

CALL FOR MURAL ARTISTS

Public Art Murals, Request for Expression of Interest: Town of Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada

Deadline: July 31, 2024 at 11:59 PM AST

Award: \$22,000 (inclusive of all taxes) for the Sussex Regional Library location & \$11,000 (inclusive of all taxes) for Needle Street location.

Call for Artist Opportunity Overview

The town of Sussex is seeking to commission two new site-specific murals that will be created in the summer/fall of 2024 and will remain on public display for 5-10 years. These two dynamic new pieces of art will connect and engage with the community, transforming the sites into vibrant, inviting and meaningful public places.

Eligible artists are invited to submit expressions of interest and qualifications to this call. Details are provided below.

The commissioned artists will be selected through an open, two-stage process. The project budget of \$22,000 CAD (inclusive of all taxes) and \$11,000 CAD (inclusive of all taxes) respectively includes all costs directly associated with the artwork: including taxes, artist fees, production, materials, equipment rental, installation, and other professional services, accommodations, insurance, WorkSafe fee, travel and other incidental and production expenses.

No fewer than 4 artists will be shortlisted and each paid \$500 CAD (inclusive of all taxes) to create detailed proposals.

Community Background

The town of Sussex is located on the ancestral territory of the Wolastoqiyik people in south central New Brunswick, between the province's three largest cities, Saint John, Moncton, and Fredericton. Sussex straddles the Kennebecasis River, 70 km northeast of Saint John, and is a major dairy product producer in the province.

Residents enjoy access to a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities, including a ski resort, nature trails, and sports facilities, as well as museums, a public library, festivals, and art exhibitions.

Artwork locations

Location #1 - This mural will be located on the Sussex Regional Library, located at 46 Magnolia Ave, Sussex, NB. Its size is 105' 6" by 10' less 6 windows (just under 1000 square feet). The wall is made of red brick and the selected artwork will be created directly onto this surface, on location. Please see the image below (Figure 1. Location #1) for detailed dimensions.



Figure 1. Location #1

Location #2 - This mural will be located on the side of a private residence located at 10 Needle Street, Sussex, NB. Its size is 17' 4" by 22' (approx. 350 square feet). The wall is made of Crezon (aka mural board) and the selected artwork will be created directly onto this surface, on location. Please see the image below(Figure 1. Location #2) for detailed dimensions.

