TransLink

CALL FOR ARTISTS

MARPOLE TRANSIT CENTRE PUBLIC ART PROJECT

Submission Deadline: November 2nd, 2026
Artwork Budget: $500,000
Artist Fee: $80,000

TransLink, in collaboration with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), invites xʷməθkʷəy̓əm artists and artist teams to apply for the Marpole Transit Centre Public Art Project.

BACKGROUND

Marpole Transit Centre

Located at 502 West Kent Avenue South in Vancouver, within the wider area of c̓əsnaʔəm, traditional territory of the Musqueam people, and on the Fraser River, TransLink's new Marpole Transit Centre is being built to support growing demand for public transit in Metro Vancouver and TransLink's zero-emissions bus fleet. The facility will provide a new home for bus operations, maintenance and charging infrastructure.

TransLink acknowledges the cultural significance of this area to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm's deep and ongoing relationship with these lands and waters.

Through discussions with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, the opportunity to integrate xʷməθkʷəy̓əm artwork into the new Marpole Transit Centre was identified as an important part of the project. The artwork will create a significant and highly visible xʷməθkʷəy̓əm presence within the new facility. This opportunity is open exclusively to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm artists, and the selected artwork will be representative of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm culture.

c̓əsnaʔəm and the Fraser River

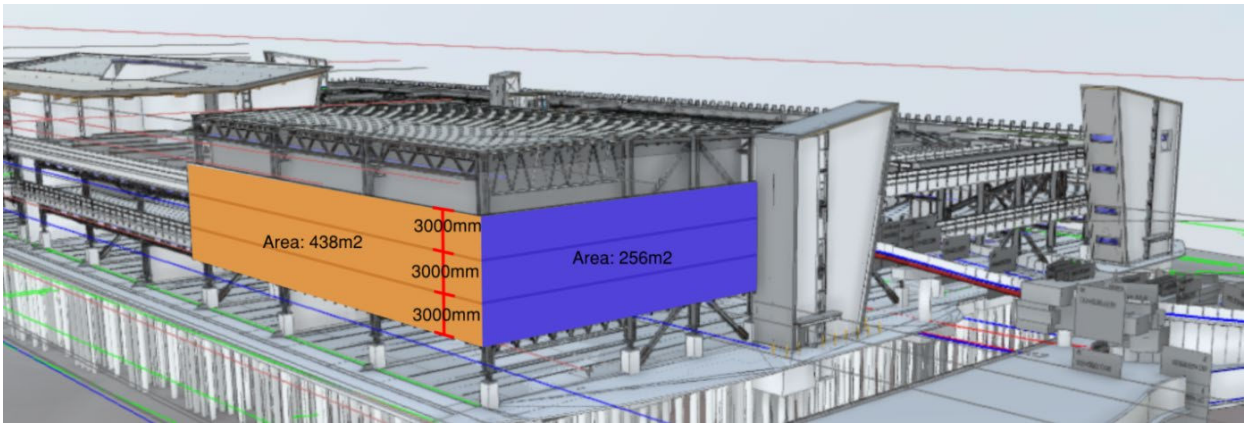
Through our relationship with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, and the knowledge and history xʷməθkʷəy̓əm has shared with TransLink and publicly, we understand the Marpole Transit Centre sits within the broader context of c̓əsnaʔəm and the Fraser River. We acknowledge the importance of the river and surrounding lands and waters to generations of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm life and culture, including fishing and gathering, movement and travel, trade and relationships, and as places of cultural practice, knowledge and memory.

In developing this art opportunity, TransLink recognizes that xʷməθkʷəy̓əm artists bring their own knowledge, relationships and perspectives to this wider area, its history and its living cultural significance. The context provided here reflects what xʷməθkʷəy̓əm has shared with TransLink and publicly and is intended to acknowledge the significance of the place in which the project is being undertaken. Artists are invited to approach the opportunity through their own artistic practice, cultural knowledge and relationship to place.

ART OPPORTUNITY

The selected xʷməθkʷəy̓əm artist or artist team will create a large-scale artwork for the exterior façade of the new Marpole Transit Centre.

The artwork opportunity extends across two connected façades of the building: approximately 438 m² on the south façade and 256 m² on the west façade, with an overall height of approximately nine metres. These areas represent the maximum available footprint for the artwork; artists are not expected to cover the full area. The final scale and extent of the artwork will be determined through the artist's Concept Proposal and subsequent design process and must fit within the available project budget of $500,000.



The artwork will have significant visibility beyond the Transit Centre itself, with views from the Fraser River and the Canada Line pedestrian and cycling bridge. Its scale, location, and visibility provide an opportunity for a bold and meaningful artwork with a strong presence within the surrounding landscape and for people travelling through the area.

Two fabrication approaches are available for artists to work with in developing the artwork:

1. **Ombrae sculptural imaging technology** creates dimensional imagery through variations in a sculpted metal surface, allowing the artwork to shift in appearance with changing light and viewing angles.
2. **Custom art printing on aluminum panels** allows the artist's original artwork and use of colour to be reproduced at an architectural scale across the façade.

