



Call for Expressions of Interest – Gardiner Museum Indigenous Public Artwork

The Gardiner Museum seeks to commission a public artwork to honour the ongoing Indigenous presence on Turtle Island. As a museum that features the exhibition of ceramic art, the Gardiner is uniquely positioned to support a work that is both made from the earth and invokes Indigenous Peoples' connection to the Natural World. On the Ancestral territory and gathering place of the Anishnaabe, the Haudenosaunee, the Petun, the Wendat and the treaty territory of Mississaugas of the Credit, this project may also acknowledge the connections among the many Indigenous communities this land has supported from time immemorial.

PERMANENT INDIGENOUS ARTWORK

Following the City of Toronto's leadership to advance Indigenous placemaking in the public realm, we propose the creation of a permanent artwork by an Indigenous artist on the Gardiner Museum's plaza. This location will allow free public access to the work in the high traffic area of Queen's Park, ensuring widespread visibility and engagement. As a ceramics museum, the Gardiner celebrates the material of the earth itself, making it an ideal location for a physical embodiment and recognition of Indigenous presence on the land.

It is critical that the project speaks to both the general public and local and regional Indigenous communities.

FUNDING

This project is funded primarily by a grant from ArtworxTO Year of Public Art, as well as a financial contribution by the Gardiner Museum.

ADVISORY GROUP

An Advisory Group will work with the Gardiner Museum and guide the project, including the selection process and the eventual choice of the work to be installed on the Gardiner Museum plaza.

The Advisory Group is chaired by Gardiner Board Member Kent Monkman and includes:

- Andre Morriveau, Communications Manager, Ontario Native Women's Association

- Kerry Swanson, Managing Director, Indigenous Screen Office
- Catherine Tamaro, Chair of the Indigenous Arts Committee; Board of Directors, Toronto Arts Council
- Mary Anne Barkhouse, Artist
- Jason Ryle, Independent Arts Consultant
- Kent Monkman, Artist
- Duke Redbird, Elder, Saugeen First Nation
- Sequoia Miller, Chief Curator, Gardiner Museum

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In keeping with the Gardiner's mission to *build community with clay*, the commissioned artwork must be clay-based or involve a significant ceramic component. The artwork ideally should relate to the land and could, for instance, be installed in the plaza surface or on a wall with a direct relationship to the earth/land. The work could be a more traditional sculpture, but as such it must fit with the three other artworks on the plaza (2 currently installed, 1 anticipated in spring 2020).

The artwork is an opportunity to recognize the history and ongoing Indigenous presence on Turtle Island. It can also represent a welcome to the Museum, and its placement can accentuate this aspect of the work. The work should explicitly communicate its content, so that viewers will readily recognize its function of representing, honouring, and evoking Indigenous communities' presence on and relationship to the land.

LOCATION OPTIONS

Several location options are possible for this work and are indicated on the attached plaza plan. Proposals, when they are requested, should be for one of these locations on the plaza. Artists are encouraged to visit the site if possible, to get a better sense of the proposed location options.

Option #1: Pavement in front of the main entrance

Option #2: The ramp; 2a ramp surface; 2b ramp interior walls

Option #3: South garden; 3a garden area; 3b ramp exterior wall (an electrical box is in this location)

Option #4: Pavement between the stone steps and the city sidewalk; this area relates to the Gardiner front steps and backlit signage

Option #5: Upper plaza area to the north of the main entrance (includes a large tree)

Please see the attached plan and images in Appendix A for further indication of placement options.

PLACEMENT LIMITATIONS

Proposals cannot impede the use of the proposed areas. For instance, clay classes/social events on the plaza in front and to the north of the main entrance. As well, the ramp and area to the south of the main entrance must remain open such that a skyjack that installs advertising on the building can continue to have access.

LIGHTING

All three of the permanent sculptures that will be in place when the land recognition artwork is installed will be lit so they are visible at night. The land recognition artwork, if possible, should be able to be illuminated.

CERAMICS AND DURABILITY

All three of the Gardiner Museum's public artworks are primarily ceramic and it is assumed the land recognition artwork will be as well. It is imperative that the successful proposal can demonstrate its suitability for an outdoor installation, e.g., withstand winter temperatures, moisture, etc. This usually requires the use of proven technology or documented testing of the fabrication proposal.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND QUALIFICATIONS

Interested artists are requested to please submit the following:

1. Letter of intention describing what interests you about this project (up to 1 page)
2. CV or narrative description of background, training, and artistic work (up to 5 pages)
3. Images of completed artworks or artistic projects, including title, date, materials, and site (up to 20 images total)
4. A signed Agreement to Propose and Consent form (attached in Appendix B)

Please submit materials as a single digital PDF or hard copy packet. Complete submissions must be received by the Gardiner Museum by **5pm EST on January 15** in order to be considered. Incomplete submissions will be subject to disqualification. All submission materials will be retained by the Gardiner Museum.

