

McLean Centre for Collaborative Discovery, DeGroot School of Business, McMaster University

Expression of Interest for Indigenous Public Art

Project Introduction

The DeGroot School of Business (DSB) has a new building currently under construction on McMaster University's Main Campus in Hamilton. This new building is the McLean Centre for Collaborative Discovery (MCCD), which is located off Stearn Drive and beside the existing DSB building. The premise of the new 10-storey MCCD building is to bring together the diverse range of students and faculty from the entire University community to build on cross-disciplinary thinking to tackle the world's toughest challenges. The MCCD building is scheduled for occupancy in early-2025.

The DeGroot School of Business embraces the collective purpose of positively impacting business and society. Inclusive Excellence is a tenet of the new DSB strategic plan, which seeks to amplify diverse perspectives and expand partnerships that support equity, diversity, and inclusion.

It is in this light that an MCCD Art Committee has been assembled, which will oversee and support the entire art commissioning process for the new MCCD facility. The goal of the committee is to secure Indigenous art which will resonate with the students, faculty, and staff. This document outlines the specific call for this public art and the associated details.

Land Acknowledgement

We give honour and thanks to the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe nations as the traditional inhabitants of the lands where McMaster sits. To say that is to acknowledge a debt to those who were here before us and to recognize our responsibility, as guests, to respect and honour the intimate relationship Indigenous peoples have to this land.

Eligibility

This call is open to professional artists with an interest in public art. However, due to the nature of this project, and our desire to honour and respect the Indigenous peoples of this land, artists or artist teams must have demonstrated connections to Haudenosaunee or Anishinaabe Nations (this shall require verification at subsequent project stages). Artists who fulfill such criteria with limited experience in creating public art can apply if they are appropriately supported by professionals with such experience.

Project Specifications

The goals of this project are to:

- Meaningfully integrate the public art.
- Support the celebration of Indigenous spirit, culture, and place.
- Embody the DSB and McMaster commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, especially as it relates to the Indigenous members of the McMaster community and beyond.
- Specifically capture and reflect Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe worldviews; respect and embrace the heritage and cultural identity of the Indigenous people of this land. It is important that the art reflects the heritage of the land that it sits on.

The purpose of public art in this application is to integrate aesthetically pleasing Indigenous art that aligns with the institution's core cultural values while positively affecting the comfort or joy of the building's occupants. Diving into the deeper requirements, the design features are to support a meaningful integration of public art, supporting a celebration of spirit, culture, and place, that ultimately supports human delight. The use of design and public art advances spatial and social justice, supporting a vision of reconciliation, equality, and inclusion.

Please note that the committee will consider multiple pieces of art if they remain within the budget allocated. Please further note the artwork shall be permanent.

Project Budget: Up to \$ 150,000.00 CAD

This budget is to include the following:

- Artist and/or artist team fees
- All consulting fees, including structural engineering costs as required.
- Design
- Materials
- Fabrication
- Payments to subcontractors, if applicable
- Any permits that may be required for installation or otherwise from the authority having jurisdiction.
- Insurance * (liability / damage insurance; standard practice)
- Special features, if any (e.g., lighting)
- Installation costs, including travel and delivery.
- Clean up costs.
- Taxes, as applicable

