



## Question & Answer Summary: Fire Station No. 2 Public Art Project

*Updated: August 15, 2024*

The following questions and answers have been received by artists to date either through the Online Artist Information Session or independently prior to or following the session. This summary is designed to provide consistent information for all potential applicants.

### **PART 1: Questions Posed at Artist Information Session, Aug. 7, 2024**

The following questions were received and responded to during the Artist Information Session August 7, 2024. Some questions required follow-up clarification, and these updates are listed as "Updated Information".

Questions have been organized into general subject areas.

#### **IMAGES**

##### **Q: What if you wish to "upload a video" to share as one of your 10 images?**

**A:** Application instructions request that for videos you have made available online, you may include a link to the video as one of your artwork images in your Image Documentation List. Alternatively, if this doesn't work, contact Brenda Weatherston to explore other options.  
**Updated Information:** It may be possible to attach a video file as an attached file as one of your 10 images. Note, however, files are limited to 3MB each. MP4 format recommended.

##### **Q: Would including sketches be appropriate to help communicate your thoughts?**

**A:** Stage 1 (this stage) is a request for Expressions of Interest, showcasing previous work, experience, and demonstrating how your approach and experience make you suitable for shortlisting to Stage 2, where you would then develop proposals and designs. The jury is not evaluating concept proposals or designs at this point. More information on Stage 1 requirements is available on the website and in the Call for Artists. A sketch to communicate something about your art practice or approach that you wish to express as part of your Letter of Interest may be possible, though unusual, but would not be considered as a design proposal. **Updated Information:** The Letter of Interest is limited to maximum 2 pages total.

#### **UPDATING A SUBMITTED APPLICATION**

##### **Q: Our Team already submitted an application and uploaded our files, but we would like to add additional information. Can we replace portions of our application?**

**A:** Yes. Applications are still being accepted and will not be reviewed until it closes. You may up upload an entirely new application asking us to replace it, or send the new files - clearly indicating which files you wish to replace from the package you submitted previously.



## ARTWORK TYPES

### MURALS:

**Q: Does the artwork have to be a sculpture or can it be a mural?**

**Q: Will artists have to install something, or could a mural be painted on the building?**

**A:** It is not limited to sculpture. However, the “Potential Locations” and “Artwork Types” sections of the Call to Artists provide some important considerations. There is a requirement for long-lasting, durable, vandalism-resistant artwork that would be visible and accessible from the potential locations. Murals have not been considered appropriate. Options for some other types of durable, more two-dimensional artwork may be possible. There are other media limitations identified in the Call to Artists, such as artworks with moving digital or sound -- as they would not be appropriate given the site’s surroundings at a busy intersection.

Further to painting the building: the brick walls are a major design element of the building; it would not be appropriate to paint onto the walls. Whether painted murals could be installed in front of the wall or on a substrate attached to the wall is unlikely, but staff will confirm. Note that other mural opportunities will be coming in Saanich, which may offer a more appropriate mural project venue. Artists are invited to stay up to date on other upcoming opportunities regarding murals at [www.saanich.ca/murals](http://www.saanich.ca/murals) or by joining our Saanich Artists Updates List – instructions found on our website at [www.saanich.ca/arts](http://www.saanich.ca/arts)

**Updated Information:** Murals are not being considered for this site, due to the building’s overall design and materials, and murals’ more temporary nature and need for ongoing maintenance.

**Q: Are there possibilities to integrate the art into the building (i.e. wall)? Would you consider proposals to integrate the art into the design process rather than just as an afterthought? Is there a chance to work with architects and design team?**

**A:** There are some opportunities to integrate the artwork into the site, although the facility’s design is complete, and development is underway. There may be still opportunities in the location areas indicated to integrate into the site design – for example, into the site’s low perimeter walls.

The building has been designed and bid on, and scope of work determined. However, for example, if artwork on the site’s perimeter needed power, it could be possible (through review) to integrate into the site’s power supply, however required electrical fixtures and elements would come at a cost to the artist. There is some latitude on how the overall project might highlight and integrate proposals along the way. The artist would work with staff and the project team to move forward with any approved projects and their integration and installation.



