

Scale: 6000mm= 6m

Artist Opportunity

The City of Pickering invites artists or artist teams to respond to this Call for Artists to create permanent outdoor public artwork for Dave Ryan Park.

As per the City of Pickering's Public Art Policy (CUL 130) an artist is defined as the designer/creator of an artistic work and can include, but is not limited to, a professional artist, graphic designer, collaborative team, architect or landscape designer.

The total budget for the project, including artist fees, materials, installation and other associated costs is **\$60,000.00 (including HST)***

The successful artist/artist team will be selected through a two-stage process. One (1) artist/artist team will be awarded the opportunity.

Site Background

The City of Pickering resides on the land within the Treaty and traditional territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and William Treaties signatories of the Mississauga and Chippewa Nations.

The future Dave Ryan Community Park will be located at the southeast corner of Mulberry Lane and Alexander Knox Road. The community park will include a full-size lit soccer pitch, lit ball diamond, tennis/pickleball courts, half-court basketball, large junior and senior playground, water play area, on-site parking lot, and a washroom/fieldhouse.

The park is being developed to serve a growing residential neighbourhood and will provide a range of recreation, social, and ecological amenities.

The design includes opportunities for social connection, formal and informal recreation, and gathering that support children, teens, caregivers, and families of all backgrounds.

Dave Ryan (born 1946) dedicated 28 years of service to our community, including nearly two decades as Mayor of Pickering – becoming the longest serving Mayor in Pickering's history.

For nearly three decades, Dave Ryan provided strong, steady, progressive, and visionary leadership, helping Pickering evolve from a little bedroom community into a dynamic, diverse, thriving, and sustainable city.

Under his position as Mayor, the City has seen many key and transformational projects come to fruition including the Frenchman's Bay Harbour Entrance reconstruction; new Fire Headquarters; Guinness World Records' longest enclosed pedestrian bridge;

Durham Live; Pickering Casino Resort; the development of Pickering's Innovation Corridor; and the Jerry Coughlan Health & Wellness Centre.

Mayor Dave Ryan played a defining role in shaping and strengthening our community, and this park will honour his legacy by creating a welcoming, thoughtfully designed place for families to gather and enjoy for generations to come.

This project is guided by the City's Cultural Strategic Plan which sets a vision for the place of arts, culture and heritage in the City and identifies strategic directions for policy, investment, partnerships and programs.

Project Brief

The City of Pickering's Cultural Strategic Plan (2026) outlines the City's commitment to fostering placemaking and a distinct community identity, celebrating interculturalism through the arts, sustaining and maintaining a creative economy, being future ready and prioritizing youth and young families. For this project, the City is seeking artists or artist teams interested in creating an integrated functional public art experience in the area adjacent to the fieldhouse building. The Art in Public Spaces Plan recommends integrated functional public artwork that combines artistic expression with a practical purpose, such as **seating, lighting, wayfinding elements, gathering spaces, or landscape features**, and reflects the themes of **community building, expansion, and growth in our City**.

The concrete area that the artwork could be placed in is approximately 8m x 9m in area. 2m of space is required around the piece as a walkway, **which would leave a maximum of 4m x 5m space available**.

The top three (3) artists/teams will be required to present their concept to the jury at the March 31, 2027 Public Art Jury Meeting.

The City will facilitate consultation between the artists/teams and the community as well as other project stakeholders.

Detailed Terms of Reference will be provided to the shortlisted artist/artists teams to help them prepare their concept.

Budget

\$60,000.00 CAD (including HST)* is the total amount available for all related expenses of this public art project including, but not limited to: up to three (3) rounds of revisions,

artist fees, all applicable taxes, detailed renderings, materials, technical consultations, community consultation, foundation and approvals or other expertise as required (engineering review), fabrication, installation, insurance, equipment, travel to meetings and to the site, conservation plan, and an artist statement for completed work.

The selected artist will enter into a written agreement with the City of Pickering following the approval of the acquisition of the public art outlined in the City's Public Art Policy.

This agreement will address the artist's obligations, which include, but are not limited to:

- Materials
- Timelines
- Installation
- Conservation plans
- Warranty
- Copyright, Intellectual Property and Moral Rights
- Payments to sub-contractors

Selection Process

Stage 1: Call to Artists – Expression of Interest (EOI)

A public art jury comprised of practicing arts professionals, project stakeholders and community members will be established for the evaluation of the Stage 1 submissions.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Submissions: Artists/ Artist teams are invited to respond to this EOI by submitting a single pdf document including:

- **CV:** Professional resume (3-pages max). If submitting as a team, an individual resume should be submitted for each team member.
- **Artist statement:** describe your interest in this project and share your experience in the field. You can submit a written document (1-page max) or record an audio or video message (MP3 or MP4 file, max 20 MB).
- **Portfolio of past work:** Examples of relevant work. You may include multiple images per project on 1 page of a maximum of 10 projects (10-pages). Include title, year, scope, budget and a short description.
- **References:** A list of at least two professional references familiar with your work and working methods. The list must include name, title, complete e-mail addresses and telephone numbers.

Submissions must be uploaded through the [link](#) here.

Deadline: November 6, 2026 at 4:00 pm EST

If the submissions exceed 20 MB, artists should contact Ellen Tayles-Armstrong, Curator, Public Art who will provide a link to an external file share program.

Incomplete submissions or submissions received after the deadline will not be juried.

Stage 2: Request for Proposal (RFP)

The Public Art Jury will review all submissions and identify a short-list based on artistic excellence and demonstrated or perceived ability to create and execute an innovative, engaging public artwork that is complementary to the overall design scheme and community context.

The Jury will select a short-list of three (3) artists/artist teams for Stage 2 – Request for Proposal (RFP). Each of the three (3) artists/artist teams will be compensated **\$1,500 CAD including HST** for their time and the creation of concept for Stage 2.

The short-listed artists will be notified the week of January 25, 2027.

The short-listed artists will be required to present their concept virtually to the Public Art Jury on March 31, 2027.

When evaluating specific artwork proposals, the Public Art Jury will consider the vision, mandate and objectives of the Public Art Program and the objectives listed in the Public Art Opportunity outlined on Page 1 of this Call to Artists. The Public Art Jury (as per section 07.02 of the City of Pickering Public Art Policy (CUL 130) will also consider the artists:

- Artistic excellence of previous work;
- Ability to achieve the highest quality of contemporary artistic excellence and innovation;
- Professional qualifications and relevant working experience as related to the public art project brief;
- Ability to manage a project and experience working with a design team, project team and/or community group, as appropriate;
- Potential to comprehend, access and interpret relevant technical requirements; and,
- Interest in and understanding of the public art opportunity and the context.

The proposals may be used by the City of Pickering in meetings with community groups, stakeholders and staff.

Anticipated Schedule

It is expected that the commissioned artist(s) will comply with the project's general timeline dates, as stated below:

Date*	Project Phase
September 14, 2026	Issue Call to Artists: EOI
November 6, 2026	Call to Artists: EOI Submissions due
January 25, 2027	Shortlisted Artists notified Issue Terms of Reference
March 5, 2027	Conceptual Proposals due
March 8-26, 2027	Community Consultation"
April 26, 2027	Selected Artist notified Contract Execution
Week of May 10, 2027	Technical Review with project staff. This meeting will provide the selected Artist with further technical specifications and feedback on the submitted conceptual artwork from lead project staff from the City
June-August 2027	Artwork Fabrication
August 23, 2027	Anticipated installation date

*Schedule is subject to change

Accessibility

The City will provide accommodations throughout the selection process to applicants with disabilities. Please notify Ellen Tayles-Armstrong, Curator, Public Art at 905.409.0567 or etayles@pickering.ca of the nature of any accommodation(s) that you may require in respect of any materials or processes used to ensure your equal participation.

Reserved Rights of the City of Pickering

The City of Pickering, at its sole discretion, may request clarification or request additional information, as deemed necessary to evaluate the submissions. The City retains the sole discretion to determine whether a submission is responsive and if the prospective Artist or Artist Team is capable of performing the Work. The City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to determine the number of pre-qualified Artists or Artist Teams. The City reserves the right to not proceed with awarding a contract.

Publication of Information

The City of Pickering shall have the exclusive rights to issue all public announcements regarding the competition.

Additional Information

For any additional information or questions please contact: Ellen Tayles-Armstrong, Curator, Public Art at 905.409.0567 or etayles@pickering.ca