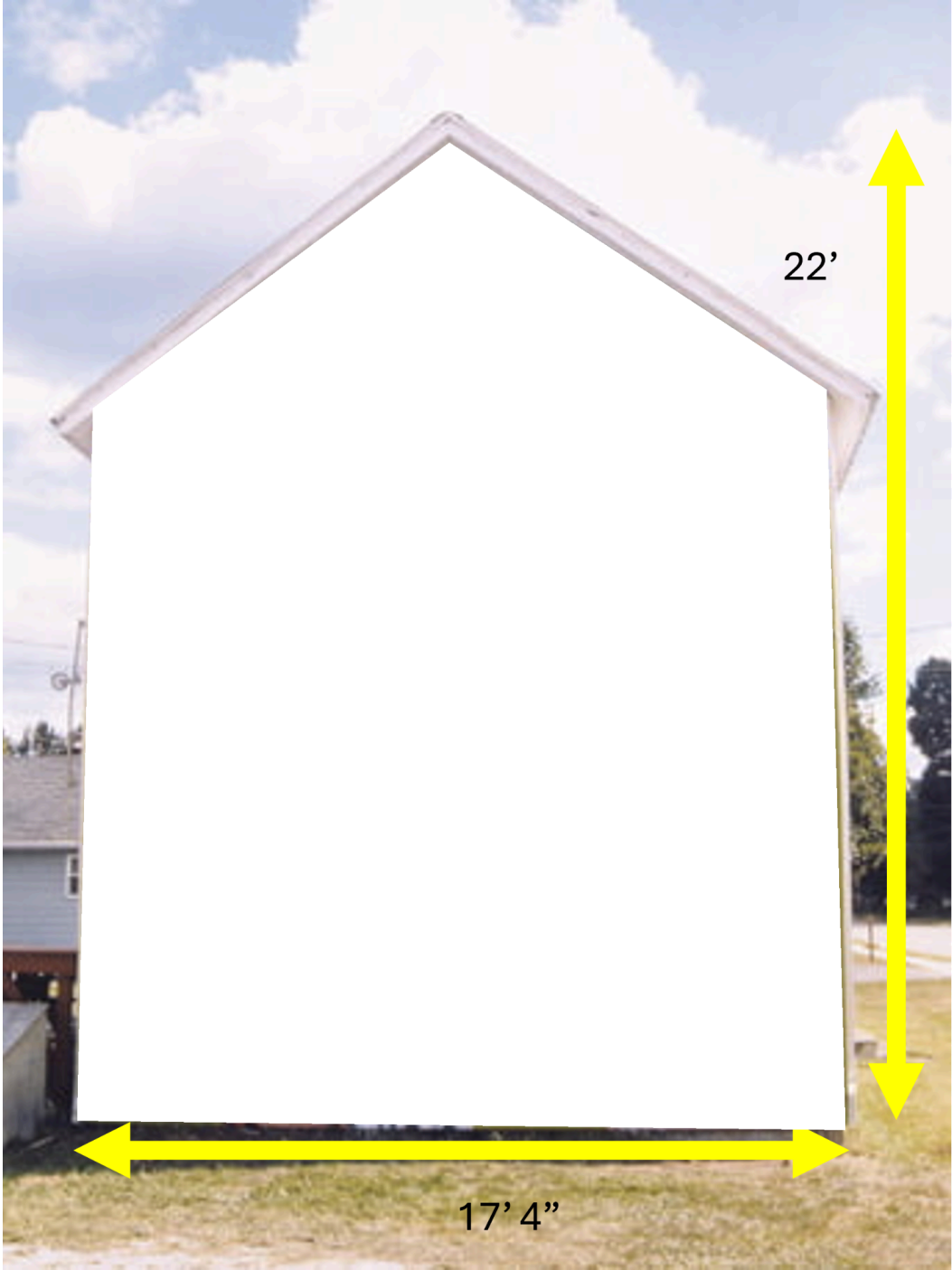


Figure 1. Mural area #2

Selection Process

Final artwork proposals are not requested at this time. The Sussex Public Art Committee will review all submitted [applications](#) and narrow down a shortlist based on the following criteria:

Overall quality and authenticity of previous projects, interest in the project and the site, originality, excellence and intrigue of previous designs, the artist's reputation and demonstrated experience managing and facilitating projects or public art competitions or similar scopes and sizes, and suitability for display in a public spaces and an assessment and review of references.

Applying artists must be considered professional artists as defined by the Canada Council for the Arts. As per their guidelines, a professional artist is someone who:

- has specialized artistic training (not necessarily in academic institutions);
- is critically recognized as a professional by their peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition);
- is active in and committed to their art practice;
- has a history of public exhibitions; and/or has produced an independent body of work.

In the spirit of reconciliation and celebrating diversity and the land on which we live, it is the intent that at least one of the two artists selected for the 2024 mural projects will be Wolastoqiyik.

As stated in [Sussex's Public Art Policy](#) , preference will be given to artists from Wabanaki First Nations, local professional artists who live, or have lived, in Sussex or within a 150 km radius, and artists who self-identify as members of equity deserving groups. If applicable, we invite you to self identify as belonging to an equity deserving group on the application form.

Artist teams are welcome to apply but must share the total project award and one artist must act as the main point of contact for communication.

Applicants who need support applying for this opportunity are encouraged to contact Alison Murphy (Executive & Artistic Director of AX, the Arts & Culture Centre of Sussex) at execdirector@axartscentre.ca at least one week before the application deadline to appropriately accommodate your needs and to discuss alternate formats for submitting your application.

STAGE ONE: REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

All applications will be reviewed by Sussex's Public Art Committee. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by a representative from AX and asked to submit a design concept for the specified public art project. Shortlisted artists selected for stage two will be paid \$500 CAD each (inclusive of all taxes) for these designs. Artists may be requested to submit a five-ten year maintenance and conservation plan along with their designs.

STAGE TWO: SHORTLISTED PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENTATION

If selected for Stage 2, shortlisted artists will be provided a \$500 CAD fee for the development of a detailed artist design concept and proposal.