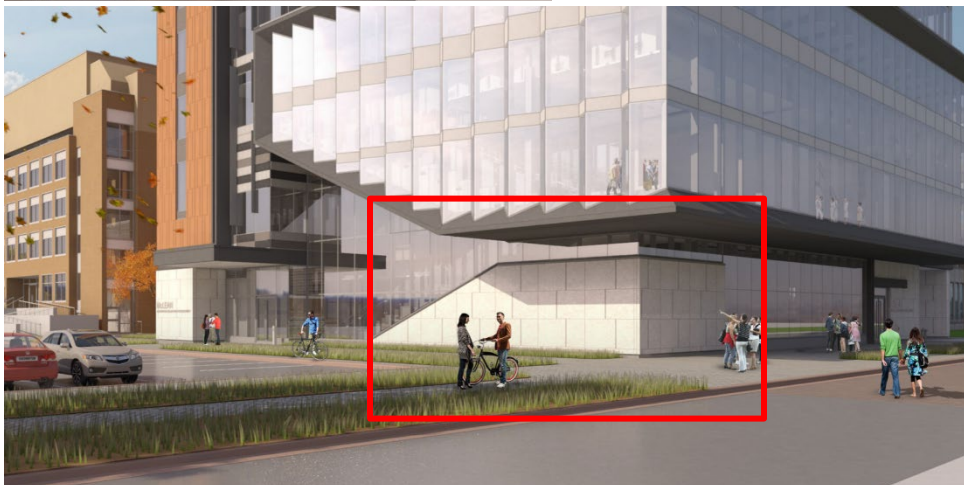
* The artist must carry the appropriate insurance from the signing of the contract until completion. McMaster University requires \$2 million liability / damage insurance.

A payment schedule will be determined at the time of awarding of the commission(s) based on scope of work.

Location of the Art

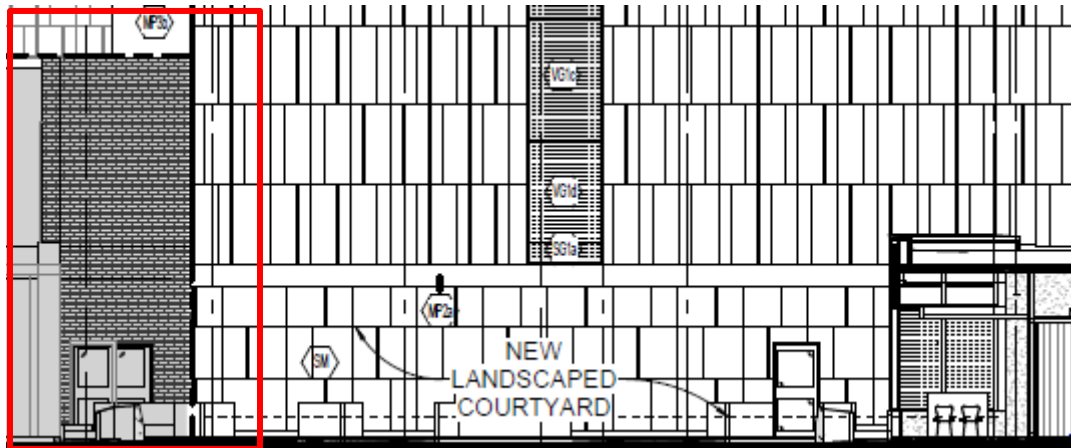
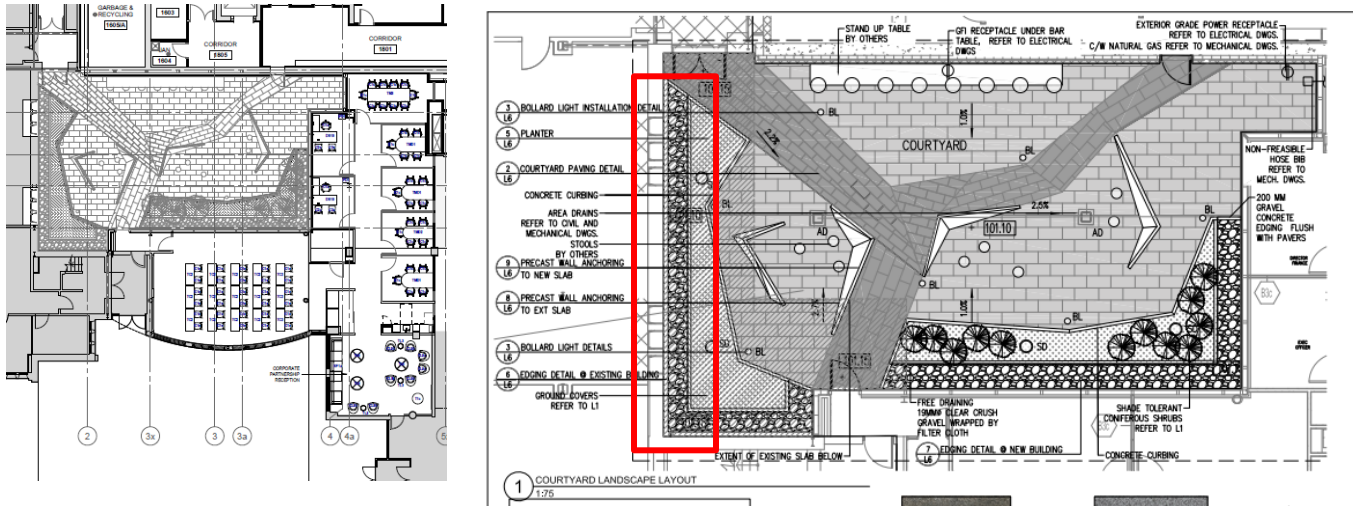
The commissioned art is to be permanently located at MCCD and the committee is proposing four possible locations, as described below. Please carefully review the notes associated with each of the given locations. Please further note that there may be limited flexibility in certain locations. The committee will consider more than one art piece at more than one location if it is within the specified project budget. More detailed specifications can be provided to artists and artist teams once they are shortlisted for the second stage of the submission process.

