

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) - Frequently Asked Questions

Project: Temporary Public Art - Bee Hotel

Project Budget: Up to \$7,000.00

Proposal Deadline: Friday, March 29, 2019 by 4:00 p.m.

Why is the project temporary and not permanent?

When permanent public art projects are commissioned, accessioned, or accepted by the City of Mississauga, the City assumes all maintenance responsibilities for the artwork. The City is responsible for maintaining, preserving, cleaning, and restoring City owned public art.

Given the nature of this project and its unique maintenance requirements, the City is unable to commit its resources to maintaining the project permanently. For this reason, the project will be a temporary public art project, with the intent to care for the habitat for 2-5 years.

Who will take care of the bees and maintain the Bee Hotel?

The commissioned artist(s) will be expected to provide a maintenance manual for the Bee Hotel. This manual will include conservation guidelines for the artwork as well as measures and considerations to protect the bees from parasites and disease (e.g., a clean out schedule and instructions for cleaning of tubes and holes). The City will utilize this guide to take care of the bees and hotel. The City's Culture Division will pay for general maintenance and upkeep and the Parks & Forestry Division will complete maintenance work. *Preference will be given to proposals, which are low maintenance.*

Should the design accommodate bee cocoons being placed in storage within a garage or fridge for the cold winter months?

The commissioned artist(s) would be expected to work with the project team to determine if and how this would be feasible, given the City's resources. The Request for Proposals is intended to collect concept proposals. Technical maintenance details will be finalized in consultation with the project team.

Is concrete footing allowed?

This may be permitted, provided the budget and timing allows. However, please keep in mind that this is a temporary public art project and that the Request for Proposals is intended to collect concept proposals. Technical details regarding foundation will be finalized in consultation with the project team.

Are there size restrictions?

There are no size restrictions or limitations for the Bee Hotel. However, artists should be aware that larger bee hotels pose greater risks for parasites and disease infestation and should incorporate design choices based on this. For example, if an artist wishes to have an artwork that is larger in scale but does not compromise the safety of the bees, he/she could design bundles of nesting cavities and tubes in a scattered fashion.

Is there a desired amount of bees?

We do not have a requirement for how many bees the hotel must support. The larger the bee hotel, the greater its risk of parasite and disease infestation, so the artist would need to incorporate additional preventive measures to ensure this does not happen.

Is this the final location or position?

The location as listed in the Request for Proposals is a proposed site. The project team will work in consultation with the artist to ensure the most appropriate site in Jack Darling Memorial Park is found.

Will the Bee Hotel attract stinging bees?

No. Unlike honeybees, which nest in hives and sting to protect their queen, solitary bees are non-aggressive, do not produce honey, and only sting when trapped or threatened.

What if the Bee Hotel attracts wasps?

Solitary wasps have similar nesting habits to solitary bees and are often attracted to bee hotels. Although the Bee Hotel is intended to support solitary bees, we do not consider it problematic should the Bee Hotel also be used by solitary wasps. Unlike yellow jackets and hornets, solitary wasps do not form colonies or live in hives, do not swarm, and rarely sting unprovoked. Solitary wasps are also pollinators (although they pollinate to a lesser extent due to their hair structure) and they play an important role in conserving ecosystem diversity.