

Call to Artists: Expression of Interest

City of Spruce Grove 40th Anniversary Public Art Installation



1. Public Art Opportunity

The City of Spruce Grove is inviting professional artists and artist teams to submit their interest in a large-scale, site-specific public art installation celebrating **Spruce Grove's 40th Anniversary since becoming a city.**

This commission will result in a bold, immersive artwork located **inside the atrium at Heavy Metal Place**, positioned on the wall above the **Cst. Brett Ryan Arena entrance**. As a central gathering space within one of the City's most significant civic facilities, the atrium provides a highly visible opportunity to reflect on Spruce Grove's past, present, and future.

Artists are encouraged to propose work that interprets the anniversary theme creatively, exploring ideas such as growth, community, resilience, identity, shared history, and future aspirations.

Budget: \$25,000 (+GST if applicable)

2. Site Context

Heavy Metal Place is the largest capital project in the City of Spruce Grove's history and serves as a multi-use community hub. The facility includes arenas, a public library branch, arts and culture spaces, a black box theatre, and the Spruce Grove Transit Centre.

The artwork will be located **inside the atrium above the Cst. Brett Ryan Arena** entrance, a space that connects visitors moving throughout the building and offers long sightlines and strong architectural presence.

Approximate Site Dimensions:

- Length: **62 feet**
- Height: **14.75 feet**

Artists may propose a mural installation that responds to the architectural features of the space. Final installation method will be determined in consultation with the City.

3. Theme: 40 Years as a City

This project marks **40 years since Spruce Grove became a city**. Artists are invited to respond to this milestone in ways that feel meaningful to their own practice and perspective.

Proposals may be literal or abstract, historical or forward-looking, narrative or symbolic. Artists are encouraged to consider the site, the community, and the significance of time, change, and continuity, while bringing their own voice, visual language, and conceptual approach to the work.

There is no requirement to depict specific events, people, or timelines. The intent is to allow for a wide range of artistic responses that resonate with the public in different ways.

4. Eligibility

This opportunity is open to **professional artists or artist teams based in Canada**, with demonstrated experience completing large-scale public art projects. Experience working with architectural spaces and public environments is considered an asset.

5. Budget

The total project budget is **\$25,000 (+GST if applicable)** and must include:

- Artist fees
- Design development
- Materials and fabrication
- Equipment rental (a lift will be required to access the wall and required certification to operate the lift are required.)
- Installation
- Transportation and travel
- Insurance and overhead

The selected artist or team will be responsible for managing the project within the approved budget. No additional funding will be provided.

6. Selection Process

This is a **two-stage Request for Interest** process:

Stage One – Expression of interest

Artists submit application for review. A selection committee will shortlist up to three artists or teams.

Stage Two – Design Proposal

Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop a detailed concept proposal. An honorarium will be provided to shortlisted artists for this stage. One artist or team will be selected for the commission.

Final decisions rest with the City of Spruce Grove.

7. Submission Requirements

Please submit **one single PDF file (maximum 25 MB)** including:

- Artist information (name, address, phone, email, website)
 - Letter of interest outlining your approach to this public art (including initial ideas/concept design)
 - CV (maximum 2 pages per artist)
 - Portfolio of up to 10 images of relevant work, including title, year, medium, dimensions, location, and commissioning body
 - Contact information for two professional references
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8. Submission Deadline

Deadline: Monday, April 20th

Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submission instructions and contact details will be provided in the official call release.

8. Questions

Questions may be submitted by email or phone by April 13th, 2026 rhadab@sprucegrove.org | 780.962.7631 (ext. 157)

9. Project Schedule (Estimated)

- April 13th: Deadline for questions
 - April 20th: Submission deadline
 - April 27th: Artists shortlisted
 - June 1st: Proposal from shortlisted artists due
 - June 24th: Artists selected, and contract signed
 - July: Mural execution and completion
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10. Conditions

The City of Spruce Grove reserves the right to reject any or all submissions or to cancel this Call to Artists. Submissions are subject to Alberta's Access to Information Act (ATIA) and Protection of Privacy Act (PPA), formerly the FOIP Act.

11. Land Acknowledgement

The City of Spruce Grove is honoured to acknowledge that we are located on Treaty 6 territory and the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4. This land has long been a place of gathering, sharing, and connection for Indigenous Peoples. The City is committed to advancing Truth and Reconciliation and to fostering respectful relationships with Indigenous communities.