



Fredericton

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) – Public art Commission for the Fredericton Performing Arts Centre

23 October, 2023

1 Project Description

The City of Fredericton (on behalf of the Fredericton Playhouse Inc.) is issuing this Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) for professional artists working in the public art realm to create, fabricate and install an original site-specific public artwork for a new Performing Arts Centre. The Performing Arts Centre is planned for opening in the Fall of 2026 in downtown Fredericton. This RFQ is the first of a two-stage process.

The growth and design of Downtown Fredericton is guided by the [City Centre Plan](#) that sets out a bold vision to be a dynamic, successful, attractive, and vibrant place. The Fredericton Playhouse Inc. is leading the design of a new Performing Arts Centre which will replace the aging Fredericton

Playhouse. The new Performing Arts Centre will become an iconic landmark focus for downtown Fredericton, the Capital Region, and the Wolastoq/Saint John River Valley. It will be an anchor investment in a region that is becoming one of the most vibrant in Atlantic Canada.

With its front door on King Street and its façade wrapping around the corner onto Regent Street, the Performing Arts Centre is ideally situated in the heart of downtown Fredericton with proximity to the Historic Garrison District, the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, the Provincial Legislative Assembly, parking, restaurants, tourist accommodations, shops, services, and cultural institutions.



Map locating the site of the Performing Arts Centre

2 New Performing Arts Centre Design

The new Performing Arts Centre is a 72,000-square-foot building that includes:

- an 865-seat main hall, fully equipped for a variety of the highest-quality performance including music of all genres, opera, dance, comedy, theatre, film, circus, and Broadway;
- a 282-seat flexible theatre;
- a main-floor lobby that includes a small open amphitheatre to be used for performances, workshops, lectures, educational programs, receptions, and public gatherings; and,
- a multipurpose studio room for small performances, workshops, recitals, or varying artist purposes.

The Performing Arts Centre is being designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects.

The building's design has been influenced by:

- The wide, slow, powerful, and lifegiving Saint John River/Wolastoq. The modern glass curtainwall along King and Regent Streets are evocative of ripples in the water and their faceted nature creates animated reflections. The power of the river is also seen on the interior where the organic forms and chamfered edges of the main building reflect the shaping and erosional qualities of powerful waterways.
- Wood is an important material both culturally and economically. It brings a warmth and familiarity to spaces and will be a key component of the Lobby construction.
- Fredericton's rich history and variety of building materials have influenced the choice of limestone, buff brick, red brick, and the glass curtainwall.
- The design of the building complements its civic neighbours while injecting contemporary design ideas. The use of glass along King and Regent Streets is key to giving the building a strong presence on the street and for the public. The modern glass curtainwall is meant to allow light to shift and change depending on the environmental elements.
- The project looks to local traditions, like weaving, to integrate into the design of its spaces—particularly in the Main Hall.



View looking to the Performing Arts Centre from King Street



View looking to the Performing Arts Centre from Regent Street

3 Public Art Opportunity

The Fredericton Playhouse Inc. is interested in incorporating a contemporary art installation that will be prominently and permanently installed in the lobby. The designated site for the artwork located at the top of feature stairs (see page 5) is generous in scale and will be viewed from both the interior and exterior of the building. The art installation is anticipated to be bold and visually strong.

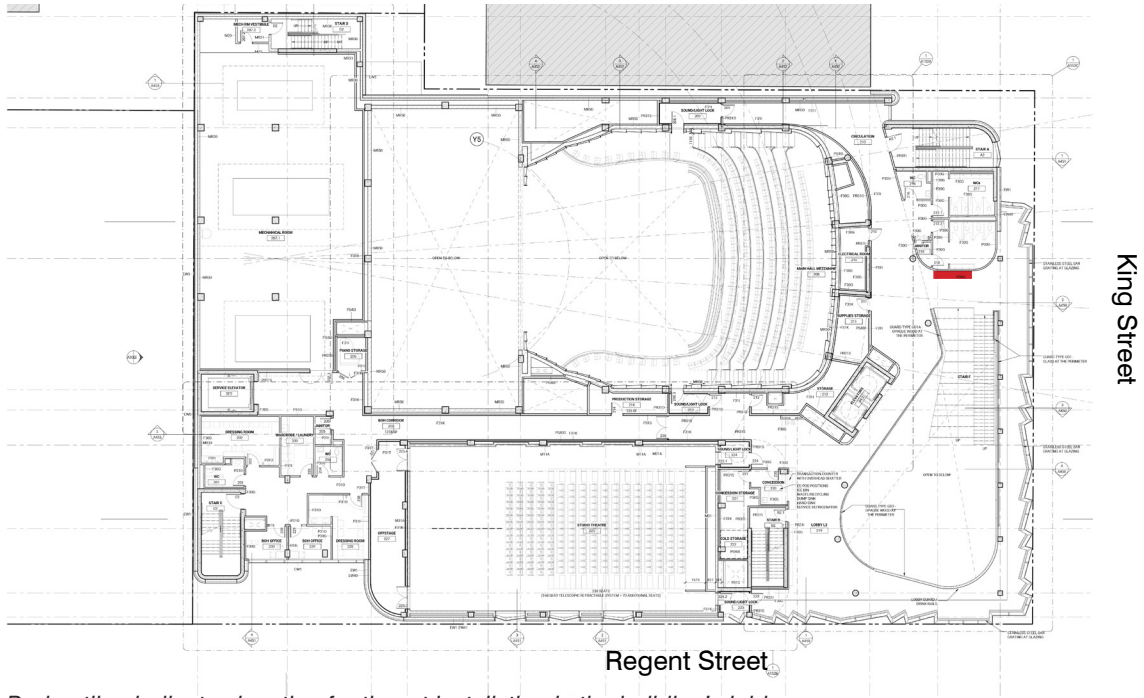
Fredericton Playhouse Inc. offers the following for consideration and exploration in the creation of the public art installation, and to determine interest in submitting this RFQ.

