

## CALL TO ARTISTS – Request for Proposals (RFP)

**Project:** Temporary Public Art – Skate Park Digital Murals

**Project Budget:** \$4,000.00

**Proposal Deadline:** Sunday, May 30, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

### 1. Project Brief

The City of Mississauga (the “City”) Public Art Program invites emerging Mississauga artists or artist teams (photographers, illustrators, graphic designers, painters, etc.) to submit proposals to create original digital artwork for Mississauga’s Sculpture Court, a multi-use ramp and skateboarding park in downtown Mississauga (300 City Centre Drive).

The artwork will be printed on panels and installed in the skate park, creating a captivating visual presence. The commissioned artist(s) will be responsible for creating designs that span over several sections in the park. **The City will be responsible for all fabrication and installation.**

This opportunity is designed for emerging artists who are interested in gaining experience working in the public realm and learning the technical skills that are required to create artwork in a digital format that is suitable for large-scale reproduction.

Submissions to this call are due **Sunday, May 30, 2021.**

\*Note: This is an “anonymous” art selection process. This means that the Art Selection Committee will only view the artist’s proposal and portfolio, and not any identifying information. **Please do not include any identifying information in your application, other than on the Artist Declaration page.**

Please refer to the [City of Mississauga Public Art Master Plan](#) for additional details about the goals of public art in Mississauga.

## 2. Eligibility

This is a public art competition open to emerging artists and artist-led teams\* who have a connection to Mississauga.

This opportunity is designed for emerging artists who are interested in gaining experience working in the public realm and learning the technical skills that are required to create artwork in a digital format that is suitable for large-scale reproduction.

*\*The City of Mississauga defines an emerging artist as an artist in the early years of their professional career who may have had previous professional exhibitions, commissions, presentations and/or installations.*

## 3. Considerations for the Artwork

### Background:

Sculpture Court Skate Park is located in downtown Mississauga, next to Mississauga's Civic Centre (see Appendix I for a map of the site location). Mississauga Civic Centre, built in 1987, is a prominent example of postmodernism architecture in Canada. The design was influenced by farmsteads, which once occupied much of Mississauga as well as historical features of city centres.

The Sculpture Court Skate Park was installed to provide a dedicated place in the downtown for local skateboarders to practice the sport. This skate park is unique because it is largely home to local Mississauga skateboarders and has a strong community feel.



Figure 1: Sculpture Court Skate Park in action

This project will be replacing two existing mural series, “*Finding Home*” and “*Backside Flip*”, which are in need of replacement due to deteriorating wall conditions. *Backside Flip* was created in 2013 by artist Dan Bergeron. The mural depicts a series of silhouettes of a skateboarder performing a backside flip alongside technical-style drawings of ramps. The work is intended to re-animate public space and reflects both the grace and complexity of skateboarding. *Finding Home*, completed in 2019, was co-created by artist Mango Peeler and nine local emerging artists as part of National Youth Arts week. The project provided an opportunity for emerging artists to celebrate and showcase their art, talent, and ideas.

This project will build on the skate park’s legacy of celebrating and promoting emerging local artists, by creating a dedicated exhibition space for artists looking to expand their work into the public realm.



Figure 2: Backside Flip, 2013, Dan Bergeron



Figure 3: Finding Home, 2019, Mango Peeler and Mississauga Youth Artists

See Appendix II for more site images.

#### Artwork Goals and Themes:

Artists are asked to propose artwork that considers the park users and engages viewers in a conversation that explores the relationship between urban design/architecture and community. Artwork should engage Mississauga's residents and skate park users in a dialogue of how they view and interact with the public realm and evoke a sense of community belonging.

#### 4. Technical Requirements

The Artist(s) will be required to design artwork that will fit multiple wall dimensions throughout Sculpture Court Skate Park. There are 14 available wall sections in total – see Appendix II for a breakdown of the wall dimensions. The artwork in each section can be unique or repeating.

##### Fabrication:

- The commissioned artist(s) will be responsible for creating and submitting high-resolution digital files of their artwork.
- The artwork will then be fabricated and installed by the City with the assistance of the selected artist/artist team.
- The artwork will likely be printed on solid aluminum composite panels, which will have a gloss finish and anti-graffiti laminate coating.
- Fabrication and installation costs are covered by the City and are not included in this proposal.

- The artwork is temporary and is expected to last on site for around three years.
- Artists should be aware that the artwork may be subject to damage by the elements and/or vandalism. Therefore, artists must accept the risk that their artwork may be damaged, altered, and/or removed by the City at any time following installation.