SELECTION PROCESS

Following a review of the request for qualifications submissions, the Advisory Group will invite three artists to develop full proposals. Guidelines will be included with the invitations to propose. Each proposal will be required to demonstrate its feasibility, including meeting budgetary and durability constraints once installed on the Gardiner plaza. The Advisory Group will then select a project from the finalists.

Depending on the nature of the selected work, the next stage will include prototyping and materials testing. If there are no technical issues, or the selected work does not require prototyping, it will go immediately into production. All aspects of installation will be confirmed before fabrication begins.

BUDGET

Each artist asked to submit a full proposal will receive a fee of \$2000 (plus HST). The selected artist will have a project budget of \$80,000 (plus HST). This amount assumes an artist's fee of \$30,000 and fabrication costs of up to \$50,000. Fabrication includes all testing required to demonstrate the suitability and ability of the work to withstand climate conditions. Additional funding up to \$3000 is allocated for conveyance of the work to the site. Installation costs for free-standing sculptural works, including plinth and lighting, will be borne by the Museum. Site

preparation and installation costs for a work installed in the pavement or on an existing wall surface, e.g., a ceramic mural, must included in the project budget.

ABOUT THE GARDINER MUSEUM

The Gardiner Museum wants people to experience ceramics as an art form that has enriched life for thousands of years, and as a craft that remains a vital medium for creativity. The Museum stewards a highly important collection, connecting visitors to the fundamental role of ceramics in many cultures throughout history, and offers special temporary displays, many highlighting the relevancy of ceramics to contemporary life. The Gardiner is among the few museums in the world focused on ceramics and is one of the most important specialty museums internationally. Learn more at www.gardinermuseum.com.

WHO CAN APPLY

We welcome applications from Indigenous artists (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis). We ask applicants to identify Nations with which they affiliate.

Applicants should also meet the criteria of a practicing artist as defined by the Canada Council for the Arts:

- *has specialized training in the artistic field (not necessarily in academic institutions)*
- *is recognized as a professional by his or her peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition)*
- *is committed to devoting more time to artistic activity, if possible, financially*
- *has a history of public presentation or publication.*

Artists may apply individually or can submit a collaborative team proposal.

Artists directly involved with the Gardiner Museum are welcome to participate.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

November 25 2020	Call for Interest circulated
January 15 2021	Initial packets received by the Gardiner Museum by 5pm EST
January 2021	Advisory Group selects finalists to make a full proposal
February 15 2021	Full proposals received by the Gardiner Museum by 5pm EST
February 20 2021	Advisory Group selects artist/proposal
Fall 2021	Installation of work on the Gardiner plaza and unveiling of artwork

CONTRACT

The winning artist will enter into a contract with the Gardiner Museum based on current public art models. The Gardiner Museum reserves the right to terminate the contract (with or without cause) at any time.

COPYRIGHT AND OWNERSHIP

The sculpture created for this project will be owned by the Gardiner Museum. The artist must guarantee that the artwork is original and does not violate the copyright of any other person.

The artist will retain copyright of the sculpture but will grant the Gardiner Museum the exclusive right to exhibit the work in perpetuity and the non-exclusive right to reproduce images or videos of the artwork for non-profit purposes such as marketing and promotion, documentation, education and for commercial broadcast purposes. The Gardiner Museum may carry out conservation and maintenance as deemed necessary to protect the artwork and the premises and reserves the right to move or deaccession the sculpture.

Please submit proposals to:

