

Call for Artists: Edmonton Arts District Murals

Edmonton's Arts District is the heart that energizes, inspires, and connects the city.

Anchored by institutions like the Citadel Theatre, the Winspear Centre for Music, the Art Gallery of Alberta, the Stanley A. Milner Library, CKUA Radio, and the Royal Alberta Museum, alongside many other vibrant organizations and businesses, the Arts District is a hub of creativity in downtown Edmonton that engages and entertains visitors year-round. It stands as a rare phenomenon in North America, an organically evolved concentration of arts and civic spaces where visual art, theatre, music, and literary arts exist in close proximity, facing one another and creating a uniquely interconnected cultural landscape.

At its centre is Churchill Square, a dynamic gathering place that hosts many of Edmonton's most popular outdoor festivals and reinforces the district's role as both a cultural and community focal point. This same spirit of creativity extends into the surrounding streets through initiatives like the Edmonton Mural Festival, which brings new public art to the downtown core, strengthening community, attracting attention, and further defining a shared sense of place.

ARTS DISTRICT MURALS: GENERAL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Groups within the Arts District are interested in exploring the potential for exterior and public indoor murals throughout the neighbourhood. Members of the Arts District are engaging with the Edmonton Mural Festival in an exploratory capacity to better understand what might be possible, with a focus on how public art could enhance the area, strengthen community connection, and contribute to a more vibrant sense of place.

This open call invites artists to express interest in contributing to Edmonton's Arts District for future public art opportunities.

- This call is intended to:
 - Gauge artist interest
 - Build a roster of artists connected to the Arts District
 - Support future public art planning as the Arts District evolves

Specific locations are still in development, and at this stage there is no single brief guiding all Arts District projects. Artists will be selected on a project-by-project basis, with curation evolving over time as the Arts District continues to transform and grow. Details on individual opportunities will be shared as funding is secured and sites become available.

2026 FEATURED MURAL OPPORTUNITY: THE CITADEL THEATRE

The Edmonton Mural Festival and the Citadel Theatre are pleased to present a flagship mural opportunity on the north-facing exterior wall of The Citadel Theatre. As one of Edmonton's most iconic cultural institutions, The Citadel Theatre has been a cornerstone of the Arts District for decades, hosting world-class performances and engaging the community in the heart of downtown.

This mural will be a major new feature of Edmonton's Arts District, setting a creative precedent and serving as a foundational landmark for future public art in the neighbourhood. Its scale and visibility make it an opportunity to make a lasting cultural statement and celebrate the intersection of theatre, community, and visual art.

- Location: North-facing exterior wall of The Citadel Theatre
- Scale: Large-scale, highly visible public artwork
- Fee: Artist fee will reflect CARFAC Standards.
- Structure: The Edmonton Mural Festival will manage the project and cover all materials, rentals, insurance, logistics and marketing support.
- Significance: A landmark cultural statement and foundational artwork for the Arts District
- Timeline: Painted during the EMF 2026 production window, Aug 15 – Sept 15, 2026
- Selection: Artists will be considered by the Edmonton Mural Festival, the Citadel Theatre, and a small jury. One artist will be selected for this flagship mural, while other applicants may be added to the Arts District artist roster for future projects.

What We're Looking For:

We are seeking experienced mural artists capable of delivering a large-scale, high-visibility public artwork of lasting cultural significance. While future Arts District opportunities may include additional artistic disciplines, this call is specifically intended for a professional muralist with demonstrated excellence in public art.

The selected artists should:

- Demonstrate a strong track record of completed large-scale mural or public art projects, including work in complex urban or civic settings.
- Hold national-level recognition within Canada, with a portfolio that reflects artistic leadership, originality, and professional delivery capacity.
- Present a diverse and compelling body of work, showing versatility in style, storytelling, material approach, and community connection.

- Show the ability to create artwork that is site-responsive, culturally meaningful, and accessible to broad public audiences.
- Be prepared to collaborate with project partners and participate in community engagement, interpretation, and public-facing programming connected to the mural.

The Arts District and project partners are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. We strongly encourage applications from Indigenous artists, artists from equity-deserving communities, and artists whose work reflects a wide range of cultural perspectives and lived experiences.

Application Specifics:

Artists are invited to apply through an expression of interest that includes a portfolio, résumé/CV, and brief statement of interest and brief statement of interest for the General Arts District Call, the 2026 Citadel Theatre flagship mural, or both.

Application Form: <https://www.edmontonmuralfest.com/arts-district>

Deadline: April 23, 2026

The successful applicant will be contacted: May 15-30, 2026

Please note: Detailed concepts are not required and will not be accepted in this initial submission. Concept development will be led by the selected artist in collaboration with the curatorial team and project partners, ensuring the final artwork is thoughtfully connected to site, community, and the evolving vision of Edmonton's Arts District.