



CITY OF
Lethbridge



Indigenous Legacy Commemoration Project

Community Engagement

Call for Expressions of Interest
City of Lethbridge



Project Overview

Oki, The City of Lethbridge is committed to reconciliation and fostering strong relationships with Indigenous peoples and Communities, founded on respect and shared understanding of history.

The City of Lethbridge is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from Indigenous artists to facilitate a community engagement process in support of two commemoration initiatives, described below:

Residential School Survivors Commemoration:

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, the City of Lethbridge adopted the Reconciliation Implementation Plan in 2017, in partnership with the Lethbridge Indigenous Sharing Network. The Reconciliation Implementation Plan describes a series of City and community actions that will be undertaken, and which are guided by five principles:

- Active Participation
- Communication and Public Awareness
- Service Provision
- Cultural Identity and Heritage
- Commemoration

In alignment with the Guiding Principles, one of the key actions identified in the Reconciliation Implementation Plan is to work with community partners to find an appropriate way of honoring the victims, survivors and families of Residential Schools.

<https://www.lethbridge.ca/City-Government/strategic-initiatives/Pages/What-is-the-City-doing.aspx>

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples Commemoration:

In 2021, the City of Lethbridge approved a series of recommendations in response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The recommendations were developed in close partnership with the Reconciliation Lethbridge Advisory Committee, the Sisters in Spirit planning committee and other community partners. The City's MMIWG response similarly includes a list of seven guiding principles that focus on:

- Capacity Building
- Avoiding Tokenism
- Publically Honoring Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples
- Strong Communications
- Providing a long-term Commitment
- Embracing Local Knowledge
- Ensuring Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples are fully engaged

One of the key recommendations of the City's response is to carry out meaningful community engagement to support the design and creation of a commemorative project to honour the victims, survivors and families of this national tragedy.

<https://www.lethbridge.ca/City-Government/strategic-initiatives/Pages/What-is-the-City-doing.aspx>

The successful artist for the Indigenous Legacy Commemoration Project – Community Engagement will conduct community engagement on both of these commemoration initiatives and present recommendations on how they should be undertaken. Engaging on both projects at the same time ensures there are opportunities for these conversations to be connected: geographically, narratively and artistically.

Project Outcomes

There are a three main outcomes that the City of Lethbridge hopes to achieve through the Indigenous Legacy Commemoration Project – Community Engagement.

1. Honor Victims, Survivors and their Families

The City of Lethbridge proudly acknowledges that it is located in the millennial home of the Blackfoot and within the Métis Nation of Alberta Region III. With that acknowledgment comes a responsibility to understand history, how history impacts the present, and to share those lessons in the community.

Through this project the City will honor the Blackfoot and all Indigenous residents who make this City home, and principle among them, those who have experienced trauma, loss and disconnection from their language, lands and culture at the hands of these two acts of genocide.

2. Understand the Community's Expectations for Commemoration

Through artist-led engagement we hope to better understand the community's aspirations for these commemoration projects: how they should exist individually, and how they collectively speak to one-another (geographically, narratively and artistically).

The chosen artist will be responsible for developing and leading an engagement process that gathers input on a series of questions, including:

- What are the community's goals for these projects?
- In some communities we have seen commemoration projects take the form of healing gardens, public art projects, educational initiatives etc. What form do community members see the commemorative projects taking in Lethbridge and how do community members hope to interact with them?
- What are the design principles / preferences?
- How many commemorative projects should there be?
- Where should they be located?
- How will the projects speak to one-another? Is there an over-arching theme or narrative that these projects express?

The chosen artist will be required to engage directly with victims, survivors and families, in addition to the broader Indigenous community.

3. Indigenous Placemaking

Through this project the City of Lethbridge also hopes to increase the public visibility and representation of Blackfoot and the other Indigenous peoples who call this city home. This is an effort that we broadly describe as *Indigenous placemaking*. Placemaking is an effort to reimagine and reinvent public spaces and strengthen the connections both between peoples, and between people and their community. Placemaking is also a collaborative effort to unlock or showcase underlying values in a given space. In the case of this project, we hope to create greater awareness and shared understanding of Indigenous histories and current experiences, and build pathways to reconciliation.

As Indigenous placemaking is an on-going exercise, the City will look to this project to also give advice and suggestions for future Indigenous placemaking opportunities / projects.



Expression of Interest (EOI) Process

This project is broken down into three steps:

Step 1: EOI (Where we are currently)

Interested Indigenous artists respond to the EOI opportunity by submitting a cover letter and reference documents (described below). A selection committee with representation from the Reconciliation Lethbridge Advisory Committee and the Public Art Committee will review and shortlist submissions.

Step 2: Full Proposal

Shortlisted Indigenous artists are invited to a meet with City representatives to discuss the development of a full proposal. An honoraria will be provided to all shortlisted Indigenous artists to support this additional work. Full proposals will again be reviewed by the selection committee. The successful artist will then enter into an agreement with the City to undertake the identified scope of work.

Step 3: Engagement and Reporting

In this step, the successful artist carries out the approved work identified in the proposal. The artist will also be responsible for the following:

1. Preparing an Engagement and Communications Plan (approved by the City of Lethbridge)
2. Preparing a Final Report with at minimum the following components:
 - a. Summary of communications and engagement activities
 - b. Key themes from community engagement
 - c. Recommended design principles / preferences
 - d. Recommended location(s), theme(s) and form(s) for commemoration
 - e. Recommendations for future Indigenous Placemaking initiatives including budget estimates
3. Delivering presentations to City Staff, the Reconciliation Lethbridge Advisory Committee and the Public Art Committee at key intervals during the project.

Budget

The budget for this project is approximately \$35,000.00 inclusive of consultant fees, honoraria, materials and other expenses.

The chosen artist will pay honoraria according to rates established by the City of Lethbridge Indigenous Relations Office.

Eligibility

This Call is open to all self-identifying Indigenous artists across Canada, 18 years of age or older. Both individual and group proposals will be accepted.

As this work is supported by the City of Lethbridge's Reconciliation Implementation Plan and response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Indigenous women and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community are encouraged to apply, and preference will be given to applicants with a demonstrated connection to Blackfoot Territory.

*Please note that the successful artist **will** be eligible to participate in future initiatives identified through this process.*

Anticipated Project Timeline



Indigenous Commemoration Project – Community Engagement

Call for Expressions of Interest – April 2021

City of Lethbridge

If you are interested in being considered for this project, please submit a cover letter (maximum two pages) and include responses to the following questions:

1. Full name and contact information (mailing address, email address and phone number)
2. Tell us about yourself
3. Why are you interested in this project?
4. What makes you a strong candidate for this project?
5. Please describe any previous related experience, skills, or cultural knowledge that will support you in delivering this project.
6. Please describe your connection to Lethbridge and Blackfoot Territory?
7. Engagement summary
 - If your EOI is shortlisted, you will be asked to prepare a full proposal describing in greater detail how you will engage the community. At this time please summarize the approach you will take to meaningfully engage the community on this project, including how you may engage with victims, survivors and their families.

Along with your cover letter, please provide the following:

1. Maximum of three Letters of References (from individuals) or Letters of Support (from organizations) including name, email address, phone number, and your relationship between the applicant and individual or organization providing the reference.
2. Highlights of previous relevant projects (for example: portfolio, resume, CV, link to website)
If you prefer to provide this information in an oral format, please indicate so on your cover letter.

Completed Expressions of Interest can be submitted electronically to: perry.stein@lethbridge.ca

For more information, please contact:

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