Digital: artworxto@gardinermuseum.on.ca

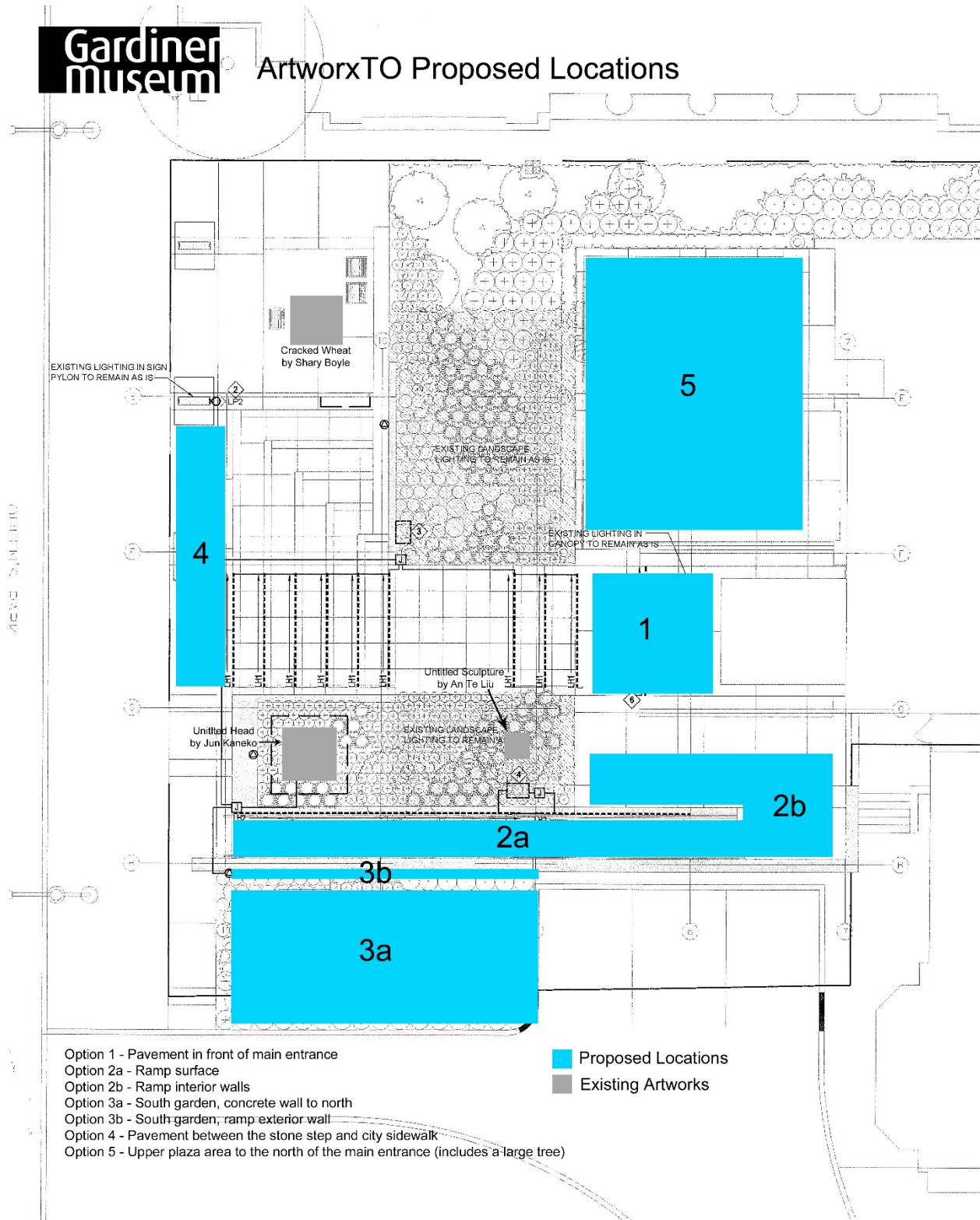
Physical:

Kent Monkman
C/o Gardiner Museum
111 Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M5S 2C7

For questions, please contact

Sequoia Miller
Chief Curator, Gardiner Museum
sequoia@gardinermuseum.on.ca
416-408-5072

Appendix A – Site Plan and Images



OPTION 1 – PAVEMENT IN FRONT OF MAIN ENTRANCE



OPTION 2A AND 2B – RAMP SURFACE AND RAMP INTERIOR WALLS





OPTION 3A AND 3B – SOUTH GARDEN AND RAMP EXTERIOR WALL



OPTION 4 – PAVEMENT BETWEEN THE STONE STEP AND CITY SIDEWALK



**OPTION 5 – UPPER PLAZA AREA TO THE NORTH OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE
(INCLUDES A LARGE TREE)**



Appendix B

Agreement to Propose and Consent Form

Submissions that do not include a completed Agreement to Propose and consent form will be disqualified

Terms and Conditions

Each artist, or if the artist is forming a team, each artist team member, **must** complete this form and return it to the Gardiner Museum along with their submission.

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I have read Gardiner Museum Land Recognition Artwork call for proposal and that I am submitting my credentials for review. Should the submission of these credentials not result in advancement to future stages of the selection process for the public art, I shall not hold any agent or employee of the Gardiner Museum personally liable or the Advisory Group related to this commission.

I stipulate and agree that under no circumstances may I or my representatives or others acting for me, lobby members, agents or consultants of the Gardiner Museum, nor engage others to lobby on my behalf for advancement in the selection or for a commission.

I understand that all decisions made by the Gardiner Museum are final and that they may suspend, delay or cancel the project at its option at any time and without penalty.

I understand that failure to follow these terms and conditions will result in disqualification.

Signed:

Dated:

Name:

All artists or artist team members are to sign. If a Team is proposed, name a Team Leader as the primary contact.

Name of Artist:

Address:

Telephone (Day):

Email: