

Call to Artists

3 Public Art Opportunities

Dave Barrow Civic Square, Richmond Hill

Prepared by ART+PUBLIC UnLtd

Artists are invited to submit an expression of interest for one of three distinct public art opportunities at Dave Barrow Civic Square, Richmond Hill's newest destination park at the southwest corner of Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie Drive. As a green gateway to Richmond Hill's downtown historic Village Core area, the Square will feature an outdoor amphitheatre, seasonal skating rink and events lawn, public gathering spaces, as well as natural areas, trails, and teaching gardens.

Dave Barrow Civic Square is envisioned as a vibrant, year-round gathering place that inspires a sense of community belonging through landscape design, programming and public art. As an interim park with an expected lifespan of 5 to 10 years, the square offers a rare kind of opportunity: a public art program built to be refreshed, with each of its three sites cycling in a new roster of artists roughly every 5 years. This is a chance to help establish a dynamic, evolving site of public art incubation and to shape the foundation of Richmond Hill's growing public art program.

The public art program is commissioned by ART+PUBLIC UnLtd on behalf of the project team for Dave Barrow Civic Square Park. Please see below for descriptions of the three public art opportunities.

#1 SHIPPING CONTAINERS

One artist to create a digitally produced artwork applied to the site's shipping containers.

The shipping container artwork will consist of a digital print of original artwork, applied either as an adhesive vinyl or painted directly on the corrugated surface of the containers. This is an opportunity to make a bold, image-based statement across an unconventional and highly visible canvas within the square.





Artist fee: \$10,000 CAD, ex. HST, covering concept development, design development, provision of digital files, oversight/quality control during fabrication and installation, insurance if applicable, and exhibition rights for 5 years. Artwork fabrication and installation is being contracted separately.



#2 BANDSHELL

One artist to create a changeable, digitally printed artwork for the park's bandshell.

The bandshell artwork will consist of a large aluminum-mounted frame with a digitally printed canvas insert, designed to be changed out over time. This built-in flexibility creates recurring opportunities for renewed public engagement and, over the life of the park, the potential to invite additional local artists into the frame.



Artist fee: \$10,000 CAD, ex. HST, covering concept development, design development, provision of digital files, oversight/quality control during fabrication and installation, and exhibition rights for 5 years. Artwork fabrication and installation is being contracted separately.



#3 RICHMOND HILL SIGN

One artist to create a graphic wrap for the Richmond Hill sign.

This artwork will take the form of a printed graphic vinyl wrap applied to the curving and flat surface sides of the letters of the Richmond Hill sign, transforming a civic landmark into a canvas for artistic expression and a signature photo moment within the square.

Artist fee: \$10,000 CAD, ex. HST, covering concept development, design development, provision of digital files, oversight/quality control during fabrication and installation, and exhibition rights for 5 years. Artwork fabrication and installation is being contracted separately.

Eligibility

This call is open to professional Canadian Artists/Artist teams living and working in Canada and adheres to the Ontario Arts Council definition of professional artist. We encourage artists that are Indigenous, Black, people of colour, women, 2SLGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and members of other marginalized communities to apply. We are especially interested in awarding this opportunity to artists based in Richmond Hill and elsewhere in York Region, provided submissions meet the evaluation criteria and artistic standards established for the project.

Selection Process

This call combines an open submission process with proactive invitations to relevant artists. Submissions will be evaluated for inclusion based on artistic merit and alignment with project goals. From this first stage of submissions, ART+PUBLIC UnLtd will develop two potential curatorial directions, with artists recommended for each, to be presented to the selection panel comprised of the project team's design leads, client representatives and independent local art professionals. This process will result in three artists being selected - one for each of the three opportunity sites - who will be asked to develop work in response to the curatorial theme. ART+PUBLIC UnLtd will assign selected artists to the particular opportunity within the site. Selected artists will be expected to sign an Artist Agreement, and may be asked to provide proof of insurance and any accompanying documentation.

Submission Requirements

Artists are NOT asked to make a proposal at this time. Artists may apply to only one of the three opportunities.

Please submit an application for one opportunity as a single PDF to admin@artpluspublic.com with the subject line:

Application – Dave Barrow Civic Square Public Art

Submissions must not exceed 20 MB total size. Please include the following together as one file:

- Expression of interest statement (max 1 page)
- Images of recent relevant work (max 8)
- Image list
- CV

Deadline

Submissions are due by Friday, September 25, 2026. Selected artists will be notified by end of October 2026.

Questions

For questions about this call, please contact admin@artpluspublic.com.

Anticipated Project Timeline

Artist contracting	November 2026
Concept development	December 2026 to March 2027
Artwork Fabrication	September to October 2027
Artwork Installation	November 2027