#### Design Considerations:

- Artwork must be busy with limited negative space, as open spaces tend to attract vandalism/tagging;
- Artwork should be bold and visible from a distance;
- Artwork can include non-digital works (i.e. hand drawn illustrations and paintings) that can be digitized according the specifications;
- Artwork must not contain content in breach of any intellectual property, trademarks, brands, or images of vulgar, offensive or illegal activity and may not promote a political party or election candidate; promote tobacco or alcohol use; present demeaning or derogatory portrayals of individuals or groups; or contain anything which, in light of generally prevailing community standards, is likely to cause deep or widespread offence.

#### Printing Specifications:

- May have to include a 3/4" bleed all around the sections;
- High resolution PDF, Adobe Illustrator .ai files, or .eps files are required for production (minimum 150 DPI at 100%), and;
- Artwork will be accompanied by signage, designed and installed by the City of Mississauga Public Art Program in consultation with the artist.

## 5. Budget

The total budget for all artist fees and expenses related to this project is **\$4,000.00 CAD + HST.\***

*\* This fee includes (but is not limited to): artist fees, technical consultation, travel to the site and project meetings, purchase of relevant materials, insurance, and attendance at unveiling of the completed artwork.*

*This fee does not include the cost of print and installation, which will be paid for and provided by the City of Mississauga. No further compensation will be made to the artist for costs associated with participating in the project.*

## 6. Anticipated Schedule

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

Date	Project Phase
Thursday, May 6, 2021	Online information session about the project
<b>Sunday, May 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. EST.</b>	<b>Submissions Due for Call to Artists</b>
Week of Jun 14, 2021	Selected Artist(s) notified Art Services Agreement is Signed
June-July, 2021	Design Development
Mid-July, 2021	Final Artwork Files Due to City
August, 2021	Fabrication and Installation (City to coordinate)

*\*Timeline is subject to change*

## 7. Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed by an art selection panel comprised of arts professionals and community members. This is an “anonymous” art selection process. This means that the Art Selection Committee will only view the artist's artwork proposal and portfolio, and not any identifying information. All proposals will remain anonymous to the Art Selection Committee throughout the entire process.

The art selection panel will recommend an artist or artist team for the award of commission, based on the following criteria:

- Artistic merit, including quality of work, originality, and artistic excellence;
- Artist's interest and expressed desire to create public art for and in the public realm;



- Artist's ability to execute a project of this scale within the budget, timeline, and criteria developed and/or an expressed interest to learn these skills.

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

## 8. Proposal Requirements

Please read all components of the RFP prior to completing your submission. A complete submission package includes the following documentation **in PDF format**:

- a) **Artist Declaration:** use the form provided below
- b) **Artwork Proposal** (1-2 pages): a written expression of interest answering the following questions:
  1. Why are you interested in this project?
  2. What is your idea for the skate park?
  3. What are you hoping to learn through this project?
  4. What is your experience and interest in creating artwork for and in the public realm?
  5. What is your connection to Mississauga?
- c) **Portfolio:** up to 10 images of past work that are similar or relevant to this project. Be sure to include project descriptions with each image (e.g. title of work, medium, dimensions, location, project partners, date, etc.).

**As this is an "anonymous" art selection process, please ensure that no identifying information (e.g. your name, logo, website, social handles etc.) is included in your proposal.**

Submissions must be sent by email to:

[public.art@mississauga.ca](mailto:public.art@mississauga.ca)

**Subject: Artist Proposal – Skate Park Project**

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

We encourage applications from individuals that represent the full diversity of communities in Canada, including complexities of intersecting identities such as ability, age, citizenship, class, gender, race and sexual orientation.

**Accessibility:**

The City will provide accommodations throughout the public art selection process to applicants with disabilities. Please contact Philippa French, Public Art Curator at 416-457-8510 or [Philippa.french@mississauga.ca](mailto:Philippa.french@mississauga.ca) with the nature of any accommodation(s) that you may require in respect to any materials or processes used to ensure your equal participation.

## **9. 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 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.

## **10. Publication of Competition Information**

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

## **11. Additional Information**

For additional information or questions please contact:  
Philippa French, Public Art Curator, [philippa.french@mississauga.ca](mailto:philippa.french@mississauga.ca)



## 12. Artist Information and Declaration

### Artist or Artist Team Contact Information:

*This information will only be available to the project administrator*

Contact Email:

Phone Number:

Website and/or social media handles:

The following Declaration is to be signed by the Artist or Artist Team and submitted as part of their expression of interest package.

