



Call to Artists: Toronto Waterfront Artist Residency 2022

Overview

The Waterfront BIA and Waterfront Toronto are seeking applications for an exciting Artist Residency opportunity. The 12-month residency will start in December 2021 with a period of community integration and research, and will culminate with the implementation of projects during 2022, which will coincide with ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art. Artists will have the opportunity to engage with current projects led by the BIA and Waterfront Toronto, as well as connect with members of the local community, in order to develop innovative and compelling art projects that are relevant to Toronto's waterfront. This opportunity is open to all professional artists or artist teams in the Greater Toronto Area who have experience in art presented in the public realm and community-engaged art.

The aim of this residency is to create meaningful, experiential encounters with the community, to activate multiple underutilized spaces along the lakefront, and draw new audiences to the waterfront. It will also develop thinking around the 2022 residency focus on climate change. Projects may include workshops, performances, events, urban interventions, and temporary or ephemeral installations. Interactive and participatory projects will be encouraged, as will projects that invite collaborations with artists from different disciplines. This residency will create an opportunity for artists to expand their practice and develop innovative ways to integrate art into the fabric of the city. It will also contribute towards the ongoing dialogue on public art and civic space.

Climate change – a code red threat to humanity, according to the recent United Nations report – requires us to think differently. It challenges us to imagine alternative futures. Highlighting the urgency around the loss of biodiversity and ecological collapse, as well as intersectional equity issues related to the unevenly distributed impacts of nature, is critical. However, just as important is a call-to-action that offers solutions. Public art can help us reckon with the crisis and provoke creative responses, helping us push the boundaries of what can be possible. This artist residency will address climate change through thematic, and will focus on sustainability and the environment by exploring practices, processes, materials, and reuse as important mitigation solutions towards impacts on nature.

COVID-19 has resulted in a constantly evolving present and an unforeseeable future. The approach to this Artist Residency will be rooted in the current times and must therefore involve flexibility, a willingness to improvise, and an ability to think of new ways of engaging the public and using our public spaces. If restrictions are still in place, the artist must explore creative ways to engage with communities in ways that are exciting and safe for everyone. These processes must take into consideration public health guidelines.

This project is an equal partnership between Waterfront Toronto and The Waterfront BIA. Funding and artist support will be provided by both organizations.



Scope

The selected artist in residence will be expected to:

- Regularly meet (virtually if necessary) with Waterfront Toronto and Waterfront BIA staff to get a good understanding of current projects and missions
- Actively engage with members of the community during the research period (virtually if necessary), and build relationships during the course of the residency
- Plan and implement at least 2 projects throughout the calendar year, finishing in December 2022.
- Provide a plan in March 2022, including deliverables schedule, for at least 2 projects to be completed throughout the year.
- Bi-weekly update reports on progress, including activities, photos, and any measurements or public feedback

Residency support

- Waterfront Toronto will coordinate meetings (virtually, if necessary) with relevant staff on projects that Artists are interested in (flood protection, urban infrastructure, sustainability, innovation, etc.)
- Waterfront BIA will facilitate meetings (virtually, if necessary) with local business, residents and community associations
- **This is not a live-in residency. Artists will not be provided with studio space**
- Waterfront Toronto and Waterfront BIA will assist artists in locating project sites and any required permits for events or physical installations. However, ultimately the artists will be responsible for getting permits.

Budget

The total commissioning amount for this project is **\$85,000 CAD +HST**, split into five phases:

- 1) \$10,000 for start of research period *
- 2) \$20,000 for project implementation, April 2022 *
- 3) \$20,000 for project implementation, July 2022*
- 4) \$20,000 for project implementation, Sept 2022 *
- 5) \$15,000 for project completion, Dec 2022 *

**Milestones to be specified in Artist contract. Budget timelines may be flexible based on artist plan and rollout.*



This budget includes artist fees, materials and equipment, subcontractors, travel, expenses, meetings, reporting, preparation of drawings, permits, fabrication, installation and removal of artwork, and any insurance requirements (artists must be insured throughout the year). Any interdisciplinary collaborations must be subcontracted by the Artist and will be paid by the Artist out of this total budget amount.