Proposed Location 1 – Front Corner Area (Exterior of Ground Floor):



- There are some constraints for an art piece in this location, specifically as related applying something to the building façade.
- Preferred would be incorporating an artwork within the concrete or landscaped spaces in this area.

Proposed Location 2 – Interior Courtyard (Ground Floor)

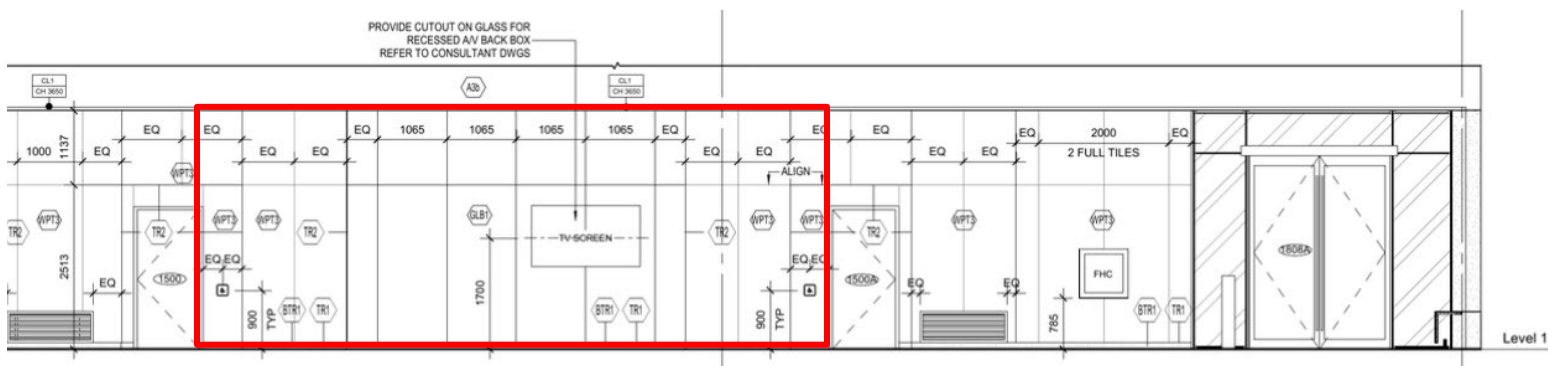


- The courtyard is exterior and open to the elements from above.
- Artwork can be located anywhere within it.
- The exterior wall indicated in red in the above images is shared with the existing DSB building.

