

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
ESTABLISHED ARTISTS FOR PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES

RAILSIDE
AT THE FORKS



1.0 INVITATION

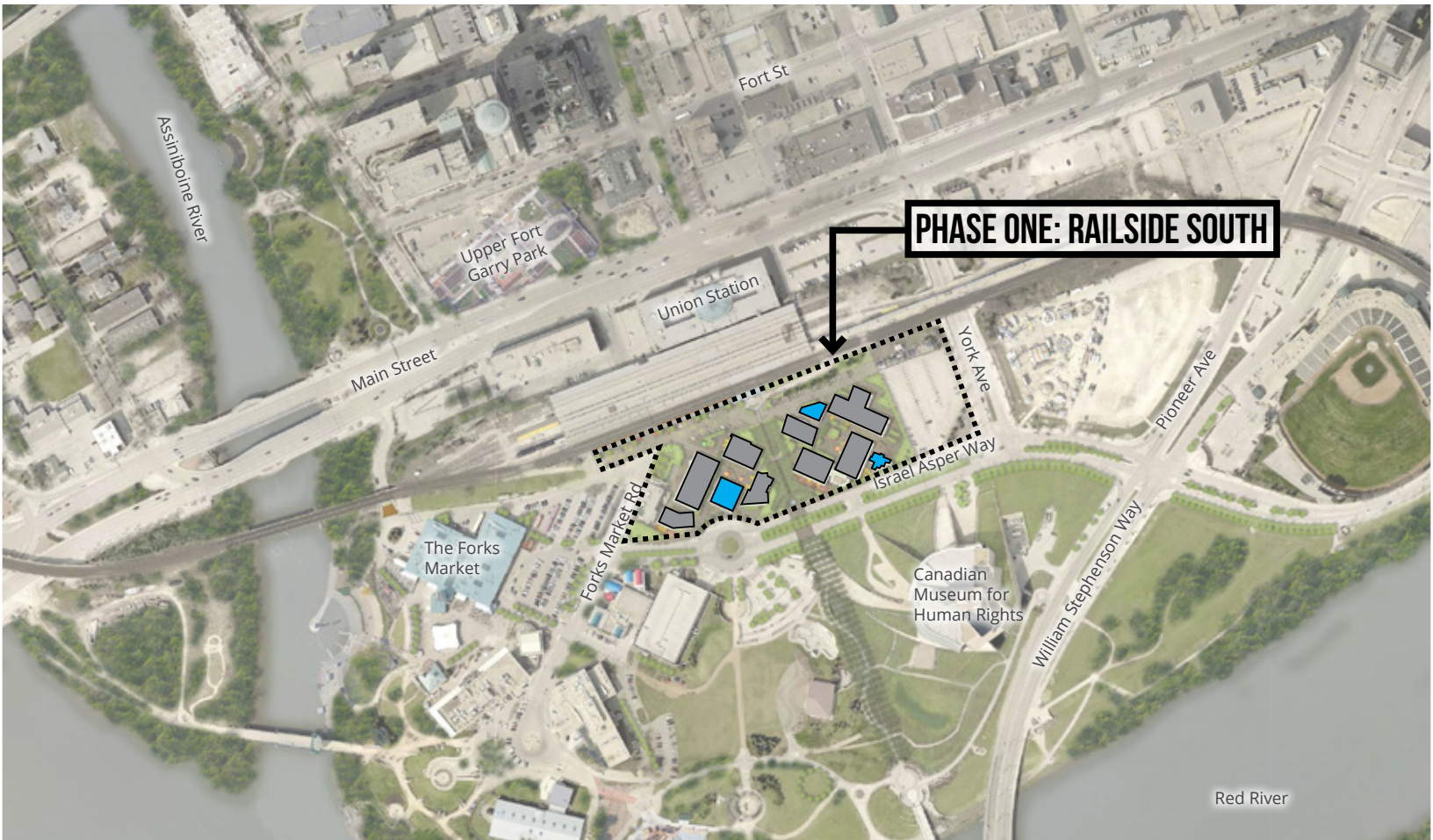
The Forks Renewal Corporation (FRC) invites established Manitoba artists and artist teams to submit their qualifications and expressions of interest for a permanent public art commission within the Railside at The Forks (Railside) development.

