



Public Art Call for Indigenous Artist Mentees



Photo credit: University of Calgary

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. We would also like to note that the University of Calgary is situated on land adjacent to where the Bow River meets the Elbow River, and that the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is "Moh'kins'tsis", which we now call the City of Calgary.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Monday, October 4th, 2021 @ 11:59pm

TO APPLY: Applications should be submitted electronically in *.PDF format to csmengage@ucalgary.ca.

E-mail subject line should read: Indigenous Artist MENTEE Application.

CONTACT: For more information about the project, contact Project Coordinator Dawn Saunders Dahl via email at: indigenouspublicart@gmail.com to arrange a phone or video conference.

CONTRACT PERIOD: November 2021 – May 2022

BUDGET:

- Supplies and installation will be provided
- \$2,500 Artist Fee for each Indigenous Artist Mentee. A maximum of 3 Mentees will be selected.
- Per Diem, Travel, and Accommodation provided if required

1. BACKGROUND:

Art is a social determinant of health and can function as a basic form of communication regardless of language and background to influence the health of individuals and society. Art has the power to serve as a symbol, to promote something in a way that may not have the potential to be articulated through language. It holds a transformative power that extends beyond the visual aspect of an art piece and can offer connection and insight into larger societal questions and concerns.

This jointly funded initiative is supported by the Calgary Arts Development Authority, The City of Calgary and the Indigenous, Local and Global Health Office at the University of Calgary. It is an opportunity to create a large mural (~48' wide x 22' high) for display in the Cumming School of Medicine. This mural will give Indigenous artists from Treaty 7 nations (Blackfoot Confederacy, Tsuut'ina, Stoney Nakoda, and Métis) a space to express their perspectives on inclusion or health and healing. Through the lens of Truth and Reconciliation, the opportunities for the artist in this initiative are endless. This is an opportunity for settlers to learn through artistic expression every time they pass the mural to eat lunch, go to the library, run between meetings, or when they are simply spending time in the atrium where the mural will be displayed. This project is in alignment with the University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine's Indigenous Health Dialogue recommendations for appropriate engagement and inclusion and with principles of *ii' taa'poh'to'p*, the University of Calgary's Indigenous Strategy.

Diversity in medicine is a sociological fact. Pluralism represents the active process of recognizing, respecting and valuing difference. Art enacts pluralism by encouraging us to reevaluate our often-implicit conceptualizations of history which then influence our interpretations of future events. Art emotes and educates, art tells us who we are, where we have been, and where we might go. Art does not just tell 'me who I am', but art tells 'us who we are'. The mural will inspire us to think and feel in new ways, to embody pluralism for future generations of Health Sciences students, staff, and faculty.

2. GOALS:

The wish is for the mural to convey Indigenous wisdom about the complex concepts of inclusion, health, and wellness. The Cumming School of Medicine's intention is that the large scale 2D work of art will be:

- welcoming and inspiring for Indigenous students, staff, and faculty by conveying Indigenous prominence, presence, and permanence;
- a reflection of Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Ways of Doing, Ways of Connecting and Ways of Being;
- an inspiration for settler students through acknowledgement of Indigenous ways of knowing and being;
- an innovative experiential opportunity for all members of the University of Calgary to learn about and learn from Indigenous histories, epistemologies, philosophies, and methodologies;
- a reminder of both 'Truth' and 'Reconciliation', the important work all faculty, staff, and students must do to learn the truths, and actively reconcile the consequences of these truths in the spaces where we learn, work, or socialize;
- be a physical representation of the school's commitment to reconciliation.

3. SCHEDULE (subject to change)

MILESTONES	DATES
Applications for Artist Mentor and Artist Mentee(s) DUE	Monday, October 4 th , 2021 @ 11:59pm
Artist Mentor and Artist Mentee(s) selected	November 2021
Artist Mentor and Artist Mentee(s) Contracts drafted & signed	November / December 2021
Onboard Artist Mentor and Mentee(s)	December 2021
Blessing for Project	January 2022
Consultation with Stakeholders	January 2022
Idea Development	January 2022
Artwork Proposal Review w/Stakeholders	February 2022
Artwork Creation *estimate 2 weeks over 2 months	February – March 2022
Project completion, installation and debrief	April 2022
Celebration and Unveiling	First week of May 2022

4. PUBLIC ART MURAL LOCATION:

The mural will be located within the Cumming School of Medicine at the Foothills Campus of the University of Calgary. It will be installed on a large wall [48'6" (W) x 22'3" (H)] in a high traffic atrium at the junction of the Heritage Medical Research Building (HMRB) and the Health Sciences Centre (HSC). The atrium is an open area that houses a Hippocrates statue and a large staircase that provides access to the library. The Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Office as well as several classrooms and amphitheaters are accessed from this atrium. It is also steps from the Indigenous, Local and Global Health Office.



