

## **CALL FOR BIPOC COMMUNITY CURATOR OR CURATORS**

Project Budget: \$15,000.00

Proposal Deadline: October 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

The Museums of Mississauga and Mississauga Celebration Square have partnered to invite a Curator or team of Curators who identify as BIPOC to develop a project that engages with the community using the Museums and Mississauga Celebration Square as a platform to be delivered in 2022.

This initiative is intended to provide access to space and resources within the City's cultural spaces. This call is open to a Curator or Curators who identify as Black, Indigenous, or Person(s) of Colour.

This initiative is part of the ongoing commitment made by the Culture Division to confront the legacy of museums and cultural institutions as traditionally white, colonial spaces with Eurocentric curatorial practices. Some members of the BIPOC community in Mississauga have reported that City spaces are not welcoming, can be unsafe and hostile environments and are not interesting because their experiences are not reflected. We are listening to this feedback and we are striving to create welcoming and inclusive facilities that reflect the diversity of our entire community in all of our programming 365 days a year.

### **1. Project Background**

Mississauga is an incredibly diverse city that is home to people of all cultures and backgrounds. It is critical that the City's Culture programs and exhibitions reflect the diverse community members that live here. The Culture Master Plan identifies the need to provide platforms for diverse groups to amplify their voices across Mississauga's culture scene. The Museums and Celebration Square have platforms that can be used by those who have been historically been silenced, underrepresented, or excluded in the arts community.

To create more inclusive programming, we seek to engage a Curator or team of Curators who identify as Black, Indigenous, or Person(s) of Colour to develop and execute a project that centres the voices of peoples historically silenced in colonial spaces. By sharing history, culture and art, that reflects the community as well as hiring and working with BIPOC artists and cultural workers, we hope to begin to take steps towards addressing systemic racism and building awareness of racism issues within our areas of influence and within the community-at-large.

### **2. Opportunity**

The City of Mississauga invites a Curator or a team of Curators, currently based in or originally from, Mississauga, to develop a project that engages with the community using the Museums and Mississauga Celebration Square as a platform to be developed in 2022.

The Museums of Mississauga consist of two main sites, the Bradley Museum and Benares Historic House. Both properties have potential space for exhibitions, indoor and outdoor event space, workspace and access to a historic collection of artifacts.

MCS offers a variety of potential programming spaces that could be accessed as part of this project, including:

- digital program screens with audio (two 25' LED screens)
- 300 seat Amphitheatre Stage (open air programming space with sound and lighting)
- opportunity for an activation and/or space as part of City-produced event(s)

A component of the project should include community engagement, such as:

- focus groups
- workshops
- consultation
- surveys
- guided tours

These city spaces and resources outlined above can be used as the Curator and City deem appropriate. Additional support will be provided in terms of administrative, marketing and engagement materials to assist with the entire project.

### 3. Eligibility

Priority will be given to applicants who are Black, Indigenous, or Person(s) of Colour and/or are members of other equity-seeking groups and are recognized by their peers as a Curator or Curators. As a Curator, you may have experience with:

- working in the curatorial realm with relevant project experience
- the development and execution of temporary or permanent art, exhibitions or public programming
- knowledge and experience collaborating with, and engaging with the community
- strong project management skills
- mobilizing and executing creative projects in a community setting
- community engagement from the perspective of drawing in diverse and/or new audiences
- involving community members in the creation of temporary art, exhibitions or programming through collaboration, production and/or dialogue

### 4. Anticipated Budget

The total budget for all fees and expenses related to this project is \$15,000.00 + HST in Canadian Dollars. No further compensation will be made for costs associated with participating in the selection process.

This fee includes (but is not limited to): curation fees, technical consultation, travel, community engagement, purchase of relevant materials, engineering fees, fabrication and artwork installation (including delivery to the site), insurance and/or permit fees as required by the City of Mississauga.

The successful candidate is free to pursue additional funding for their project. Support with funding applications can be provided by the Museums of Mississauga and MCS.

### 5. Anticipated Schedule

The Curator or Curators can activate City of Mississauga spaces within the suggested timelines below:

Date	Project Phase
October 29, 2021	Submissions due
November 26, 2021	Selected applicant notified
May 24, 2022 – December 31, 2022*	Project activations at Celebration Square
September 29, 2022 – November 27, 2022	Project activations at Museums of Mississauga

\*On City-produced event dates

## 5. Selection Process and Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of qualified individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, or Person(s) of Colour including Culture Division staff and community members. The panel will evaluate the proposal on the basis of:

- the project's potential to uplift and celebrate the BIPOC community in Mississauga
- the demonstrated ability of the Curator to engage communities
- the demonstrated ability of the Curator to mobilize and execute a project(s) within the prescribed timelines and budget

Proposals may include, but are not limited to:

- an exhibition that incorporates art, artifacts, objects and/or oral histories from a combination of individuals, groups, community organizations
- community-engaged activations and programming that is inclusive of under-represented communities and reaches new audiences across the city

## 6. Submission Requirements

A complete submission package will include the following:

- completed application with contact information
- proposal in PDF format no longer than 2500 words and/or up to 15 images
- clearly communicated goals and tangible outcomes from the project
- curator's bio that includes community engagement and project management experience
- project description and/or curatorial statement
- audience and engagement strategy
- required resources/locations/schedules
- Itemized project budget

## 7. Reserved Rights of the City of Mississauga

The City of Mississauga (the "City"), at its sole discretion, may request clarifications 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 Curator or Curatorial team is capable of performing the Work. The City reserves the right to not proceed with awarding a contract.

## 8. Publication of Competition Information

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

## 9. Additional Information

For additional information or questions, please contact:

[Megan.wiles@mississauga.ca](mailto:Megan.wiles@mississauga.ca)