

Call for Artist-Initiated Projects

The City of Oshawa is excited to launch an open call for artist-initiated projects. We are accepting proposals from artists, collectives, and arts groups for all manner of artistic projects, including installations, exhibitions, performances, workshops and temporary public art.

This is an opportunity for artists to submit creative project proposals; artists are encouraged to think outside the box and propose projects they are interested in presenting within Oshawa.

Artists can apply for projects with budgets ranging from \$100.00 to \$4,000.00. Projects that are selected will be presented or installed within Oshawa city limits between July and December 2023.

Applications are due on or before Friday, March 31, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

A virtual information session will take place on Thursday, March 16 at 6 p.m. Please email CultureCounts@Oshawa.ca to register.



Project Objectives

Each year the City of Oshawa is proud to offer arts, culture and heritage programming in alignment with Oshawa's Cultural Strategic Plan, *Culture Counts: Oshawa's Arts, Culture & Heritage Plan*.

We are excited to present our first ever artist-initiated open call in 2023. This program provides increased support for artists, collectives and arts groups by providing the opportunity for the arts, culture and heritage community to propose unique project ideas.

Projects selected through this call will:

- Demonstrate artistic excellence;
- Engage the wider public through the delivery of compelling, unique and meaningful artistic experiences;
- Activate outdoor or indoor public spaces and strengthen the community through creative placemaking; and
- Showcase Oshawa's incredible artistic talent across a diversity of artistic styles and disciplines.

Application Streams

Applications are being accepted in two streams:

- Stream 1: Artist Projects
 - Projects should be short term, lasting from a few hours to a maximum of seven days.
 - Examples include workshops, performances, temporary installations, digital projections/projects, interactive installations, sound/light installations, etc.
- Stream 2: Temporary Public Artworks
 - Accepting applications of proposals for temporary public artworks, which will be exhibited for up to three years.
 - Examples of temporary public artworks include temporary installations, environmental art/land art, temporary sculptures, etc.

Eligibility

The City of Oshawa invites applications from artists at all stages of their career, including emerging, mid-career and established individual artists, as well as from collectives and arts groups. Artists do not need to be working professionally full time in the arts and culture field.

Artists, or the lead applicant if applying on behalf of a collective, must live in or have a significant biographical connection to Oshawa (including work in, have been born in, attended school in or previously lived in). Arts groups must be based in Oshawa.

Applications are being accepted in a wide range of artistic disciplines, including dance, literature, media art, multidisciplinary art, music, theatre and visual art (as defined by the [Ontario Arts Council](#)).

The lead applicant must be 18 years of age or older.

Budget

The lead applicant is responsible for developing and submitting a budget. Artists can apply for projects with budgets ranging from \$100.00 to \$4,000.00.

Eligible costs can include:

- Artist presentation fees (will be paid according to [CARFAC](#))
- Materials and supplies
- Equipment rentals
- Accessibility expenses
- Fabrication expenses
- Honorariums
- Professional or technical fees (e.g. engineering, design, etc.)
- Rental of meeting or studio space for a workshop, performance or presentation

Projects will be assessed for budget feasibility. Please refer to our [Budget Tips](#) document for more information.

Project Considerations

The following considerations are applicable to all project proposals:

- City staff will support successful applicants in the creation of their project by providing resource support through the planning, installation and delivery/execution of the project. This can include connecting artists and

fabricators, assisting with permits and permissions as well as providing general project support.

- Projects must take place in locations that are accessible to the public. Please include information on where you envision your project taking place in your application. The City can facilitate access to the Arts Resource Centre, City recreation facilities and public parks. If your proposed location is on private property please specify this in your application and confirm that you will be able to provide written permission from the owner of the property allowing its use. City staff will help develop a formal building owner agreement if a selected project involves an installation on private property.
- Each year the City offers arts programming as part of **Culture Days**, a national celebration of arts, culture and creative expression. It will take place from September 22 to October 25, 2023. If your project, or an element of it, can be included in Culture Days please include information on this in your application.
- If your project involves working with a vulnerable community (a vulnerable person is defined by the Durham Regional Police as a person who, because of their age, a disability, or other circumstances, whether temporary or permanent are (a) in a position of dependence on others or (b) are otherwise at a greater risk than the general population of being harmed by a person in authority or trust relative to them) Police Vulnerable Sector Checks (PVSC) will be required from anyone in a direct position of trust or authority over those that are considered to be Vulnerable within Canada.
- If a project includes participants under the age of 18, parent/guardian consent to participate must be provided prior to the start of the project.
- Selected applicants will be required to sign a contract detailing scope of work, fees and responsibilities. Successful applicants may need to provide proof of insurance, naming the City of Oshawa as an additionally insured with their insurance provider.

Additional Considerations Related to Public Art Proposals

The following considerations are applicable only to public art project proposals:

- The City of Oshawa has a **Public Art Policy** and **Public Art Master Plan**, which together guide the ongoing implementation of the City's Public Art Program.
- In addition to the general selection criteria for this call for artists, public art proposals will also be evaluated against the Public Art Policy and Public Art Master Plan, which includes a prioritization of locations for public art. The highest ranked locations are Lakeview Park, Memorial Park, Downtown Oshawa, and along the trails that lead to the water and the waterfront.