This is an open competition for an “Established Manitoba Artist”, with an all-inclusive budget to completion of \$350,000. It is being administered by FRC with funding from Tax Increment Financing from both the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba.

The winning commission will be completed and installed within Railside in early 2025.

This RFQ contains all the information required to apply for this opportunity. Up to three Established Artists will be chosen from this RFQ to develop a proposal.

The deadline for submissions is November 9, 2023.





Outdoor Common at The Forks

1.1 The Forks

Located at the junction of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers, The Forks has been a gathering place for over 6,000 years. Indigenous peoples first traded on these lands, followed by European fur traders, Scottish settlers, riverboat workers, railway pioneers, and tens of thousands of immigrants.

Today, The Forks is a vibrant public space at the heart of Winnipeg's downtown where locals and tourists gather for celebrations, recreation, and much like the early Indigenous peoples, to meet one another. As one of Manitoba's most popular attractions, the 56-acre site features local shops, restaurants, The Forks Market, some of the City's best open public spaces, and a number of major cultural facilities, including the Children's Museum, Manitoba Theatre for Young People and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The Forks welcomes nearly 4 million visitors each year.

The mission of The Forks is:

"The Forks shall be developed as a 'Meeting Place,' a special and distinct, all-season gathering and recreational place at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, through a mixed-use approach including recreational, historical and cultural, residential, and institutional and supportive commercial uses."

More information about The Forks is available online at: www.theforks.com.



