

ArtworxTO

Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021

CALL FOR CURATORS:

Community Cultural Hubs

DATE POSTED:

September 10, 2020

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

October 19, 2020

PROJECT COMMENCEMENT:

November 2, 2020

CURATOR FEE:

\$25,000.00 CDN + HST





ArtworxTO is currently seeking curatorial proposals for ArtworxTO 2021, Community Cultural Hubs.

Four (4) Curators will be contracted. Each Curator will be responsible for conceiving and delivering an 11 month-long program at one of four hubs across the city. A primary goal within this ArtworxTO program, both for artists and audiences, is to centre voices that have been traditionally marginalized in public art. This is an ideal opportunity to foreground the voices of BIPOC artists, curators, and creators of all kinds.



ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021 is a year-long celebration of art and community. Considered the public facing launch of the City's new 10-year Public Art Strategy 2020-2030, marking a renewed vision and commitment to public art throughout Toronto. Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021 will animate all corners of the city with innovative publicly accessible art projects, installations, and programming throughout the year.

ArtworxTO will leave an enduring legacy through significant commissions, new programs and a new digital platform which will become building blocks for the future; enabling meaningful engagement and interaction between artists, art and the public. Central to the legacy will be a commitment to increased support to artists working in the public realm and to recognize the collective contributions of artists whose significant public works have made Toronto a global leader in public art.

ArtworxTO seeks to explore the unique role that art plays in a vibrant city. ArtworxTO is committed to providing opportunities for artists and audiences that have been marginalized in the traditional public art landscape. This includes commitments to Indigenous placemaking and platforms for BIPOC artists, curators and audiences.



Read ArtworxTO 2021 Strategy Framework, [here](#).

Read the City of Toronto's new 10-Year Public Art Strategy, [here](#).

SCOPE OF WORK

Curatorial concepts for individual Community Cultural Hubs, will be generated through this open call for Curators, and developed and refined by the selected Curators in consultation with the ArtworxTO team. The overall direction for Hubs is guided by the ArtworxTO Team, supporting the central pillars of Toronto's new 10-year Public Art Strategy (2020-2030): "Creativity and Community - Everywhere".

The program (and its related exhibitions, installations and events) will run from approximately January 30, 2021 to December 18, 2021.

The selected Curators will receive a Curator's Fee of \$25,000.00 CDN + HST and will have a minimum programming/production budget of \$150,000.00 CDN to implement their program.

Each Hub Curator will be responsible for:

- Artists and Art Installations in a local Community Hub with support from City of Toronto production staff.
- Programming and Events – relevant to the exhibition, local neighborhood and/or hub sponsor.
- Additional programming (talks, performances, workshops, screenings, live painting, etc.) will take place – in partnership and consultation with Hub community partners and sponsors.
- A short curatorial text as well as partake in discussions and panels.
- Collaborate with all related partners to develop and Educational Tool-Kit for the exhibition and related programs.

Exhibition considerations:

- The Community Cultural Hubs are publicly accessible interior spaces. However, weather and durational awareness should be considered if any exterior aspects.
- Artwork should not require security. (Main site will be locked every night, but the Hubs will have people flowing through at all times).
- The exhibition aims to be accessible to all and will consult and align with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and will be open and accessible to all ages.

Programming and Production support from the City of Toronto may include:

- ArtworxTO Hubs will have elements of program already defined by the ArtworxTO team. These include the venue hosts and locations, and program components that come out of Hubs program objectives (e.g: a commitment to providing opportunities for emerging artists as a component of the program; local program partners who can support engaging local communities).
- Artistic consultation and curatorial guidance on all elements of project design, budgets and execution from the Curator(s) and the City of Toronto.
- Technical consultation including assistance with city permits and other permissions, health & safety, when possible).
- Assistance with sourcing technical equipment where required.
- Based on needs, staff and volunteer support will be included in the exhibition and programming.

THE HUBS

Community Cultural Hubs will be a series of destination venues located within publicly accessible spaces spread across the city during Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021.

Hubs will be located in at least 4 areas across the city of Toronto. We encourage local applicants grounded in these areas of the city and ask that applicants indicate clearly to which area they are connected.

Community Cultural Hub sites currently under consideration:

- North York
- Etobicoke
- Scarborough
- Downtown
- Other areas will be added, should budget allow

The Hubs will form the central nervous system of the entire ArtworxTO initiative and serve two central roles:

- **Feature dynamic art installations, events, and programming to:**
 - engage local community artists and audiences.
 - promote cultural events in the immediate area and city wide.
 - attract visitors from across the city – becoming go-to venues for what's on in the area
- **Provide continually updated information about:**
 - the overall ArtworxTO/Year of Public Art 2021 program.
 - art programs, activities, and exhibitions in the hub(s) and throughout the city.
 - cultural activities and events in the immediate area

The Community Cultural Hub Program will be fully managed by the ArtworxTO Team, including but not limited to:

- Selection of space(s)
- Selection of Hub Curators through a competitive juried process vetted by art experts, community members, and securing hub sponsor.
- Basic operational staffing.
- All promotional assets and art materials.
- Technical support for exhibitions and programming (install and tear down)
- Additional program content including talks, events, openings and potential loans from City of Toronto's Art Collection.
- All work will occur in a safe manner, and abide by all City of Toronto by-laws, laws, and safety standards, which will be assessed and evaluated in consultation with the City of Toronto staff.

