

# CALL FOR ARTISTS!

## Celebrating Burlington's Twin Cities of Apeldoorn and Itabashi

2 Commissions Available (Design Only)



**Award:** \$1,500 per commission (design only)

**Deadline:** Friday, March 1, 2024

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be a resident of Ontario, Canada

### For more information:

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## **Introduction**

More than 1000 communities throughout the world foster twinning relationships with one another as a way to advocate for world peace and global understanding. The City of Burlington is fortunate to have twinning agreements with the City of Itabashi, Japan and the City of Apeldoorn, the Netherlands. To celebrate this unique relationship, the public art program is commissioning two Ontario artists to create digital artwork that will be reproduced and installed on electrical boxes located in Spencer Smith Park. The artwork may be created in a variety of different styles and mediums including digital illustration/graphic design, photography, photographs or scans or original artwork, etc.

## **Eligibility**

This call is open to all professional artists residing in Ontario, Canada. A professional artist is an individual who has specialized skills and/or training in their artistic discipline (not necessarily through academic institutions), has a history of public presentation and/or is critically recognized as an artist. Artist-led teams may apply provided all members meet the eligibility requirements. Artists may apply for one or both commissions however, only one commission per artist will be awarded. It is intended that the artwork is theme-specific and as such, different artwork concepts should be submitted for the two different boxes.

## **Background Information**

### **What is Mundialization?**

Mundialization is the act of a city or local authority declaring itself a world citizen and being aware of global issues with a sense of shared rights and responsibilities. The word mundialization comes from the Latin word 'mundus' which means 'world'. The concept involves creating twin cities from around the world, in the belief that peaceful cooperation depends on mutual trust and appreciation of different nations, races, cultures and systems.

### **City of Burlington Mundialization Committee**

The City of Burlington's Mundialization Committee encourages citizen connections as a way of fostering world peace and global understanding. Through the committee, the City has signed twinning agreements with two global cities, Itabashi, Japan and Apeldoorn, the Netherlands.

The committee is dedicated to promoting the City of Burlington as a world community and encourages community understanding of global cultural issues by:

- Maintaining our twin city relationships under the agreements
- Promoting activities that celebrate our similarities and respect our differences
- Organizing a celebration of the United Nations Day each year
- Providing advice and assistance on twin city relationships to Burlington City Council
- Developing achievable annual action plans with the help of City staff
- Presenting an annual report to Council with the help of City staff



### City of Apeldoorn, the Netherlands

The City of Apeldoorn, the Netherlands is a picturesque city known for its beautiful green-spaces and gardens. With roots tracing back to the 8th century, Apeldoorn has a remarkable historical legacy that is reflected in its architecture and cultural heritage. This area is home to the famous 17th century palace Het Loo and the Veluwe forest. The population of Apeldoorn is approximately 160,000 and is the 12th largest city in the Netherlands.

Today, Apeldoorn is one of the Netherlands' most progressive cities in terms of sustainable, responsible development. Apeldoorn's commitment to sustainability, its similar size to Burlington and its strong historic connections with veterans makes it an ideal twinning partner for Burlington.

### Apeldoorn-Burlington Twinning Agreement

In May 2005, The City of Burlington signed an official twinning agreement with the City of Apeldoorn in the Netherlands. There are several historic connections between Canada and the Netherlands that have forged lasting bonds between our countries.

### Second World War:

During the Second World War, The Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) was transferred to northwest Europe and took part in the liberation of Apeldoorn on April 17, 1945.

### Princess Margriet:

Royal history was made in Canada in January 1943, when Dutch Princess Juliana gave birth to her daughter Margriet Francisca in Ottawa's Civic Hospital. Princess Margriet was the first royal baby to ever be born in North America. Princess Margriet currently lives in Apeldoorn.



Het Loo Palace and Gardens



Outdoor Dining, Marktstraat 3



"Louise", public art bench gifted to Burlington by the residents of Apeldoorn



## City of Itabashi, Japan

The northernmost of Tokyo's 23 special wards, Itabashi City lies along the southern bank of the Arakawa River and is known for beautiful plum tree-lined ponds and parks, traditional shopping streets, a popular fireworks festival and cultural heritage sites including Tokyo Daibutsu Buddha, Jorenji Temple and the Akatsuka Castle Ruins.

With a population of over 500,000, Itabashi was one of the Four Edo Post Towns, and travellers first lodged there after leaving the shogunal capital. The name "Itabashi" means "wooden bridge" as the town was named after a wooden bridge that was built around 800 years ago over the Shakujii River. Because of the bridge, Itabashi became strategic to the area, and this had a major influence on Itabashi's future. In October 1932, nine towns and villages of the Kita-Toshima District merged and became part of Tokyo City as Itabashi Ward. It became a special ward in May 1947.

During the Second World War, Itabashi suffered great destruction but began to prosper again after the war with the urbanization and economic growth that followed. From 1965 to 1974, high-rise apartment buildings and condominium complexes were built in Takashimadaira, an area of Itabashi, transforming it from a rural area to a high-density residential centre.

### Itabashi-Burlington Twinning Agreement

In May 1989, the City of Burlington signed a twinning agreement with the City of Itabashi, Japan. This twinning relationship has included regular citizen visits, official delegations, special gift exchanges and memorable anniversary celebrations. In 2024, Burlington will celebrate its 35th Twinning Anniversary with Itabashi.