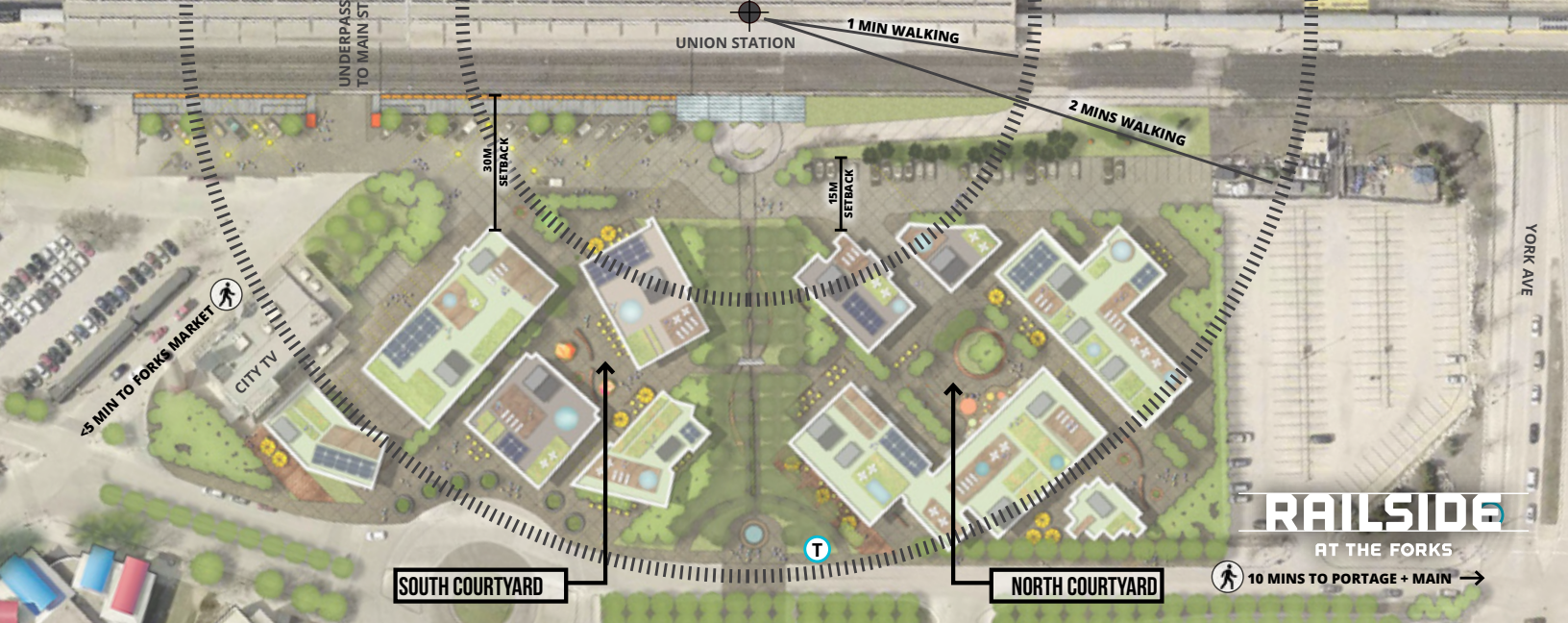
1.2 Railside at The Forks

Consistent with FRC’s mission statement, the vision and direction for the Railside development is based on a 20-year strategy to transform two surface parking lots into a complete mixed-use neighbourhood that builds on the rich amenities of The Forks. The overarching goal is to create more of The Forks and be a welcoming place for all.

The vision for Railside has been further reinforced through an extensive and ongoing consultation process with key stakeholders, including FRC’s Federal, Provincial, and City shareholders, and the wider public, which has defined and shaped the following guiding principles as the basis for the emerging Railside Development Framework:

- 1 **Ensure Accessibility** – to a diversity of development interests, entrepreneurs, residents, and the public;
- 2 **Encourage A Mix of Uses** – including high quality public spaces, retail, commercial, live/work, condominium, and rental residential;
- 3 **Implement A Green Approach** – to development and operations, based on The Forks’ Target Zero initiative;
- 4 **Design for Winnipeg’s Varied Climatic Conditions;**
- 5 **Demonstrate Innovation and Design Excellence;** and
- 6 **Strengthen Connections to the City.**

More information about Railside at The Forks is available online at: www.railsideattheforks.com.



2.0 OPPORTUNITY

Emphasizing environmental, economic and social sustainability, Railside will integrate a complete mix of uses that build on and celebrate the site’s abundant cultural, historic, and recreational assets, while maintaining access for every citizen and visitor alike.

The Forks is consistently regarded among the top public spaces in North America. It has a philosophy of “make it beautiful” that touches everything from washroom design to roadways. Over the last 30 years, The Forks has become home to over 30 works of art, from Ai Weiwei to graffiti, both temporary and permanent. Accordingly, expectations are high when it comes to the quality of public space.

Creating and maintaining high quality public spaces that are animated year-round is central to the vision for Railside. Beyond integration with the broader Forks site, any new public spaces must not only meet the needs of future residents living at Railside, but of all visitors to The Forks.

2.1 The Space

The first phase of development, which is the focus of this RFQ, includes the development of two (2) central urban squares, connected via a network of short streets and alleys. The design will create an inviting village atmosphere that draws people in and encourages them to explore and discover. Public art is a critical element in creating that atmosphere.

The possibilities for public art within these spaces are wide ranging, and could include, but are not limited to: lighting, murals, sculpture, and functional/integrated elements. Public art in Railside will reinforce placemaking objectives by adding character and distinction to these spaces through the installation of innovative art.

FRC will commission art that is iconic, impactful, durable, and requires minimal maintenance.



3.0 ELIGIBILITY

This is a public competition open to professional artists and artist teams either residing in (i.e., the applicant's primary residence), or originating from (i.e., born or spent formative years) Manitoba.

Artists working in any media may apply individually or as an artist team.

Through this RFQ, FRC is seeking to commission at least one (1) work from an Established Manitoba Artist or artist team; an Established Manitoba Artist being a mid to late-career artist who has garnered national or international attention for their work, including prior public art experience.

For the purposes of the Railside Phase 1 Public Art Opportunities, the Artist Selection Panel will shortlist artists based on the following definition and the selection criteria listed in the competition RFQ.

Established Manitoba Artist: One whose qualifications and professional experience in the field of public art demonstrate artistic excellence and the technical ability to plan, coordinate, and execute large scale permanent installations.

