

Town of East Gwillimbury – Call for Artists

Carnaby Park Public Art Installation

Submission Deadline: April 30, 2026, by 3:00 PM EST

Budget: Up to \$68,000 CAD (inclusive of HST)

Location: Carnaby Park, 80 Alvin Pegg Dr, Queensville, ON L9N 0R7

Eligibility: Open to professional artists and artist-led teams residing in Canada

Contact: artsandculture@eastgwillimbury.ca

1. Project Overview

The Town of East Gwillimbury is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from professional artists or artist teams to design and create a permanent public artwork for Carnaby Park. This initiative aims to celebrate Canada's rich heritage and the diverse communities that shape its identity.

2. Project Background

Carnaby Park, established as part of the Canada 150 celebrations, features elements that pay homage to Canadian history, including rock from the Canadian Shield, a shade structure constructed with Canadian timbers, and oak trees imported from Vimy Ridge. The park offers a passive recreational environment, encouraging visitors to engage with its natural and commemorative features.

The designated site for the artwork is within the Minto Development area of the park, encompassing approximately 1 hectare (2.5 acres). Artists are encouraged to consider the park's existing elements and the theme of Canada's national identity in their proposals.

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3. Project Goals and Themes

Artists are encouraged to design a piece that is visually engaging from all perspectives ("in-the-round") and constructed using durable, weather-resistant materials, to ensure longevity in an outdoor park setting.

4. Budget and Compensation

The total budget for the project is up to \$68,000 CAD, inclusive of HST. This budget is intended to cover all costs associated with the project, including but not limited to:

- Artist fees
- Materials and fabrication
- Transportation and installation
- Engineering and technical consultations
- Insurance and permits
- Documentation and maintenance planning

Proposed Payment Schedule:

- 20% upon submission and approval of maquette and related documentation.
- 30% upon 40% completion of fabrication.
- 50% upon completion of installation

Note: The payment schedule is subject to final approval and may be adjusted as necessary.

5. Eligibility

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This call is open to professional artists and artist-led teams residing in Canada. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Town of East Gwillimbury employees are not eligible to apply.

6. Selection Process

The selection process will consist of the following:

Expression of Interest (EOI) and Detailed Proposal

Submission Requirements:

- **Artist Information:** Contact details and team member listings (if applicable).
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Outlining relevant experience and qualifications.
- **Concept Statement:** A detailed statement (maximum 750 words) outlining the artist's vision, concept description, and how the proposed work addresses the project goals and themes. This will also be used for public presentation.
- **Detailed Visuals:** Site plan, elevations, and renderings illustrating the proposed work. For the purpose of Public Presentation please include high-resolution images and text suitable for public display and consultation.
- **Fabrication, Installation, and Maintenance Plan:** Details on materials, installation methods, maintenance requirements, and a fabrication schedule.
- **Visual Documentation:** Up to five images of relevant completed works, with accompanying details (title, location, date, medium, and owner).
- **References:** Contact information for three references familiar with the artist's work in public art projects. Shortlisted artists will be invited to submit a detailed proposal and may receive an honorarium of up to \$1,000 CAD upon submission of all required materials and receipts. The honorarium will be deducted from the total award for the selected artist.

Evaluation Criteria:

- **Artistic Concept & Vision (40 points)**

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Clarity, creativity, and originality of the proposal, and how well it responds to the site, community, and project goals.

- **Artistic Merit & Experience (25 points)**
Quality of previous work, demonstrated artistic excellence, and relevant experience delivering public art projects.
- **Technical Feasibility & Durability (20 points)**
Practicality of the proposed materials, fabrication, and installation plan, including long-term maintenance and safety.
- **Submission Quality & Completeness (15 points)**
Overall clarity, professionalism, and completeness of the submission package, including visuals and references.

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Submission Methods:

- **Email:** artsandculture@eastgwillimbury.ca
- **Hard Copy:** East Gwillimbury Sports Complex, 1914B Mount Albert Rd, Sharon, ON L0G 1V0 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM)

7. Project Timeline

- **Submission Deadline:** April, 2026
- **Artist Selection:** April to June 2026
- **Public Outreach: Which Art in the Park:** June and July 2026
- **Fabrication Period:** September 2026 to June 2027
- **Installation:** Spring 2027/Fall 2027

Note: Dates are subject to change.

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8. Jury and Approval

The selection committee, comprising art professionals, community representatives, and Town staff, will review submissions and recommend the successful artist to the East Gwillimbury Council for final approval.

9.0 Terms and Conditions

9.1 Artist Agreement

The selected artist will be required to enter into a formal agreement with the Town of East Gwillimbury outlining the scope of work, deliverables, timelines, insurance, warranties, indemnification, and other necessary terms. This agreement must be signed prior to the commencement of fabrication or installation.

9.2 Insurance and WSIB

The selected artist will be required to provide:

- A General Liability Insurance Certificate (minimum \$2 million) naming the Town of East Gwillimbury as an additional insured party.
- A valid WSIB Clearance Certificate or a letter of exemption prior to commencing any onsite work.

9.3 Copyright

By submitting a proposal to this call, the Artist guarantees that all designs are their original work and do not infringe upon any third-party copyright.

In general, copyright of the design will remain with the Artist. However, all materials submitted to the Town as part of the proposal become the property of the Town of East Gwillimbury and may be used to promote this call, the Town's Public Art Program, or the Town in general.

9.4 Reserved Rights and Privileges of the Town

The Town of East Gwillimbury reserves the right:

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- To not award a commission as a result of this call.
- To cancel, modify, or reissue this Call for Artists at any time.
- To accept or reject any submission for any reason without liability to the Town.

10.0 Definitions

Public Art:

Refers to an original work of art, created by an artist, intended to be installed in, on, or adjacent to a public space. Public art is designed to enhance its environment and may commemorate historical events, celebrate community identity, or offer contemporary commentary. It may be aesthetic, functional, kinetic, or commemorative and can be executed in any medium, material, or form suitable for outdoor installation and long-term durability.

11. Appendices

Site Plans / Drawings/ Photos

See Attached for architectural drawings showing the proposed location for the public art within Carnaby Park.

Artists can propose an art installation anywhere within the corner of the park, not required to be confined to the centre of the maple leaf in the paved area. Artist would have the entire area to work with. Site furniture can be relocated as required, but the trees would remain. Please visit <https://www.theasys.io/viewer/9DwXv4MMx9uHnKLzYj6uAjhjECiVTD/> for a 360 degree tour of the park.

For additional information or inquiries, please contact:

Email: artsandculture@eastgwillimbury.ca

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This Call for Artists is issued by the Town of East Gwillimbury in accordance with its Public Art Policy, aiming to enrich public spaces through the integration of art that reflects the community's identity and heritage.

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