QUALIFICATIONS

- This Curatorial role is designed as an opportunity for emerging curators; individuals will have studied or worked in the curatorial realm with some relevant project work experience.
- This is considered an ideal opportunity to foreground the voices of BIPOC curators.
- Applicants will have knowledge and experience in contemporary visual art practices with a focus on Canada and Toronto.
- Ideal candidates will have deep roots in Toronto and specifically one of the four local communities.
- It is essential that applicants demonstrate an ability to work collaboratively in program development, as well as independently.
- Ability to be available for a dynamic programming schedule at the hub throughout the year.

AREAS OF ASSESSMENT

The ArtworxTO Peer Review Panel will assess:

- Artistic merit of Exhibition and Programming proposal and supporting material.
- Strong aesthetic, conceptual elements, demonstration of artistic vision, innovation, interpretation and integration of contemporary art in the specific context of the curatorial thesis, the ArtworxTO and the Community Cultural Hub model.
- Applicant's demonstrated success in previous projects as a professional curator or equivalent.
- The feasibility of the project, i.e.: working within existing budget, delivery of schedule, caliber of curatorial concept and proposed artists, dynamic program, collaborative approach to partnerships.
- A previously demonstrated ability, or appropriate project plan to execute a project of this scope and to work collaboratively with an existing project team including: City of Toronto staff, project partners, venues, manufacturing, technical, and installation contractors. Not all applicants will have had this previous opportunity so please highlight any comparable experiences.

EXHIBITION & PROGRAMMING PROPOSAL

In a single PDF file please include:

1. EXHIBITION PROPOSAL (max 500 words)

This proposal should identify the curatorial concept and include suggested exhibition ideas (overall and changing within the year), potential artists, and calendar of events.

Applicants are asked to indicate which geographic Hub connects most strongly to their practice and proposed program.

Concept considerations:

- How does the concept reflect the themes of Creativity and Community - Everywhere” and ArtworxTO’s interest in the unique role that public art plays in our city.
- What ideas are motivating your exhibition?
- What artists and/or works are you considering?
- What are the aesthetic and/or conceptual details of the proposal?

2. PROGRAMMING PROPOSAL (max 250 words)

Outline thinking around exhibition related programming, for example talks, workshops, screenings, performances.

Programming considerations:

- How does the programming reflect the themes of Creativity and Community - Everywhere” and ArtworxTO’s interest in the unique role that public art plays in our city.
- What ideas are motivating your programs?
- What artists and/or topics are you considering?
- What kind of timing are you considering?
- Who is your programming audience?

3. WORKPLAN (max 250 words)

- Describe what you need to adequately plan, install and execute the Exhibition & Programming
- Consider staffing, volunteers, install and removal planning

4. ANTICIPATED AUDIENCE EXPERIENCE (max 250 words)

If you have goals for specific types of audience engagement, list them here

5. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- CV (2 pages) with a cover letter with your experience and interest.
- 2 Letters of reference
- Support Materials – Please submit previous curatorial work. You may submit up to 10 items of support material. Formats can include jpeg, URLs, videos. Please limit total size of support materials to 10MB.
- Title all support materials with “You name_ Exhibition Title_jpeg1.pdf” and have them correspond with your materials list.
- List of support materials- with content descriptions
- Please submit 1-2 writing samples if existing.

Send Applications to: artworxto@toronto.ca

Applications must be submitted online on **October 19, 2020 by 12 pm EST.**

Please include “Call for Curators” in the subject header of your email.

We thank all applicants in advance; however, we will be corresponding only with those selected for an interview.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The City is an equal opportunity employer, dedicated to creating a workplace culture of inclusiveness that reflects the diverse residents that we serve.

ACCOMMODATION

The City of Toronto is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive organization. We are committed to providing barrier-free and accessible employment practices in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Should you require Code-protected accommodation through any stage of the recruitment process, please make them known when contacted and we will work with you to meet your needs. Disability-related accommodation during the application process is available upon request.

MORE ABOUT ArtworxTO

Celebrating Toronto's Art and Community

ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021 will kick-off the City's new 10-Year of Public Art Strategy signalling Toronto's renewed commitment to public art. The program will celebrate Toronto's incredible collection of public art and the artists behind it, while creating more opportunities for the public to connect and engage with the work. Toronto's commitment to this exciting new program underscores a dedication to the arts sector as an essential component of a vibrant city.

ArtworxTO will provide new opportunities for both Toronto and international artists to play a leading role in the development of public art projects within the city. The program will work closely with artists and Toronto's key arts institutions to deliver major public art projects and commissions for 2021.

[More Information](#)