Arakawa River



Bronze Buddha Statue, Jorenji Temple



Sakura trees in Spencer Smith Park, gifted to Burlington by the residents of Itabashi

## Artwork Goals

The artwork should embody the values of generosity, friendship, and exchange, which form the foundation of Burlington's relationship with its twin cities. The mundialization movement fosters a global community by encouraging residents to learn more about other countries and cultures and to explore commonalities between the twin cities. There are two commission opportunities available as one electrical box will be dedicated to Apeldoorn and the other to Itabashi. Therefore, the artwork should feature imagery, symbols, artistic styles, or themes unique to each twin city. The artist may also wish to incorporate elements relating to Burlington, Ontario into the design.

## Design Specifications

Please submit a preliminary design sketch of the primary artwork image (i.e., the artwork to be placed on the front panels). Please note, this is intended to be a rough sketch only. If you are selected for a commission, you will be provided with a template and detailed measurements for the artwork. All designs must adhere to the following specifications:

- Artwork can be created in any medium but must be photographed, digitally scanned or digitally created so that it may be reproduced.
- Artwork design must cover all four sides and the electrical box. The vinyl will be cut around handles, vents, etc.
- Artwork must be original and cannot infringe on the copyright of any other individual / company.
- Artwork may not include logos, company names, etc.
- The artwork must be suitable for presentation in a public space, for all ages (i.e., the artwork may not contain profanity, hate speech, graphic imagery, etc.).
- Artwork cannot contain large areas of dark colours (i.e., solid black, dark blue or purple backgrounds that cover a significant portion of the box). This is to ensure that the electrical boxes do not absorb excess heat.
- Artists are encouraged to consider graffiti deterrence measures when developing their design. In particular, please avoid large areas of solid colours and/or white space.

## Budget

- The budget for this project is \$1500 per commission.
- **This is an artwork design fee only** – the City of Burlington will be responsible for all costs related to the fabrication and installation of the artwork.
- The selected artist should budget for:
  - Artist / design fee.
  - Provision of a high-resolution digital artwork file suitable for large format printing.
  - Production management - working with the Arts and Culture Planner, the artist will liaise with the printer to create the correct digital files, ensure the artwork is printed with correct colours, etc.



## Electrical Boxes

### Box #1: Apeldoorn-Inspired Artwork

- This electrical box is located along the pathway near the Brant Street entrance to the park.
- The dimensions are approximately 2794 mm width (110"), 2032 mm height (80"), 508 mm depth (20").
- Note, there are metal support beams on the back of the box may be covered in vinyl if the artist wishes to incorporate this into their design (optional).

**Front**



**Back**



### Box #2: Itabashi-Inspired Artwork

- This electrical box is located at the end of the path that goes through the walkway of Sakura trees (cherry blossoms) inside the park.
- The dimensions are approximately 1791 mm width (70.5"), 1791 height (70.5"), 305 mm depth (12").
- Note, the metal support beams on the sides/back of the box and the small "Rain Bird" box may be covered in vinyl if the artist wishes to incorporate this into their design (optional).

**Front**



**Back**



### Selection Process

A Selection Committee comprised of artists, arts professionals and representatives from the Mundialization Committee will review all applications using the scoring criteria below. A minimum benchmark of 75% must be achieved (30/40). The Selection Committee and the City of Burlington reserve the right not recommend any application, proposal or finalist and/or to terminate or re-advertise any project.

### Scoring Criteria

<b>Artistic Excellence</b> Strength of artwork concept, originality and artistic merit of the preliminary design sketch	15 points
<b>Context</b> The proposed artwork creatively responds to the suggested themes and design specifications	10 points
<b>Artwork Samples</b> The artwork samples provided display a high level of artistic merit within the artist’s chosen discipline (not necessarily mural production/public art)	10 points
<b>Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)</b> The artist’s qualifications and experience demonstrate a high level of commitment to their chosen artistic discipline (not necessarily mural production/public art)	5 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40 points</b>

### Estimated Project Timeline – 2023/24

Deadline	Activity
March 1, 2024	Applications due
By March 31, 2024	Successful artists selected; enters into a contract with the City of Burlington
April - May 2024	Project development: Artist works with staff to refine designs, finalize artwork concept and create digital artwork file.
Late June / Early July 2024	Installation and unveiling (date TBD)

## Application Package

Applications are due on or before **March 1, 2024, at 11:59 PM.**

**Applications must be submitted online.** Please note, to use the online application, you will need to create a free account for the online application system Submittable.

Visit <https://burlingtonpublicart.com/calls-for-artists/> to access the online application.

Applications must include the following:

1. **Mural Design Sketch:** Please submit a **preliminary** sketch of the proposed design. The design sketch is intended to be a work-in-progress / concept sketch rather than a finished piece.
2. **Artwork Concept Statement:** Please provide a written outline of the proposed artwork concept. This should include a statement on the artist's approach to the project, stating how the proposed artwork is intended to be interpreted and understood by the City and general public (**maximum 500 words**).
3. **Artwork Samples:** submit **six images** maximum of your past artwork. Please note:
  - Images should be representative of your past work and do not necessarily need to include samples of past public art projects.
  - All images must be in JPEG format, suitable resolution for viewing on a computer screen.
4. **Image List:** Tell us about your artwork samples. Please include title of artwork, materials, dimensions, date and location of artwork (if applicable).
5. **Curriculum Vitae:** outline recent qualifications and artistic activities, **two pages maximum**.

## Contact Us

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like assistance accessing the online application form.

### Kim Selman

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