Each artist/artist team will create a detailed artist proposal including a written artist statement, a project budget, production and installation plan, etc. Further details and deliverables will be provided at the outset of Stage 2.

Designs will be artist-led concepts, with no dictation or direction of content by any outside influence.

Please note that artwork is to be created directly onto the wall, onsite.

The \$500 fee for this work will be paid to the artists once their design and proposal have been submitted.

STAGE THREE: JURY SELECTION

A Public Art Selection Jury will choose artist(s) based on the submitted designs and proposals. The jury's selections will be final.

The Public Art Selection Jury will review and choose artists based on the following criteria:

- Overall Quality and Authenticity
- Originality of design
- Intrigues viewers and stimulates imagination
- Artist reputation, demonstrated and related experience
- Suitability for display in the specific public space
- Compliance with guidelines outlined in the [Sussex Public Art Policy](#) Quality of the approach/work plan, conceptualization and methodology

Preference is given to artists from Wabanaki First Nations, local professional artists who live, or have lived, in Sussex or within a 150 km radius, and artists who self-identify as members of equity-deserving groups.

Extra consideration given to proposals which include community engagement.

The artists/artist teams selected by the jury as the competition winners will enter into a contract with the town to create the final public artwork.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS: APPLICATION FORM

Professional artists/artist teams are invited to respond to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) by completing [this google form application](#) which will prompt you to upload:

A Letter of Intent: 2-page maximum (11-point font). Outline of artistic experience, ability, approach and interest in this project, site and community, highlighting relevant experience. While proposals are not accepted at this stage of the competition, we encourage artists to speak to their typical artwork themes in this letter. If applying as a group, please only submit one Letter of Intent.

Curriculum Vitae (CV): 3-page maximum. Detail professional experience as an artist, past public art experience, and other information relevant to this Request for Qualifications. If applying as a group, provide one CV per group member and indicate preferred pronouns at the beginning of the document.

Artistic Support Material: Please upload a minimum of three (3), Maximum of ten (10) images of work. If applying as a team, please only submit a total maximum of ten (10) images. Images should be in .jpeg or .png format and no larger than 10MB per file. Each file should be labeled in this format: **Last Name_image number.file type (ex: Murphy_1.PNG).**

Support Material List: Please attach a written list that clearly explains the Artistic Support Material (above). Include the following details in order: Image number (corresponding to the previous question), artist(s) name, title, date, location, commissioning agent (if applicable), budget, dimensions, medium/materials and a brief description of the works (maximum 50 words each).

References: Please provide names and contact information (current email and phone number) for two (2) references (preferably from recent public art projects) with their role and affiliation listed. Reference letters are not required at this stage of the competition.

*If applying as a group, please list team members and submit required references for each.

Connection to Local Communities (Optional): 1-page maximum (11-point font). Include details about living in Sussex or within a 150 km radius. If applying as a group, please only upload one combined document.

Estimated Project Timeline

- July 2024: Call to artists is issued
- August 2024: Shortlisted Artists identified, Shortlisted Artists develop detailed proposals
- September 2024: Final Artist selected, Artist Agreement signed
- September -October 2024: Mural production
- October 2024: Mural unveiling

This project has a tight turnaround time to ensure 2024 installation and will require the shortlisted and selected artist/artist team to complete the proposals and project components within the above timeline.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION: APPLICATION DELIVERY & DEADLINE

Submissions must be received by July 31, 2024 at 11:59pm

Forms – emailed, faxed or mailed applications will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to ensure the application package is complete and submitted through the Google form, by the posted deadline.

Final submissions must not exceed 10 MB in total size.

Questions and requests for clarification will be received by email until July 26, 2024 at 12:00 PM AST. Applicants who need additional support applying for this opportunity are encouraged to contact Alison Murphy (Executive and Artistic Director of AX, the Arts & Culture Centre of Sussex) at execdirector@axartscentre.ca by July 26 at 12:00 PM AST to appropriately accommodate your needs and to discuss alternate formats for submitting your application. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be accepted.

Applications must be submitted via [Google Application](#)

For inquiries or further information, please contact Alison Murphy at execdirector@axartscentre.ca or call at 506-433-8351.

We look forward to receiving your submissions and enhancing the beauty, diversity and creativity in this wonderful rural east coast community!