

Parks Foundation Calgary Kickstart Commons Mural Project Call for Artist

Introduction

Parks Foundation Calgary is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring everyone has a place to embrace their outdoor life. We work directly with communities to bring park and sport projects to life, so that all Calgarians have accessible, unique, recreational, sport and green spaces in their neighborhoods.

In partnership with the City of Calgary Downtown Strategy, Parks Foundation is leading the revitalization of the Downtown Lot 83 parking lot, located at 940 - 8 Ave SW. The repurposed parking lot will address the service gap in recreational opportunities in the downtown and provide a fun and vibrant space for youth and people of all ages to enjoy. The redesign, called Kickstart Commons, features a proposed mini soccer pitch, additional planting, colourful ground surface treatment, lots of seating and playful elements as well added lighting to the space.

This artist call is specifically for a mural to be completed on the wall of the property adjacent to the project. The wall is the western face of the University of Calgary parking structure located at 906 - 8 Ave SW. The goal for this mural is to create a vibrant and playful connection with the new park space, considering the interaction between the art and the public realm. The artist will be encouraged to develop a mural concept that will inform or complement the project's design features, including colours and graphic communications materials developed for the project. The dimensions of the wall are approximately 37 metres wide by 16 metres tall at its highest point.

Project Webpage: https://parksfoundation.ca/projects-and-partnerships/kickstart_commons/
Information about the Parks Foundation: <https://parksfoundation.ca>



Design Concept shown is subject to change.



Kickstart Commons graphic communications design.

Artist Call

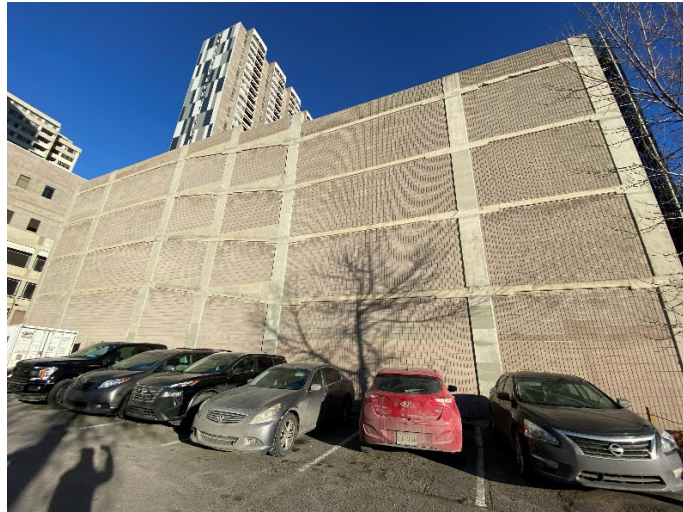
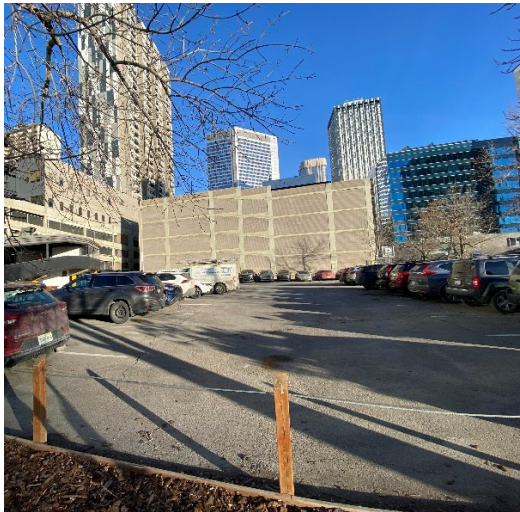
Parks Foundation is seeking a local muralist or muralist group to create a vibrant mural on the west exterior wall of the University of Calgary parkade building at 906 - 8 Ave SW. We are seeking talented and enthusiastic artists with creative design skills and mural experience to complete the installation in Fall 2026, weather and construction timing permitting.

Parks Foundation celebrates the diversity and talent of all artists and welcomes all applicants from BIPOC, Indigenous, LGBTQIAS+, visible minorities and differently-abled communities to apply.

Mural Requirements

The design work shall occur during Summer 2026 and the mural will be installed in Fall 2026 and/or Spring 2027, pending construction timelines. The mural installation will be located outside and all materials and designs must be optimized for outdoor use as Calgary weather is always subject to change.

The approximate dimensions of the wall are as follows: 37 metres wide x 16 metres tall at the highest point, stepping down to 14 metres tall at the lowest point. The existing surface material is brick panels within concrete framing, creating a textured, gridded surface. The design would ideally incorporate the unique finishing of the building surface. See images of the existing wall below.



Artist Requirements & Scope of Work

Qualified artist(s) applying shall:

- Have demonstrated experience installing medium to large scale murals on exterior surfaces.
- Have demonstrated artistic and creative design skills for concept, composition, colour, and form.
- Reside in Alberta and be available in Calgary, Alberta during the artwork installation.
- Carry proof of insurance coverage.