*Figure 1 - Heritage Medical Research, Health Research Innovation Centre, and Teaching Research & Wellness Buildings
(Photo credit: Ewan Nicholson)*

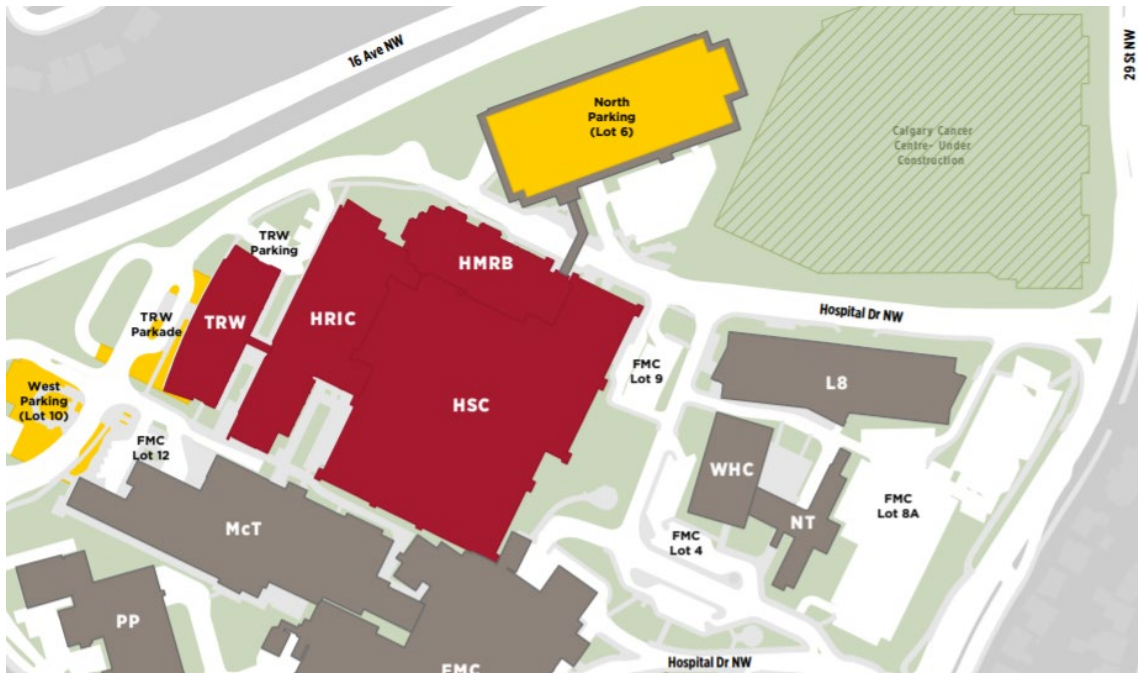


Figure 2 – University of Calgary Foothills Campus Map – The Artwork will be installed at the junction of HMRB and HSC

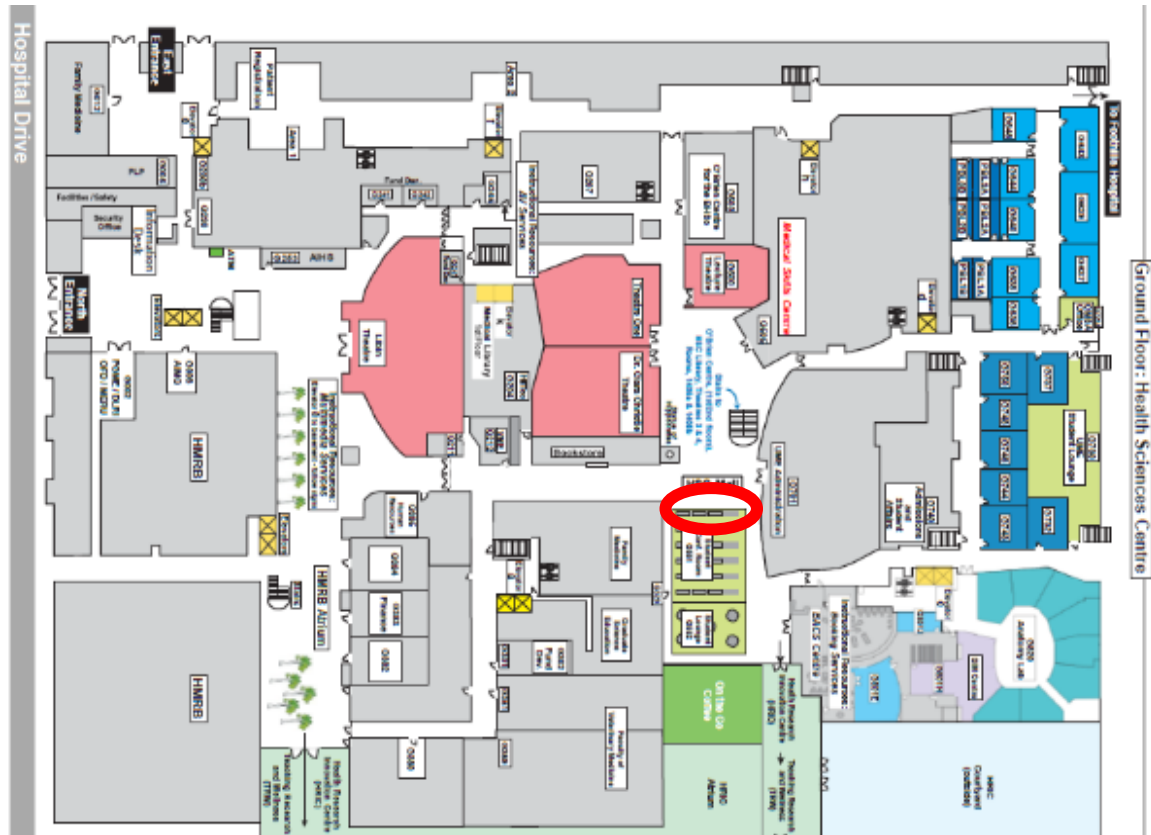


Figure 3 – HMRB / HSC Floor Plan - Red circle represents Artwork Wall

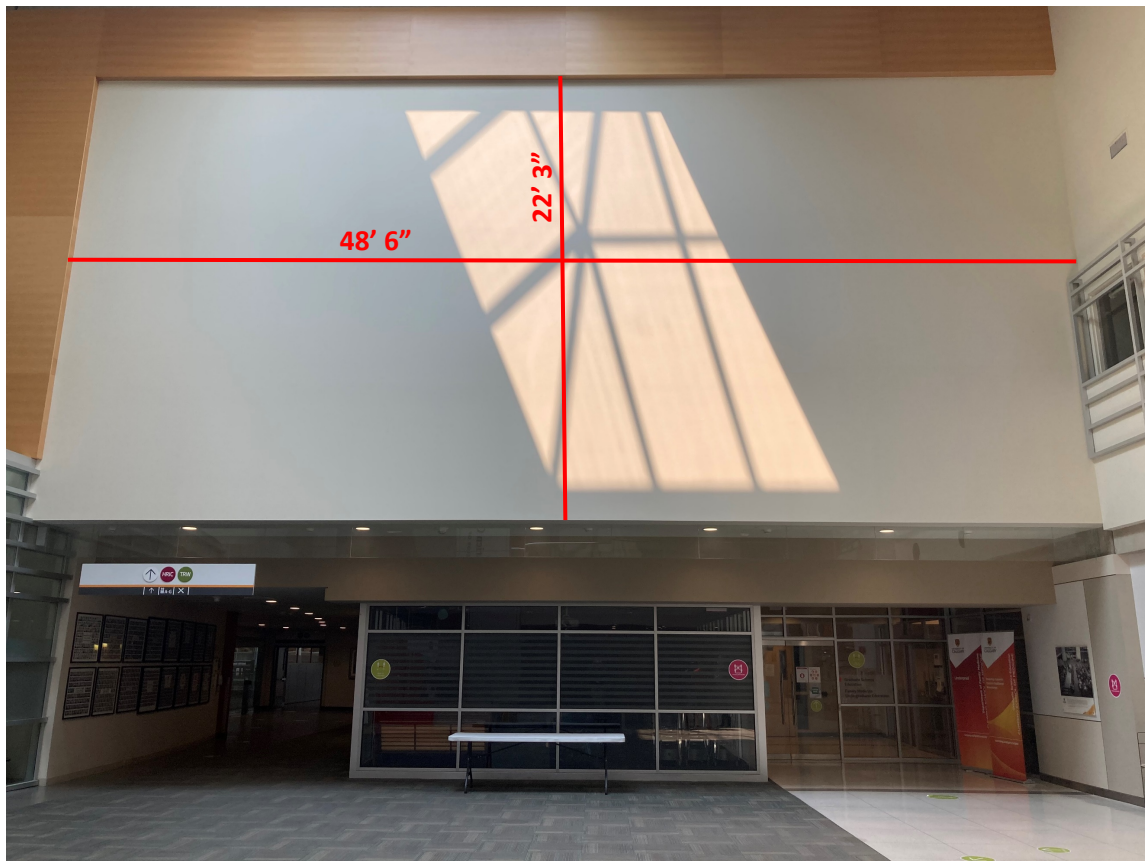


Figure 4 - Location of Artwork Wall with Dimensions (Photo credit: Andrea Brose)



Figure 5 - Entrance to Atrium from HMRB - Artwork Wall on the right (Photo credit: Andrea Brose)



Figure 6 - Atrium area opposite the Artwork Wall (Photo credit: Andrea Brose)



Figure 7 - Atrium area opposite the UME Office - Artwork Wall on the left (Photo credit: Andrea Brose)

5. WHY MENTORSHIP?

Indigenous arts and culture hold an unmeasurable wealth of knowledge and for centuries Elders and knowledge keepers have provided support systems for younger generations on Turtle Island. As Elders and community members pass, that loss of knowledge combined with integration of different world views result in limited opportunities to continue to 'pass the fire'. The goal of embedding a mentorship opportunity within this art project is to provide positive experiences through the transfer of knowledge thus strengthening Indigenous artistic voices within the public art and art exhibition fields.

6. ARTIST MENTEE OPPORTUNITY:

The Indigenous, Local and Global Health Office within the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary is seeking up to 3 Indigenous Artists to collaboratively create a large scale mural to be displayed within a high traffic atrium at the Cumming School of Medicine.

The Artist Mentees will work with the Artist Mentor (TBA) and the Project Coordinator, Dawn Saunders Dahl, to design and create the artwork in consultation with Indigenous Communities. The Artist Mentees will play a role in the design and creation of the mural. They will also receive mentorship and guidance from the selected Artist Mentor. Mentorship and guidance will be provided in all aspects of the public art process including, but not limited to:

- Content experience
- Idea generation and Design development
- Artmaking skills
- Fabricator and Installation knowledge
- Project experience including budget, timeline, and reporting experience

This call is open to all local Indigenous Artists 18 years of age and older, residing within the Treaty 7 region, who are looking to increase their knowledge of large-scale public artmaking. This project will offer opportunities to build artmaking skills and public art project management skills as well as opportunities to build relationships, networks, and new audiences for the artmaking practice of the selected candidates.

The ideal candidate(s) will show evidence of their commitment to artmaking and efforts to progress their career in artmaking. They will demonstrate a desire for a mentorship opportunity. It is encouraged, but not required for candidates to have experience with various artmaking mediums.

7. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Applications will be submitted via email to csmengage@ucalgary.ca (Subject Line: Indigenous Artist MENTEE Application) as one or more clearly labeled *.PDF files.
- Applications must be received no later than **Monday, October 4th, 2021 at 11:59pm.**
- Applications must include:

✓	Artist CV or Resume (3 pages max)
✓	Expression of Interest (1 page max) to describe the applicant's: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Artmaking practice✓ Desire for mentorship
✓	Images of past work (10 *.JPEG images max). Image files must be clearly labeled to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Artist name, Artwork title, Artwork dimensions, Medium used, Year created
✓	Two references. References must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Name, Contact Information, and Relationship to the Artist.

LATE OR INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

8. SELECTION PROCESS

The successful candidate will be selected for this opportunity through both an open call and an invitational process.

Upon submission of their application to csmengage@ucalgary.ca (Subject Line: Indigenous Artist MENTEE Application), applicants will receive, within 2 business days, e-mail confirmation of successful receipt of their complete application. Applications will be reviewed by a Committee comprised of University of Calgary staff, Indigenous Advisory Committee members, and Project Coordinator Dawn Saunders Dahl. The Committee will evaluate applications according to selection criteria including:

- Demonstrated experience in the visual arts; public art experience is an asset, but not required
- Expressed interest in a mentorship opportunity
- Demonstrated interest in collaboration through consultation
- Knowledge of Indigenous art practices and cultural protocols
- Strong communication skills
- Demonstrated understanding of the project and its context
- Experience in project management as related to the creation of public artwork, visual art and / or design is an asset, but not required

All applicants will receive an email regarding the Committee's decision on their application.

THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE DEEMED FINAL.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

University of Calgary employees and Selection Committee members will be required to treat both the content of applicant submissions and deliberations of the Committee as confidential. Committee members will not be permitted to keep copies of applications once the selection has been made. The University of Calgary will keep copies of applications for audit purposes in accordance with University document retention rules.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL SUBMISSIONS, OR ANY PART THEREOF, OR TO TERMINATE OR RE-ADVERTISE THE PROJECT.