



2nd CALL FOR PROPOSALS: **Indigenous Public Art Spotlight BWG**

1. Project Call

The BWG Library seeks applications from professional First Nations, Metis, and/or Inuit visual artists for the installation and long-term exhibition of public art piece in the main Café area of the BWG Library and Cultural Centre to be installed in the summer of 2025. This project provides one artist or one collective of artists up to \$10,000 for the fulfillment of this project. This opportunity is made possible with the support from the BWG Friends of the Library and Simcoe County's Tourism, Culture, and Sport Enhancement Fund.

2. Project Goals

Indigenous Public Art Spotlight BWG seeks to:

- Provide the first municipal public art opportunity in BWG that centers an Indigenous perspective;
- Grow visibility of Indigenous cultural expression in BWG while prioritizing local Indigenous histories and perspectives of this area;
- Support a project that has the potential to become a key and highly visible signature which enhances the BWG Library and Cultural Centre as a heart for arts and culture in South Simcoe;

3. Eligibility

This project is open to emerging, mid-career, and established visual artists working in variety of media (i.e. mural, sculpture, digital, etc.) that self-identify as First Nation, Metis, and/or Inuit.

4. Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. Alignment with Project Goals listed in Point 2 of this document (see above);
2. The artist and/or project's connection to Bradford West Gwillimbury and/or the surrounding area and communities;
3. Project feasibility in relation to budget allocation, project technical requirements, and demonstration of previous successful public art projects;





5. Budget

Indigenous Public Art Spotlight BWG offers an artist or collective of artists a total of up to \$10,000 for the complete fulfillment of the project. This is inclusive of artist fees, artist materials, rentals, installation needs, etc. All expenses associated with the proposed project should fit within the scope of the allotted \$10,000.

6. Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee made up of members from Odenaang Circle, one Library Staff member, and one member from STEPS Public Art. Odenaang Circle is a resident-led group of Indigenous residents in BWG that organize events and programs which honour and celebrate Indigenous culture and identity.

Timelines

1. Applications are due April 21st, 2025 and can be completed online [HERE](#).
2. Applications will be reviewed and a selection will be made in May 2025.
3. The artist will work with BWG Library Staff on the preparation, installation, and launch of the public art piece planned to be unveiled in the summer of 2025. We acknowledge the tight timeline between selection and proposed installation. Please note and factor in this condensed timeline installation in your project proposal.

7. Portfolio Sharing

Artists will be asked in the online application form to submit samples of their work. There is space in the form where artists can submit websites and/or social media links that provide an idea of their artwork. Artists can also submit up to five photos of the proposed work or previous work to culture@bradford.library.on.ca.

8. Space

The Library Café Area is the main foyer of the BWG Library and Cultural Centre, which sees over 200,000 visitors per year. It is a large, open, and flexible space with a two-story wall of windows letting in natural light. This opportunity is open to artists who work in a variety of visual arts media, including mural, sculpture, digital, etc. Artists are encouraged to become acquainted with the Library Café area and propose a piece that leverages or responds to its unique characteristics. Pictures of the space are included at the end of this proposal.





9. Land Acknowledgement

The Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library and Cultural Centre would like to acknowledge that the land we are presently on is the traditional territory of many nations, which has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. We are grateful for the opportunity to work here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land. We acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabe and the Huron-Wendat peoples. The Anishinaabe include the Ojibwe, Odawaand, and Potawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. We also acknowledge that Bradford West Gwillimbury is covered by Treaty 18. Bradford West Gwillimbury sits at one 'end' or 'beginning' of the Carrying Place Trail, a path of trade and travel that has been used for thousands of years.

We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Métis, and Inuit people. We acknowledge we are at the early stages in this process. In 2022, the BWG Library supported the creation of the BWG Indigenous-Led Committee, which has led to the formation of Odenaang Circle: a local Indigenous resident-led group that plans events and programs that honour and celebrate Indigenous histories and culture. In 2023, the BWG Library adopted UNDRIP as a guiding document for the future creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan. This project is one additional step we are taking to further promote and amplify truth, reconciliation, and belonging in BWG.

10. Application

Applications are due April 21st, 2025.

Applications can be submitted through online form at the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/gWAEUG2HVi>

Photos of BWG Library Café
425 Holland Street West, Bradford ON L3Z0J2





Walking into the Library Café from the East Sliding Doors. Tables are flexible and can be moved.



Walking into the Library from the West Doors.



Photo directly outside of Library Café from Brian Collier Way.

