road).

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 placemaking art piece is intended to be created by an artist from the Williams Treaty territories. The project will interpret Indigenous history as part of a larger exhibition. The City of Pickering will commission one artist/team for the creation of the work.

Bench Dimensions:



- Overall dimensions: 72"L x 26-3/4"W x 30-7/8"H
- Seat dimensions: 68"L x 17"H
- The back and seat are made from 4" x 1/5" welded steel slats.

Budget

The budget for this project is **\$2,500.00** including HST (maximum)*. This is the total amount available for the commission of this artwork 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 City of Pickering will get the image printed on vinyl and installed on the benches.

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

Anticipated Schedule

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

| Date* | Project Phase |
|------------------------|---|
| March 9, 2026 | Call to Artists – Placemaking Opportunity |
| April 10, 2026 | Submissions Due |
| Week of April 27, 2026 | Selected Artist Notified Artist to Issue Scope of Work |
| Week of July 6, 2026 | Final Digital Designs Submitted. |
| Week of August 4, 2026 | Printing and Installation |
| August 15, 2026 | Artwork Unveiling |

*Schedule is subject to change

Technical Specifications

Design Considerations

1. This opportunity is open to Indigenous artists, with eligibility limited to artists who are members of Williams Treaties First Nations to reflect the specific cultural teachings and territorial relationships represented in this site specific project.
2. The created work must be provided in a digital format.
3. The work is to reflect the exhibit themes of the clan system, clan medicine, and the importance of waterways to First Nations.
4. The work is to be inclusive, engaging, allowing the visitor to slow down and reflect.

Selection Process

A selection committee comprised of professional artists and community members 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 selection committee 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 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 accommodations 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.