The Established Manitoba Artist selected through this RFQ may be asked to participate in the review and selection process of the Emerging Manitoba Artist.

The commissioned artist will work collaboratively with FRC's site design advisors on the Railside Design Advisory Committee and project architects to refine and integrate their artworks within the overall site design.

FRC's intends to create an artistic mentorship opportunity whereby the winning established artist will mentor an emerging artist, to be selected during a future RFQ process.

4.0 TOTAL BUDGET

The total budget available for the Established Artist public art competition, including artist fees and related expenses, is \$350,000 plus GST and PST. Artists selected to develop a proposal will receive an additional proposal fee. No further compensation will be made to the artist for costs associated with participating in the selection process of the Established Artist competition.

The \$350,000 budget includes, but is not limited to: artist fees; technical consultation; travel to the site and project meetings; purchase of relative materials; engineering fees; fabrication; site preparation and labour; delivery and installation of artwork; insurance and/or permit fees as required by the FRC and/or the City of Winnipeg; electrical lights integral to the art; contingency; maintenance plan documentation; and, attendance at the unveiling of the completed artwork(s).

5.0 SELECTION PROCESS

Both the artist shortlist and final awards will be conducted by an Artist Selection Panel (the Panel). The Panel is composed of independent arts professionals. Representatives of FRC and a member of the Railside Design Advisory Committee will serve as technical advisors.

Upon review of all submissions, the Artist Selection Panel will select a shortlist up to three (3) artists as finalists to develop a proposal.

Finalists will be invited to respond to a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) package and will be paid \$2,500 CAD (plus GST) to develop their proposal submissions.

The shortlisted finalists will be invited to present their proposals virtually to the Artist Selection Panel. Based upon the proposal reviews and interviews, the Panel will award commissions to up to one (1) artist and/or artist team.

The commissioned artworks must comply with all applicable City of Winnipeg standards and regulations, including permitting, safety, and accessibility.

Artist teams may not change over the life of the project.



5.1 Anticipated Schedule: Established Artist Competition

The following is an overview of the anticipated project schedule. FRC reserves the right to change or extend the dates and/or solicit more RFQ submissions if deemed necessary.

Milestone	Date
Issuance of RFQ document	September 27, 2023
RFQ submission deadline	November 9, 2023
Interviews (if required)	November 2023
Selection of shortlisted finalists	December 2023
Artwork/concept proposal deadline	February 2024
Proposal presentations	February 2024
Finalist award/commission	March 2024
Design development (in collaboration with Railside Design Advisory Committee)	Spring 2024
Artwork fabrication commencement	Spring/Fall 2024
Artwork installation and unveiling	2024/2025





5.2 Selection Criteria

The Artist Selection Panel will evaluate applications on the basis of:

1. Artistic excellence, skill, innovation, and merit. Samples of previous work should demonstrate:
 - + Innovative approaches to materials, methodologies, and public engagement;
 - + Professional and technical capacity to plan, coordinate, and execute a public artwork in collaboration with FRC Administration, contractors, and the general public; and
 - + Ability to respond to the built environment.
2. Qualifications and professional experience.
3. Approach to, and interest in, the project, as expressed in a Statement of Interest / Artist Statement. This statement should convey alignment with the overall vision for Railside.
4. Interest/experience in mentoring emerging artists.

6.0 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A complete application must include:

- 1 Contact Information** – Including full name, business name (if applicable), mailing address, telephone, and email. Teams must identify one artist to be FRC’s primary contact for the team, as well as contact information for each artist on the team.
- 2 Statement of Interest / Artist Statement** – (PDF or DOC format only, 1 page max.) – Written expression of interest in creating a public art project for Railside.
- 3 Curriculum Vitae** (PDF or DOC format only, 4 pages max.) – Please submit a CV for each person on the primary team.
- 4 Portfolio of Artworks or Past Projects** – (up to 10 files/images of past work max.; PDF or JPG format only, 72 DPI min, 5 MB max. per file) – Submit images of completed artwork; teams are encouraged to include projects created by the team. Each of the image files must include the title of the image, year, size, materials, and brief description. For any commissioned project(s), also include the client, budget, and location.
- 5 Two References** – Including full name, business name (if applicable), telephone, email, and their relation to your work.