Both systems are durable and designed for integration into the building exterior. Artists will also be asked to consider how lighting will be incorporated into the artwork to increase its visibility and presence, particularly at night.

Image 1: Ombrae sculptural imaging technology

Image 2: Custom art printing on aluminum panels

The final size and extent of the artwork will depend on the artist's artwork and lighting design, and fabrication approach, possible within the available project budget.

The selected artist will work with TransLink's Senior Public Art planner, the project architectural and lighting design teams, and a specialized artwork fabricator to translate their artwork into the final façade installation. Previous experience with these fabrication systems is not required, and technical support will be provided throughout design development.

ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

The artist or artist team will be selected through a **two-stage selection process**.

First Stage:

In the first stage, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm artists and artist teams are invited to submit an Expression of Interest, including a Letter of Intent, artist biography/CV, and up to 10 images of past work. Artists are not being asked to develop or submit an artwork concept at this stage. A Selection Panel composed of five voting members including three xʷməθkʷəy̓əm members, and two TransLink representatives will review the submissions and select three artists or artist teams to advance to the second stage.

Second Stage:
The three shortlisted artists or artist teams will receive an honorarium of $5,000 to develop a comprehensive Concept Proposal for the Marpole Transit Centre façade that reflects the available project budget of $500,000. Artists will be provided with site and technical information and will have access to the project's artwork fabricator and lighting designer to support the development of their proposals. Each Concept Proposal will be required to accurately represent the scale and extent of the artwork, proposed material and fabrication approach, and lighting design within the available budget.

Following a formal evaluation of the three Concept Proposals, the Selection Panel will select one artist or artist team for the project. The selected artist or artist team will enter into an artist contract with TransLink to develop the final artwork in collaboration with TransLink, the project design team and the artwork fabricator.

This Artist Call represents the first stage of the artist selection process.

HOW TO APPLY TO THIS ARTIST CALL

Please submit the following as **one PDF document** no larger than 10MB:

- A **Letter of Intent (1 page, or up to 2 pages, single spaced)** describing:
  - Your interest in the project;
  - How you would approach the opportunity through your artistic practice, cultural knowledge and relationship to place, including the wider area of ċəsnaʔəm and the Fraser River; and
  - How your approach would represent xʷməθkʷəy̓əm culture.
- **Up to 10 images of previous artwork** that demonstrate your artistic practice and experience.
- A short **Artist Biography and CV** outlining your artistic background and experience.

Please do not submit an artwork concept or design at this stage.

Send your submission or any questions to Klara Manhal, Senior Planner, Public Art Program at **klara.manhal@translink.ca** by November 2nd, 2026**.**

SELECTION CRITERIA

Submission materials will be evaluated by the Selection Panel using the following criteria:

1. **Artistic excellence and suitability for the opportunity:** Strength of the artist's past work, and the suitability of their artistic practice and approach for this public art opportunity.

2. **Degree of thought, imagination and intention expressed in the Letter of Intent:** Including how the artist proposes to approach creating artwork that represents Musqueam culture and responds meaningfully to the significance of the wider area of ċəsnaʔəm.

3. **Potential to engage public audiences:** Potential for the artist's approach and artistic practice to create a meaningful and engaging experience for diverse public audiences.

ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm artists and artist teams. An artist team is two or more xʷməθkʷəy̓əm artists applying together. Teams may include artists working collaboratively, artists with different skills or experience, or mentorship between emerging and established artists. Mentorship is welcome but is not required.

Applicants must be 19 years of age or older to enter into a contract with TransLink. Artist teams may include members under the age of 19; however, the contract with TransLink will be executed by the team member(s) who are 19 years of age or older.

PROJECT BUDGET

Artwork Budget: $500,000
Artist Fee: $80,000

This is a design-only public art commission. The selected artist or artist team will be responsible for developing a comprehensive artwork design for the Marpole Transit Centre façade, including the final artwork imagery, scale and extent, material application (Ombrea system, or painted aluminum panel), and integration of lighting.

The artist fee is $80,000 and covers all work required to develop the artwork from concept proposal through detailed and final design, including collaboration with TransLink, the project design team, artwork fabricator and lighting designer.

TransLink will be responsible for the fabrication and installation of the artwork and lighting. The $500,000 fabrication and installation budget is separate from the artist fee and will be managed by TransLink. The selected artist will work closely with the fabricator and lighting designer throughout design development to ensure the final design can be successfully fabricated and installed within the available $500,000 budget.

PROJECT TIMELINE

*Please note dates are subject to change

Call for Artists Posted	October 9th, 2026
Call for Artists Closes	November 2nd, 2026
Short-listed Artists Selected and Notified	Mid-December
Short-listed Artist Concept Proposal Development	January/February – March/April 2027
Final Artist/Artist Team Selected	April/May 2027
Artist Contracting	May/June 2027
Artist's Detailed Design	Q3 '27 – Q2 '28
Fabrication	Q2 – Q3 2028
Installation	Q4 2028