Timeline

Issue Call to Artists (Stage 1): September 22, 2021

Submission Deadline: October 27, 2021

Shortlist Interviews (Stage 2): November 8-12, 2021

Proponent Selection: Mid-November 2021

Contract issued: December 2021

Residency Start: December 2021

Research and planning period: December 2021-March 2022

Project implementation: April 2022-December 2022

Waterfront BIA

Representing businesses along the Queens Quay corridor, the Waterfront BIA (WBIA) is committed to supporting businesses, unifying the Waterfront and engaging the community. Activities of the WBIA include representing the area on key policy and advocacy issues, making targeted public realm improvements and highlighting the area's vibrancy with activations and daily promotion online. Visit www.waterfrontbia.com to learn more.

Programming and Activations Mandate:

- Bring people to the waterfront with meaningful and memorable experiences
- Highlight under-utilized spaces and off-seasons
- Collaborate and partner with 'waterfront coalition' stakeholders and producers



Waterfront Toronto

Waterfront Toronto is the public advocate and steward of waterfront revitalization. Created by the Governments of Canada and Ontario and the City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto is mandated to deliver a revitalized waterfront. Formally created in 2001, Waterfront Toronto has a 25-year mandate to transform 800 hectares (2,000 acres) of brownfield lands on the waterfront into beautiful, sustainable mixed-use communities and dynamic public spaces.

The project is one of the largest urban renewal project currently underway in North America. However, it is not just the sheer scale of the project that makes it unique. Waterfront Toronto is delivering a leading-edge city-building model that seeks to place Toronto at the forefront of global cities in the 21st century.

A primary objective of waterfront revitalization is to leverage the infrastructure project to deliver key economic and social benefits that enable Toronto to compete aggressively with other top tier global cities for investment, jobs and people. To do this, Waterfront Toronto brings together the most innovative approaches to sustainable development, excellence in urban design, real estate development, and advanced technology infrastructure.

Some current projects include the Don Mouth Naturalization and Ports Lands Flood Protection, Waterfront Transit Reset, York Street Park, Water's Edge Promenade and Boardwalk, and the Marine Use Strategy.

For a full list of projects, visit

<https://waterfrontoronto.ca/nbe/portal/waterfront/Home/waterfronthome/projects>

Selection Process

This Call to Artists is a two-stage competition. Submissions will be reviewed by an Evaluation Team comprised of arts professionals and subject matter experts, and one local community member. For the second stage of the selection process, shortlisted artists will be invited to an interview to discuss more in-depth their experience, vision, and approach for the residency, as well as the financial viability of their plans.

Eligibility

Artists must be GTA-based and have experience relevant to the project scope and description, including working with set budget and schedules.



Submission Requirements

Please include all requested information **in a single PDF document at a maximum file size of 20MB:**

- 1) Maximum two-page Artist Statement describing the artist's interest in the residency, and why they are drawn to the waterfront. They should broadly give insight into how they plan to research, engage the community, what kind of projects they envision undertaking, how they will interact with the broader public, and create awareness of the projects (including social media, blog, etc.). The statement should include how artists foresee addressing the theme of climate change, sustainability, and the environment.
- 2) Maximum 8 images of previous project with short description, including project name, date and commissioning body. ***No more than 8 images in total for the entire submission, irrespective of how many projects they represent.**
- 3) Artist's CV, no more than 6 pages. One for each team member, if applicable.
- 4) Three professional references (name, email and telephone number), preferably from recent and relevant projects.

***Note: Artwork concepts or detailed project outlines are not required at this stage**

Evaluation Criteria for Stage 1:

Artist Statement & Expression of Interest	35 points
Curriculum Vitae	30 points
Recent Work and Images	35 points
Total Score	100 points

Evaluation Criteria for Stage 2 (Shortlisted Artists only):

Experience	30
Vision and Approach	40
Financial Viability	30
Total Score	100 points



Submission Instructions

Proposals must be received by email to katherine@waterfrontbia.com on or before the submission deadline, with the subject: **Toronto Waterfront Artist Residency Submission**. Late submissions, or submissions that do not comply with the requested requirements and format, will not be accepted.

Proposals must be submitted electronically in **one single PDF document**. File size should not exceed **20MB**.

Submission Deadline: October 27, 2021, at 4:00pm EST.

Submissions sent after the deadline will be disqualified.

For questions, please contact Katherine Hebb at katherine@waterfrontbia.com