## EVALUATION CRITERIA

### **Q: Are the evaluation criteria for the final Stage 2 proposals the same as for the Expression of Interest?**

**A:** Criteria will be somewhat different. Stage 1 criteria are largely based on artistic merit and experience and demonstrating why you feel you are well-suited to this project, while Stage 2 criteria include evaluation through your full proposal of proof of concept and how it relates to the site, community etc., so the criteria differ to some extent. Some information about how your demonstrated art practice and approach to work would inform how you would approach this project could be included in your Letter of Interest with your submission.

### **Q: Are the 5 artists meant to work together as a group or are they meant to work on 5 separate, independent projects?**

**A:** To clarify, Stage 1 submissions will be reviewed by a jury and **up to 5 artists or artist teams** will be shortlisted (it could be less). They will be invited to submit detailed proposals. They will work independently and submit their own separate proposals. Only one of these proposals could be successful. Shortlisted artists may develop their proposal for any of the potential locations - shortlisted artists are not matched with a particular location. Additionally, shortlisted artists could develop a proposal that includes art pieces installed in more than one of the potential locations.

### **Q: Will shortlisted artists be awarded a contract?**

**A:** Shortlisted applicants would be invited to proceed to Stage 2 -- to develop a *proposal* for the project. They would receive a Request for Proposal and detailed Terms of Reference that outlines that shortlisted artists would receive an honorarium of \$1900 + GST for completing the Stage 2 proposal process. The artist would then develop and submit a proposal and present it to the jury. The jury will review proposals and choose the successful proposal for the project. The successful applicant would then be awarded a contract to develop artwork for the project.

### **Q: Would shortlisted artists be assigned a location, so there is no conflict (like multiple artists wanting the same location)?**

**A:** No. Shortlisted artists would develop their proposal on their own for the potential location they have chosen. Only one successful applicant will be selected to proceed with a project for the site. Shortlisted artists may end up proposing artwork for the same site location or different locations, but only one will be chosen. More information on Stage 2 process will be provided to shortlisted artists as the process moves forward.

## **PART 2: Other Questions Received and Answers Provided.**

### **IMAGES**

**Q: Can applicants prepare 10 pages of 10 past projects, each showing multiple pictures from multiple angles? Or do you prefer only one picture per project?**

**A:** You are asked to submit up to 10 images that best reflect your artwork, your artistic abilities and demonstrate your experience. If one of your examples is best exemplified by video (eg. effects, angles, etc.), there are instructions for how you can provide a link within your Image List to the link where it is available online. It counts as one of your 10 images. Your resume will list your featured projects and your role and may include a related project website for information.

### **FILE FORMAT**

**Q: Should documents be submitted in PDF or JPEG format?**

**A:** Both formats are acceptable. For images, .jpg images may perhaps be easier to manage.

### **ARTIST ELIGIBILITY**

**Q: I have a work VISA / student VISA. Am I eligible to apply?**

We have reached out to our Purchasing Department for confirmation, but you must be legally able to work in Canada for the duration of the entire project (completing in 2026), and beyond for a warranty period.

**Q: Would an artist team comprised of a local BC artist and an artist not from or residing in BC (from and based elsewhere in Canada) be eligible?**


For Artist teams applications, a minimum of 50% of the team must be either BC-based or from BC. As well, the BC artist must play a significant role in the application and project.

### **ARTWORK TYPES**

#### **GLASS ART:**

**Would a glass artist and subsequent proposal be acceptable?**

**A:** Artwork and media considered for this project must be durable, safe, resistant to damage and vandalism, and low maintenance. At a minimum, glass would be required to be tempered, shatter and chip proof. In the suggested potential locations, glass artwork may be very vulnerable. In other potential locations farther from the public realm, it may be difficult for glasswork to be visible or accessible. Applications would need to consider the site, location and these requirements carefully and demonstrate that they meet the priorities and requirements. The jury will be considering the appropriateness of the artist's past work, medium, approach, and other provided information in evaluating applications and shortlisting artists the feel are best suited and have most potential to propose a project that will meet requirements and be appropriate and successful for the site.



**Q: Could artwork (in this case glass work) be proposed to integrate into the front entrance of the building?**

**A:** Given the distance of the entryway from the main publicly visible areas of the site, it would not be appropriate as it would not promote public visibility and access to the artwork. The entranceway was therefore not identified as a possible location.