- Proposals with structural elements must budget for an engineering review to ensure that the safety, structural integrity, longevity, and maintenance plans will meet performance standards to ensure public safety. If your project is selected, licensed architectural and engineering certifications will be required on drawings and plans for projects with structural elements.
- Permits may be required based on the installation needs of the project. Please review the City of Oshawa's [Applications Licences and Permits](#) and include any necessary permit fees in your budget.
- If your project is selected, a maintenance plan will be required for public artworks being installed, in accordance with the Public Art Policy. The plan should include drawings and details on materials, suppliers, fabricators, etc. Specify who is responsible for which aspects of ongoing maintenance, the artist or the City, including removal/repair of any vandalism, as well as additional costs for maintenance completed by the artist.

Health and Safety

Artists must demonstrate the ability to meet all health and safety considerations required to complete their project, including but not limited to:

- Artists and all personnel working on scaffolding or lifts must have or obtain appropriate heights training and fall arrest certification. There must be a fall protection system in place when artists work from an elevation greater than 3 m (10 ft) or where a fall from a lesser height involves unusual risk of injury.
- Knowledge of personal protective equipment that will be required for their project.

Selection Process and Criteria

A Selection Committee comprised of City staff, Cultural Leadership Council members and Public Art Task Force members will review all submissions and recommend projects to move forward. Once selected by the Selection Committee, some projects may require approval by City Council as outlined within the City's Public Art Policy.

All projects will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Artistic merit and significance of the work including quality of work and thoughtful consideration of the site, if applicable;
- Responds to the project objectives; and
- The project is feasible and achievable within the proposed timeline and budget, and the artist has the necessary skills to complete the project.

Public art projects will also be evaluated against the Public Art Policy and Public Art Master Plan, including location, site selection guidelines and criteria.

Ineligible Activities

We will not fund projects that:

- Charge an admission fee;
- Have received City funding in the 2023 calendar year; or
- Have been previously offered; we are seeking proposals for new projects in order to increase the range of artistic activities within the city.

We will not fund proposals from:

- Political organizations;
- City Council affiliated boards or committees;
- Religious or faith-based organizations or groups except where service or programs are delivered to the wider community; does not include religious indoctrination and does not generate revenue to provide funding for the organization; or
- Organizations that receive funding through Oshawa's municipal budget process.

How to Apply

Complete the online application form, available at [Oshawa.ca/ArtistCalls](https://www.oshawa.ca/ArtistCalls) for the relevant project stream.

- Stream 1: Artist Projects
- Stream 2: Temporary Public Artworks

All applicants will be sent an email following their submission to notify them that their submission was received. If you have not received an email within 48 hours of your submission, please contact CultureCounts@Oshawa.ca.

If the files exceeds 20 MB, artists are asked to use an external file share program.

Equity Statement

The City of Oshawa is committed to fostering an equitable and inclusive community that celebrates the diverse lived-experiences of our residents. We encourage submissions from artists from equity-deserving groups that have been historically underrepresented in the arts, including BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour), 2SLGBTQIA+ identifying individuals, people who are Deaf, and persons with disabilities, and strive to eliminate barriers to the meaningful inclusion of members of these communities.

Application Questions

If you have questions about applying, or require accommodations to participate in this process, please contact CultureCounts@Oshawa.ca.

We are happy to provide support and advice related to the application to make this call as accessible as possible to applicants.

Content Policy

All projects must meet certain requirements. These include the following criteria:

1. The content is not in conflict with any laws, City by-laws or policies.
2. The content does not conflict with the City's values, vision or strategic goals.
3. The content does not conflict with goals as outlined in key strategic plans, including the *Diversity and Inclusion Plan* and the *Culture Counts: Oshawa's Arts, Culture & Heritage Plan*.
4. The content does not contain material which could be considered inappropriate, discriminatory, hateful, abusive, insensitive, culturally appropriative or otherwise offensive.

Connection to Culture Counts: Oshawa's Arts, Culture & Heritage Plan

Oshawa's Cultural Strategic Plan, *Culture Counts: Oshawa's Arts, Culture & Heritage Plan* directs and organizes the City's key arts, culture and heritage goals and projects.

Successful implementation of the plan imagines Oshawa as a city in which:

- Cultural vitality is widely acknowledged as essential to making Oshawa a creative, vibrant and sustainable community in which people and business are proud to live, work, learn and play. Culture engages and inspires residents and is

a source of civic pride. Oshawa's strong creative cultural industries are major economic drivers in a thriving creative economy, attracting talent and investment regionally, nationally and internationally.

- A 'culture of design' infuses decisions, producing a city with a vital downtown and beautiful places throughout the community. Oshawa has embraced a vision of a living heritage connecting past and present and encompassing the diverse cultural traditions of all its residents. The City of Oshawa is recognized as a leading municipality integrating culture into all facets of planning and decision-making.

Personal information on this form is collected pursuant to Section 11 of the Municipal Act, 2001 and will be used to determine the eligibility of the request. Questions about this collection should be directed to the City's Freedom of Information Coordinator at 50 Centre Street South, Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 3Z7, by phone at 905-436-3311 or by email at Clerks@Oshawa.ca.