Upon being selected, the artist shall:

1. Be available immediately to attend in-person and/or virtually for a kick-off meeting with Parks Foundation.
2. Be available to attend in-person and/or virtually regular design and coordination meetings with Parks Foundation, consultants, and contractors as required.
3. Be invited to attend Parks Foundation events related to the park development where applicable (eg. grand opening event upon completion, groundbreaking events, and/or donor events).
4. Develop artwork design concept:
 - Provide a concept sketch of the artwork concept for review and approval By Parks Foundation, building owners/leaseholders, and the City;
 - Artist may be asked to collaborate with interest group(s) to gather design/community input to develop the initial concept;
 - Concept artwork must be original and cannot infringe on intellectual property rights.
 - Provide an installation plan, including recommended method for transferring artwork to the exterior building surface and providing anti-graffiti coating.
 - Provide concept description, rationale, and title, if applicable;
 - Provide a brief artist description/bio and image for the purposes of recognizing the artist on Parks Foundation's and the City's website, social media, newsletters, media communications, etc.
5. Install the mural:
 - Be available and prepared to install the mural in late-Summer or Fall 2026 during the ongoing construction and completion of the Kickstart Commons project, weather and construction permitting;
 - In the event that construction is delayed due to weather or other circumstances, installation of the mural may be postponed to Spring 2027;
 - Provide a cost estimate of supplies and equipment required for the work;
 - Provide a schedule for design development and installation;
 - Secure all necessary supplies and equipment ahead of mural installation, including paint suitable to install on the exterior building surface, painting tools, scaffolding or lift equipment, lift certification if applicable, wall prep, water, primer, anti-graffiti coating if applicable, etc.;
 - Artist to undertake their own forces to install the mural;

- Start and finish the mural painting over a consecutive 15-35 days when site access permits (exact timing shall be dependent on weather, site conditions and coordination of other subtrades with the Prime Contractor);
- Work collaboratively with the Prime Contractor and subcontractors on site;
- Artist is responsible for providing and wearing all appropriate personal protective equipment as required by the Prime Contractor and Alberta's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act, including but not limited to high-visibility safety vest, steel toed boots, safety glasses, hard hat, ear protection, paint masks, coveralls, etc., as required;
- Artist is responsible for keeping their work area and the surrounding area clean and avoiding overspray, paint drips, or damage to existing conditions during and after the completion of the mural installation;
- Artist is responsible for preventing stormwater pollution. Clean up of paint should not enter the stormwater infrastructure system (drains/sewers);
- Upon completion of the mural, the artist will leave the site in the condition it was found prior to starting installation or better.

Compensation

The artist fee shall be **up to \$60,000** excluding GST. This fee reflects the artist scope of work described in the previous section, including the artist undertaking the design development of the mural artwork the mural installation by the artist, and all materials and equipment. Compensation will be determined and agreed upon by the artist and Parks Foundation upon the selection of the artist and the signing of Parks Foundation's *Artist Services Agreement*.

The artist shall provide invoices upon the completion of the following milestones:

1. Approval of Design Concept 30% of artist fee
2. Completion of Mural Installation 70% of artist fee

This opportunity is contingent upon available funding and securing final approval from the City of Calgary and the building owner for the proposed wall location. In the event that approval is not obtained and/or insufficient funding is secured, Parks Foundation reserves the right to cancel the project without liability, except for required payment for services rendered.

Proposal Submission Format

- **Length:** Maximum six 8.5 x 11 pages (not including an optional cover page)
- **Size:** 10 MB maximum
- **File type:** Submissions should be in a single combined PDF file.
- **File name:** Submissions should clearly indicate your name. Please use the following format for your file "Lot83_Mural_FULLNAME.pdf"
- Submissions exceeding the page limit / file size, or received after the deadline, may not be reviewed.
- Email questions to: info@parksfdn.com

Submission Contents

1. Artist Profile Information (1 page maximum)

- Legal and preferred name(s)
- Email address
- Phone number
- Mailing address (including city of residence)
- Artists' website and/or social media, if available
- Optional: You may include pronouns and how you identify (i.e.: Indigenous, person of colour, LGBTQIAS+, differently abled etc., including as much detail as you are willing to share)

2. Artistic Practice (1 page maximum)

- A written description of your artistic practice with details on your artistic process, styles, influences, subject matter, chosen mediums and any focus outside of muralism. Please describe any art or design education training, apprenticeship, or related field.
- A written description of your experience with murals, both interior and exterior if applicable. Describe the timelines and sizes of the murals you have painted, referencing images in your portfolio. Alternatively, describe your experience with other forms of painting or art if you are newer to muralism.

3. Portfolio of Relevant Work (4 pages maximum)

- A selection of demonstrated and applicable projects or works with photographs and/or illustrations and brief descriptions (i.e. where, when, completion status, size, medium/materials, client if applicable).
- Each selected work shall clearly and concisely indicate whether the work was completed independently or as a collaboration. For any collaboration works, describe the role(s) in which the artist was involved in (i.e. conception of artwork, led installation vs assisted with installation, mentor vs mentee, etc.)

Estimated Timeline & Submission Deadline

Application Deadline:	Friday, June 26th, 2026 at 4:00 pm MST
Artist Selection:	July 10 th , 2026
Artwork Concept Development:	July 13 th - July 31 st , 2026, including approval
Artwork Installation:	August 17 th – October 16 th , 2026 (TBD subject to weather & construction schedule timing)

Email your portfolio application submission to info@parksfdn.com
Subject line to include **"Kickstart Commons Mural – Full Name"**

Each applicant is solely responsible for ensuring that their application is received at Parks Foundation before the specified deadline. Late submissions may not be considered.

Please email all questions to info@parksfdn.com
Subject line to include **"Kickstart Commons Mural – Inquiry"**

Note: Unsuccessful artists will not be notified. Selected artist will be announced on social media.