**Additional material included that is not requested by FRC will not be reviewed.*

Applicants should not include any specific proposal(s) at this time. Any such elements will be redacted from the application prior to review by the Artist Selection Panel (refer to the “Selection Process” section), or the application may be deemed disqualified and not be reviewed.

All applications must be submitted by email to: publicart@theforks.com.
Subject: Established Artists RFQ – Railside at The Forks

The deadline to apply is November 9, 2023 at 11:59 PM CT.

Incomplete and late applications will be deemed ineligible and not be considered. If the total submission size exceeds 20 MB, Proponents are asked to use an external file share program.

6.1 Questions

For questions about application guidelines, please contact publicart@theforks.com.

Deadline for questions: October 20, 2023

Date for answers posted: October 27, 2023

7.0 ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Proponents should clearly understand, and by submitting a proposal agrees, that any part of the submission is subject to the following conditions, in addition to any other terms and conditions set out in this RFQ:

- A. Disqualification:** No submission will be considered which is received after the closing date and time. No proposal will be considered from a Proponent where FRC, in its sole discretion, determines that a potential conflict of interest exists. No proposal will be considered that is in any way conditional or that proposes to impose conditions on FRC that are inconsistent with the requirements of this RFQ and the terms and conditions stipulated herein.
- B. Acceptance/Rejection of RFQ:** FRC reserves the right to withdraw this RFQ at any time, for any reason. FRC is under no obligation whatsoever to shortlist or accept any submission.
- C. Right to Re-issue RFQ:** FRC reserves the right to re-issue the RFQ or undertake any other competitive bid process where, in FRC's sole opinion, none of the submissions warrant acceptance or where it would be in the best interest of FRC to do so.
- D. Cost of RFQ Submissions:** All costs and expenses incurred by any Proponent in the development, preparation, submission or presentation in response to this RFQ will be borne by the Proponent. The selection of any submission, the rejection of any or all submissions, the termination of this RFQ process, or initiation of a new RFQ process shall not render FRC liable to pay or reimburse any such costs or damages incurred by any proponent or any partner or associate of such Proponent participating in this RFQ process.
- E. Confidentiality:** The contents of this RFQ and all information, data, or material obtained by the Proponent in connection with this RFQ process are the property of FRC and must not be used for any other purpose than replying to this RFQ. Upon request by FRC, all such information shall be returned to FRC, or the Proponent shall certify that the information, including copies and records thereof, is destroyed. All information, data, and material gained through the RFQ process is to remain strictly confidential.
- F. Public Announcements:** FRC shall have the exclusive right to issue all public announcements regarding the competition. Public announcements or news releases in any form of media shall not be permitted with respect to the terms and conditions of this RFQ or any ensuing contract without prior written approval from FRC.
- G. Amendments:** A Proponent may amend their submission at any time prior to the Closing Time or withdraw their submission at any time. No alteration to a submission will be accepted after the Closing Time.
- H. Recommendations of the Artist Selection Panel:** All decisions on the degree to which a submission meets the stated criteria, or the score assigned to a Proponent or to part of a submission, will be determined solely by the Artist Selection Panel. The Panel's determinations in this regard are final and may not be appealed by a Proponent. FRC reserves the right to reject the Panel's recommendations.



As the current stewards of this historical meeting place at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, we seek truth and we work towards reconciliation.

Our work at this organization is on Treaty One territory and the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Ininew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, and Dene nations and the homeland of the Red River Métis.

Our drinking water is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

Expressing this territorial acknowledgement is one step of our ongoing commitment to rectify the harms of the past by honouring Indigenous communities and allying with movements of self-determination. We enact a spirit of reconciliation by bringing together all peoples in this territory to share, live, and work together in peace.

Specifically, we commit ourselves to the 94 Calls to Action outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the 46 articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the 231 Calls for Justice that came from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people.

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