



Request for Expressions of

Interest

The Alton Terrace Reimagined

Alton Community Centre, Burlington, Ontario



Deadline: Friday May 15, 2026

Budget: \$50,000 CAD

For more information:

Olivia Hope

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burlingtonpublicart.com

Artist Opportunity

To mark the renaming of the Alton Community Centre (3040 Tim Dobbie Dr., Burlington, ON), the City of Burlington invites professional artists and artist teams to envision an immersive public artwork that celebrates civic identity, collective memory, and community life. This commission seeks to reimagine the Centre not only as a physical destination, but as a living symbol of connection, creativity, and belonging within the Alton neighbourhood.

Alton Terrace Reimagined presents a unique opportunity for artists to shape an urban space in transition. The City is seeking bold and imaginative proposals that weave together artistic expression and functional design, transforming the terrace into a welcoming and dynamic gathering place. Proposals should invite participation, spark curiosity, and foster meaningful connections across generations and cultures, while thoughtfully responding to the site's histories and character.

This Call to Artists is open to artists working across a wide range of styles and mediums who are inspired to create work that reflects the spirit of Alton and contributes to a shared vision of a vibrant, inclusive public realm.

Conceptual drawings are not required at this time. Applicants are asked to submit a high-level proposal outlining their approach to the project. The selected artist will develop a detailed design and community engagement plan in consultation with staff and the selection panel.

Community Engagement

The selected artist will be expected to incorporate an element of community engagement or participate in the reimagining of the Alton Terrace. This may include, but is not limited to, community workshops, input into the design, etc. The City of Burlington will support community engagement activities through access to City-owned space, promotion, and administrative support.

Alton Terrace Reimagined Location

The Alton Community Centre is a shared facility between the City of Burlington, Burlington Public Library- Alton Branch and the Dr. Frank J. Hayden Secondary School. The terrace is located at the Community Centre's front entrance and directly across from Norton Skate Park, the Norton Community Park and a public transit stop.

Technical Requirements

Artists are invited to reimagine the terrace through:

- Integrating functional artistic elements such as benches, shade structures, etc.
- Utilizing the open space, benches, garden, and glass rail for a variety of elements such as sculptural, vinyl wraps or painted murals, organic materials, etc.
- The benches can be incorporated into or removed from the design
- The ping pong table must remain as an element within the terrace but may be relocated. The table may be utilized as a design element ex. painted, vinyl wrapped, etc.
- Painted mural on concrete wall or paving tiles (ground mural).

Location references in **Appendix 1**.

Project Budget

The artist commission is \$50,000.00 (plus HST, if applicable). The selected artist(s) must account for the following:

- Artist fees, including design fees, production time, project management, etc.
- Engineer drawings (if applicable).
- All materials, equipment and labour required for community engagement activities.
- All costs associated with travel and transportation.

- Proof of all required insurance, including \$2,000,000 Commercial General Liability insurance, is active for the duration of the project.
- All materials, equipment and labour required for the artwork fabrication and installation.

The following items should not be included in the Project Budget. The City of Burlington will provide the following:

- Access to City-Owned facilities (i.e., community rooms, etc.) for community engagement and outreach activities (if applicable).
- Advertising, coordination, and promotion of community engagement activities.
- Site preparation (i.e., power washing, garden elements, etc.).

Eligibility

This competition is open to all Ontario-based professional* artists or artist teams. It is expected that this project will include a public engagement component. As such, the selected artist(s) must be able to travel to Burlington, Ontario to facilitate all components of the installation, all public engagement activities as well as the unveiling event (Summer - Fall 2026, TBD). All costs related to travel must be accounted for in the Project Budget.

We encourage submissions from artists from diverse backgrounds and origins, specifically Black, Indigenous, and racialized individuals, 2SLGBTQIA+ community members, and people with disabilities or disabled people. To support the City's efforts to create inclusive spaces and improve representation in its public art collection, proposals from artists or teams that represent other equity-deserving groups can also self-identify.

** A professional artist is an individual who has specialized skills and/or training in his/her artistic discipline (not necessarily in academic institutions), has a history of public presentation, and is critically recognized as an artist.*

Estimate Project Timeline: 2026

Estimated Timeline	Activity
May 15, 2026	Application Deadline
June 5, 2026	Successful artist is selected; contract executed
July 10, 2026	Detailed design and community engagement plan submitted for approval
July 17, 2026	Detailed design and community engagement plan approved
August 2026	Community engagement, design development from engagement portion
August - September 2026	Installation
Early October 2026	Unveiling and community celebration

Selection Process

A Selection Committee comprised of project stakeholders, artists/arts professionals and community members will review all applications based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications and professional experience of artist(s).
- Artistic merit of previous work (as expressed in artwork samples submitted).
- The artist(s)' responsiveness to this project (as outlined in the Expression of Interest Statement submitted).
- An expressed desire to create artwork in and for the public realm.
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines, budgets, and success in executing projects of the scale outlined in this document.

Please note, the Selection Committee and the City of Burlington reserve the right to not recommend any application, proposal, or finalist and to terminate or re-advertise any project.

How to Apply

Applications are due on or before Friday, May 15, 2026 (11:59 p.m.). All applicants will receive notice via email that their application has been received. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their application has been received. If you do not receive verification within 24 hours of submitting your application, please contact publicart@burlington.ca; 289-208-4699.

Applications must be submitted online. 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. **Expression of Interest Statement:** A high-level statement outlining your interest in this project. Please include the following:
 - Describe your artistic practice and why you are interested in this opportunity.
 - Please outline any relevant experience or qualifications relating to community engagement or education.
 - A high-level outline of your proposed approach to community engagement for this project.
 - A high-level description of your proposed design (i.e., your preliminary thoughts on how you would approach the project and how this connects to your artistic practice).
 - Please note, design sketches are not required.

1000 words maximum

2. **Biography:** A short biography outlining the relevant interests, experiences and qualification of the artist(s).

250 words maximum

3. **Curriculum Vitae (Artist Resume):** Outline recent qualifications and artistic activities. If applying as part of a team / artist collective, please submit one consolidated C.V.

4 pages maximum

4. **Artwork Samples:** Submit up to **ten (10) images** of your past artwork which best illustrates a related body of artwork to the proposal.
5. **Image List:** A numbered list that corresponds to the Artwork Samples. Please include the following: title, date, materials, dimensions, locations, commissioning agent or client and budget (if applicable).

Submit Applications Online:

<https://burlingtonpublicart.com/calls-for-artists/>

Questions? We are Here to Help!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, need support using the online application system or require accommodation in the application process.

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City of Burlington

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W: www.burlingtonpublicart.com

Appendix 1 - Location References



Image 1. Glass rail and concrete wall available for paint and vinyl installations.



Image 2. Ping Pong table, benches and garden bed available for paint, vinyl, sculptural and organic installations.

Public Art Opportunity
Alton Terrace Reimagined
The Alton Community Centre



Image 3. concrete wall, paving tiles, glass rail, ping pong table, benches, garden bed, and open space, available for installations as noted in Images 1 and 2.



Image 4. concrete wall, paving tiles, ping pong table, benches, garden bed, and open space, available for installations as noted in Images 1 and 2.