Proposed Location 3 – Gathering Space (Ground Floor)

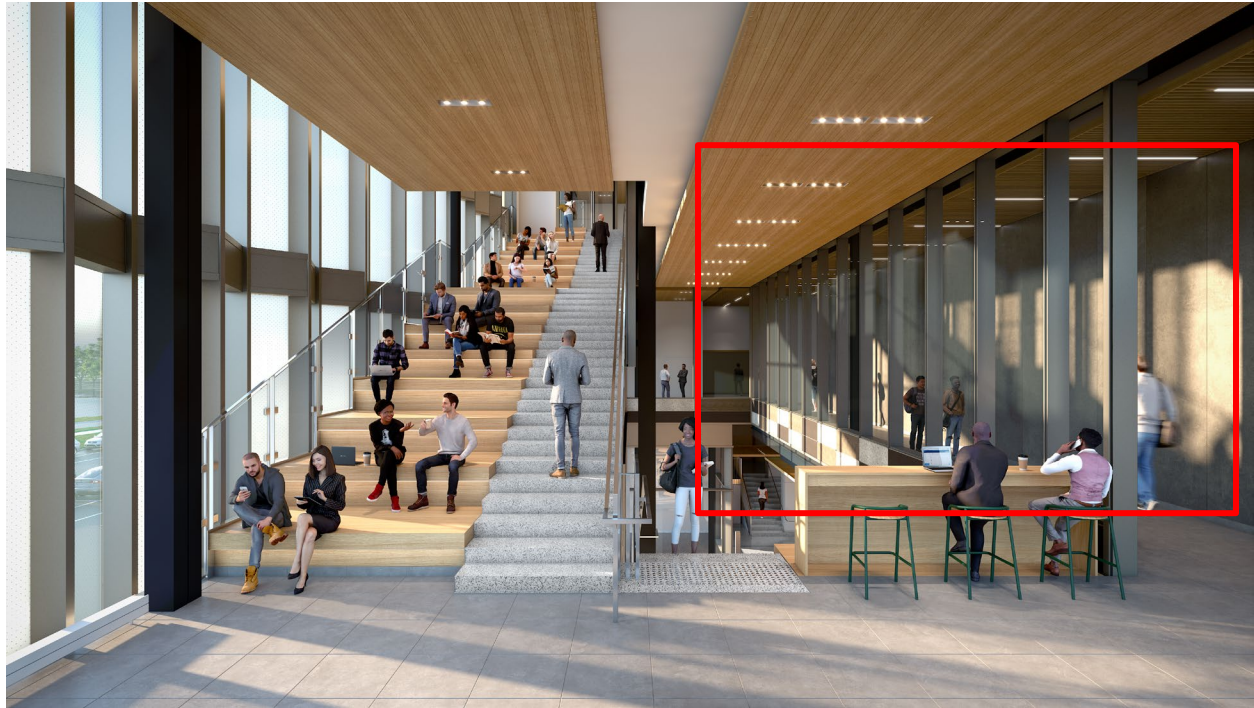


- This is the MCCD building ground floor foyer and gathering space area.
- The MCCD café is shown to the left in the image above. The main entrance to the building appears in the background centre of the image.
- A sculptural artwork could be incorporated here.



- There is also one wall available for an artwork in the same gathering space. This wall is demonstrated in the above elevation drawing, indicated in red. It measures approximately 30 feet in length by 12 feet in height (please note the TV screen will not be located there).

Proposed Location 4 – Feature Corridor Beside Lecture Hall (Second Floor)



- The subject wall area is indicated in the red behind the wall of interior windows.

Commissioning Process

The process will occur over a ten-month period and will include three stages as described below. DSB and McMaster University reserve the right to end the competition at any stage. In such cases, we will notify the artist(s) who have submitted proposals as necessary. It is expected that alongside DSB and McMaster University, the successful artist / artist team shall liaise with the building architect as needed, especially concerning the location and installation of the art.

Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI)

This stage is an open call to provide an expression of interest related to this Indigenous public art initiative.

How to Apply

- Artist statement: describe your interest in this project and share your experience in the field and general artistic approach (300 words). Please do not include a full proposal at this stage.

- Artist(s) CV(s): one for each team member, if applicable.
- Artist biography.
- Portfolio of past work: provide samples of relevant work. You may include multiple images per project on 1 page to a maximum of 10 projects (10 pages). Add title, year, scope, and budget, and a brief description of each.

Submissions must be sent, in PDF file format, by email to: MCCDart@mcmaster.ca

Subject: LastName_EOI-MCCDart

Deadline: January 5th, 2024, at 4 p.m.

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

EOI Evaluation

The MCCD Art Committee will select up to five qualified artists or artist teams that shall be invited to progress to stage two of the submission process.

Stage 2 – Formal Proposal Submission from Shortlisted Artists

Up to five shortlisted artists will be selected from the EOI stage and shall be invited to submit a comprehensive art proposal. A fee of \$ 5,000.00 (+ HST, if applicable) will be paid to shortlisted artists upon successful completion of Phase 2.

How to Apply

Proposal Requirements

- Project Proposal – Written statement of artistic concept, maximum 1,000 words.

Supporting Materials

- Production of a maquette, or concept sketches, renderings, design details, and a plan that indicates the proposed location with corresponding imagery. (This is not a final detailed submission, but a clear indication of concept.)
- Technical specifications on proposed materials and / or feasibility study describing the nature of materials, fabrication process and methods.
- Detailed budget, itemized as follows:
 - Artist fees

- Material costs
- Production/manufacturing costs
- Sub-contractor fee(s)
- Installation costs
- Expenses
- Insurance costs
- Suggested critical path outlining timing from conceptual design to installation.
- Documentation to support Indigenous identity or ancestry, for example:
 - Certificate of Indian Status card (or Temporary confirmation of registered document).
 - Official First Nations issued identification document.
 - Documentation that shows a parent or grand-parent's name has been entered in the Indian Registrar according to the Indian Act, or on the band list of an individual band (grandparent).
 - Please contact us for further details regarding acceptable verification documents.

Submissions must be sent, in PDF file format, by email to: MCCDart@mcmaster.ca

Subject: LastName_EOI-MCCDartFinal

Deadline: March 19th, 2024, at 4 p.m.

Stage 3 – Technical Review and In-Person Meetings

Proposals will undergo a technical review that will take approximately two months. Within this period, the MCCD Art Committee will arrange in-person meetings such that artists and artist teams will have the opportunity to present their proposals. Additionally, the MCCD Art Committee will also ask for any clarifications on the respective proposals during such meetings.

Stage 3 Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of the proposed art in that it captures and reflects Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe worldviews, respecting and embracing the heritage and cultural identity of the Indigenous people of this land.
- Originality, imagination, and artistic merit of submission.
- Artist or artist team qualifications and ability to produce site-specific art.
- The artistic impact of the proposed concept to enhance or activate public space.
- Appropriateness of the scale, visibility, and / or presence of the art to the site.

- Appropriateness of proposal to the budget, scope, and anticipated project timeline.
- Suitability and sustainability of material and maintenance requirements.
- General technical feasibility (durability, assembly, safety, accessibility).
- Compliance with submission requirements.

The committee may find that none of the submissions fulfill the project criteria. In this case, the selection process may be re-opened. McMaster University is under no obligation to select an artist.

Anticipated Project Timeline

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

- Issue Expression of Interest Call to Artists November 27th, 2023
- Call to Artists: EOI Submissions Due January 5th, 2024
- Shortlisted Artists Notified January 19th, 2024
- Stage 2 Submissions Due March 19th, 2024
- Technical Review (including in-person meetings) March and April 2024
- Project Awarded May 1st, 2024 (project contract signed and executed)
- Anticipated Installation Completion Date October/November 2024