

Call to Artists – Expression of Interest (EOI)

Simcoe Street Transit Terminal

Deadline: February 23, 2026 at 4 p.m.



Photo of the Simcoe Street Transit Terminal (190 Simcoe St, Peterborough, ON) prior exterior renovations.

The City of Peterborough invites professional artists and artist collectives to submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** for **vinyl murals public art project** at the Peterborough Transit Terminal, as part of a major infrastructure upgrade funded through the **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)**.

The vinyl murals will be applied directly to the terminal's exterior concrete columns and façade surfaces, serving as the final finished surface for these areas. The artwork will improve wayfinding by helping users identify entrances, pathways, and key areas; enhance safety through increased visibility and vandalism deterrence; and support accessibility through clear contrast and legible design. The murals will also reflect the diversity, identity, and values of the Peterborough community, creating a welcoming and inclusive transit environment.

Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional and treaty territories of the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include the Anishinaabeg peoples of Hiawatha, Curve Lake, Alderville, Beausoleil, Georgina Island, Rama, and the Mississaugas of Scugog Island.

For thousands of years, the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg have lived in reciprocity with these lands, guided by traditional knowledge, ceremony, and responsibility. These Nations continue to uphold their responsibilities as stewards of the lands, waters, and caretakers of knowledge.

We also acknowledge the lasting impact of those treaties, including the injustices they entailed and the continued strength, resilience, and resurgence of Indigenous communities today. As we live, work, and gather here, we are called to reflect and act on our responsibilities in the spirit of reconciliation, respect, and partnership.

Project Intent and Objectives

The vinyl murals installation directly supports the following project objectives approved through the ICIP grant:

1. Completion of Exterior Finishes

The base-build construction does not include final protective or visual treatment of exposed vertical surfaces. The vinyl murals will serve as the final finish material, improving durability, reducing long-term wear, and completing the architectural intent of the terminal.

2. Public Safety and Accessibility

High-contrast, anti-graffiti vinyl materials will support Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles by improving visibility, reducing vandalism, and enhancing perceptions of safety. Visual clarity and contrast will also support users with visual, cognitive, or sensory disabilities.

3. Wayfinding and User Experience

Bold, legible visual elements applied to structural components will support intuitive wayfinding, helping transit users identify entrances, waiting areas, and circulation routes. This improves navigation, reduces confusion, and supports accessibility for all users.

4. Community Integration and Equity

Developed through an open artist call, the project seeks concepts that reflect Peterborough's diverse communities and transit users. The murals should foster a welcoming, inclusive environment aligned with the City's equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility commitments.

Without the application of these integrated mural finishes, the terminal exterior would remain incomplete, less accessible, and inconsistent with the community-supported design outcomes of the project.



Artwork Parameters

- **Artwork Type:** Integrated, site-specific vinyl murals
- **Location:** Exterior concrete columns and façade surfaces of the Transit Terminal located on 190 Simcoe St, Peterborough, ON
- **Material:** High-performance vinyl with protective laminate (UV- and weather-resistant, anti-graffiti coating)
- **Permanence:** Fixed installation
- **Maintenance:** Low-maintenance

Fabrication & Installation

The total project budget of \$100,000 CAD (inclusive of all fees, expenses, and HST) must cover all aspects of the project, including artist fees, design development, fabrication, and installation of the vinyl murals.

The City will work with the selected artist to ensure alignment with architectural, engineering, and operational requirements.

Eligibility

- Open to professional artists and artist collectives
 - Preference will be given to local and regional artists, consistent with the Public Art Policy
- Artists must demonstrate experience with large-scale, durable, site-responsive work
- Collectives must designate a lead artist
- Artists must be eligible to work in Canada

Competition Structure (Two-Stage Process)

This Call follows the City's approved **Expression of Interest (EOI) – Two-Stage Open Call** process.

Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (This Call)

Artists submit qualifications and examples of past work. No detailed design proposal is required at this stage.

A shortlist of up to **three (3) artists/collectives** will be selected.



Stage 2 – Request for Proposals (Shortlisted Artists Only)

Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop detailed design proposals and will receive a paid design development fee of **\$1,500 CAD + HST**. Proposals may include community engagement activities.

Community presentation will be incorporated as part of the final evaluation.

Budget

- **Total project budget:** \$100,000 CAD (inclusive of artist fees, design, materials, fabrication, installation, insurance, travel, contingencies, and HST)
- **Stage 2 honoraria:** \$1,500 CAD + HST per shortlisted artist/collective

Stage 1 – Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit their application by completing the online form [here](#).

The form will request the following information as a single PDF file, maximum 10 mb:

- **Letter of Interest** (max 1 page), outlining:
 - interest in the project
 - relevant experience
 - preliminary approach to integrated, durable, transit-related work
- **Professional CV** (max 3 pages)
- **Portfolio of Previous Work**
 - Up to 10 images of relevant past projects
 - Include project descriptions, location, cost, materials, scale, year, and role
- **References:** A list of at least two professional references familiar with your work and working methods. The list must include name, title, complete e-mail addresses and telephone numbers.

No concept drawings or budgets are required at Stage 1.

All submitted and final artwork must be accessible to and appropriate for a broad, all-ages public audience. Artwork must not contain or depict derogatory, discriminatory, or offensive imagery, symbols, or language, nor include profanity, hate-based content, or material that could reasonably be considered harmful, exclusionary, or disrespectful to individuals or communities. Submissions that do not comply with these standards will be deemed ineligible and may result in disqualification from the selection process.



Evaluation Criteria (Stage 1)

Submissions will be evaluated by the Public Art Jury using criteria adapted from the City's Public Art Policy and Procedure, including:

- Artistic merit and quality of past work
- Demonstrated experience with large-scale or integrated public art
- Capacity to work within public infrastructure, safety, and accessibility constraints
- Responsiveness to transit environments and public use
- Alignment with equity, inclusion, and community impact objectives

Only submissions that meet the eligibility and content requirements will be scored. The City reserves the right not to award the commission.

Anticipated Project Timeline

The selected artist/team will be expected to comply with the general project schedule outlined below. All dates are subject to change at the discretion of the City of Peterborough.

Date*	Project Phase
January 23, 2026	Issue Call to Artists – Expression of Interest (EOI)
February 23, 2026	EOI Submissions Due (4:00 p.m.)
March 27, 2026	Shortlisted Artist Notified
April 6, 2026	Terms of Reference Issued
May 4, 2026	Artwork Proposals Due
May 29, 2026	Notification of Selected Artist, Contract Execution & Project Kick-Off
June 2026	Project Fabrication
Early September 2026	Installation
Late September 2026	Unveiling Event

*Timeline dates are approximate and subject to change.

Accessibility

The City of Peterborough strives to embrace inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility and is committed to an accessible and inclusive process. If you require accommodation to participate fully in this application or selection process, please contact Stoyan Barakov, Manager, Cultural Services at sbarakov@peterborough.ca or at 705-742-7777 ext. 1481. Accommodation will be provided upon request.



Reserved Rights

The City of Peterborough reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request clarification or additional information from any applicant, to modify the scope of the project, and to cancel, suspend, or reissue this Call without awarding a contract.

Questions & Additional Information

For inquiries related to this opportunity, please contact:

Stoyan Barakov
Manager, Cultural Services
City of Peterborough
Email: sbarakov@peterborough.ca
Phone: 705-742-7777 ext. 1481