I/We hereby declare that the information provided herein is true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

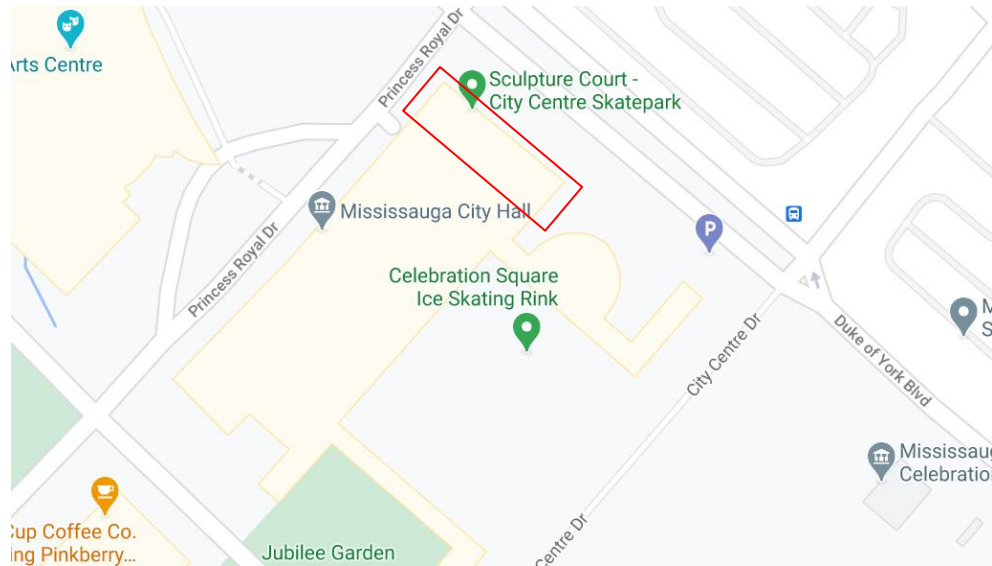
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix I: Site Location

Map of the Sculpture Court Skate Park (outlined in red):

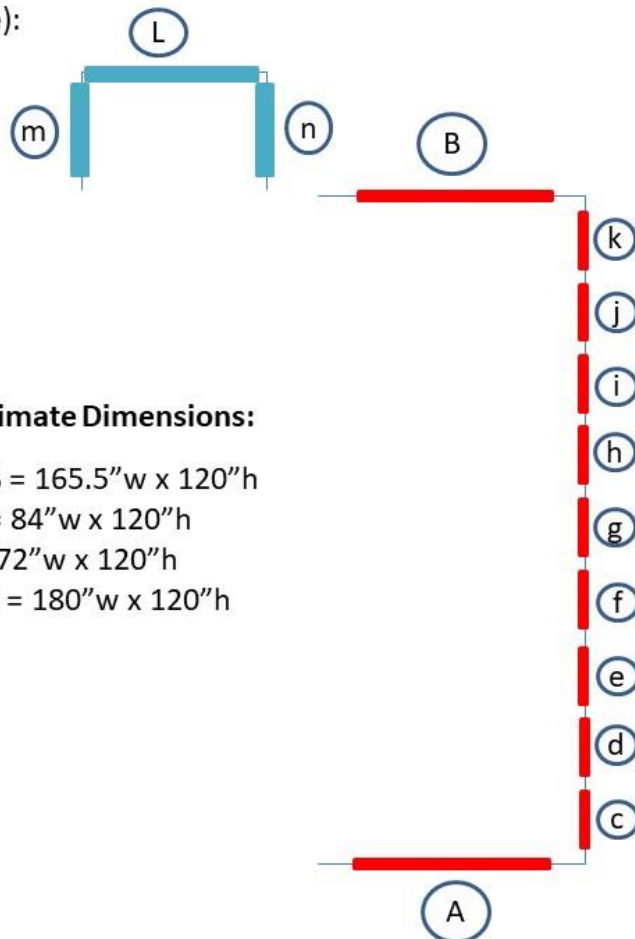


Map of wall locations (outlined in red):



## Appendix II: Wall Dimensions and Site Photos

Site Plan (not to scale):



### Approximate Dimensions:

- A = B = 165.5" w x 120" h
- C-K = 84" w x 120" h
- L = 272" w x 120" h
- M+N = 180" w x 120" h