Community – The vision of the Fredericton Playhouse Inc. is “community strengthened by live performance” – the idea that when people share experiences (as audience members, performers, workers, volunteers, etc.) that their shared understanding and sense of belonging are enriched -- and as a result, their community is stronger. In this sense, the word “community” is taken in its broadest sense: not only the larger community of greater Fredericton, but also communities of interest and shared experience, families, neighbourhoods, ethno-cultural communities, school communities, or even the global community.

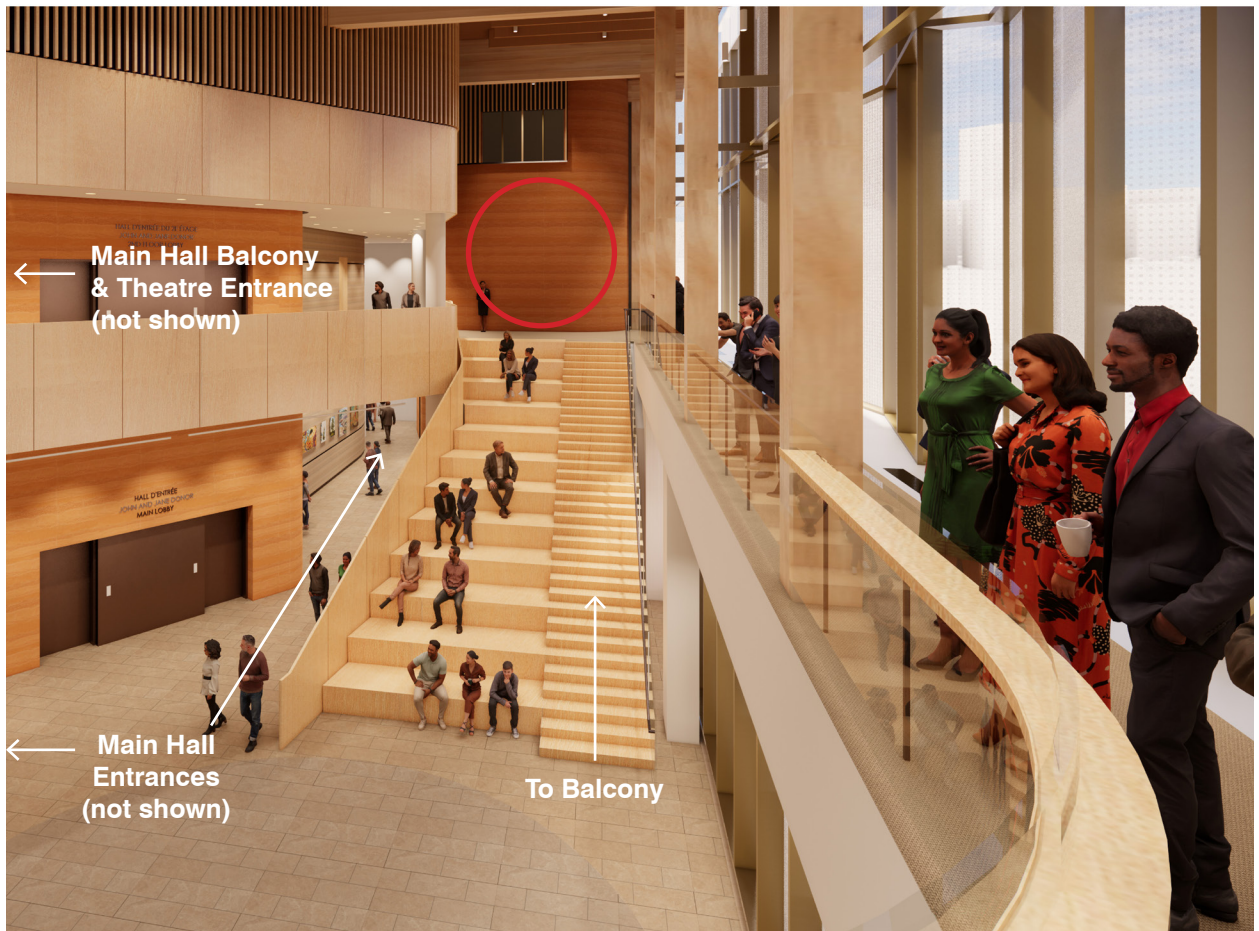
Celebration – The Performing Arts Centre’s primary role in gathering people is reinforced by the idea of “celebrating together”. What is being celebrated can be very diverse – an idea, a purpose, a history, a milestone, a culture, etc.

Performing Arts, Imagination and Creativity - The role of creativity and the arts in contemporary society; the role of the artist in providing insight, beauty, or commentary; and the performing arts specifically as an ethereal form of expression that ultimately creates an experience that exists only in the shared space and time that an audience and artist share.

The work should be more universal than specific in its appeal. For example, referencing a specific art form such as music, theatre, or dance would be less desirable than a work that speaks more generally to “performing arts.”



Red outline indicates location for the art installation in the building's lobby



4 Details of the RFQ

This RFQ is the first of a two-stage process to select an artist. It is open to professional artists and artist teams. The artist(s) must be recognized as such by their peers, with specialized training in the field, and proven experience installing high impact public artworks. Artist teams may not change over the duration of the project. The prime artist must be a Canadian resident living in Canada or abroad. Artists working in any media may apply.

The budget for the art design, fabrication and installation is \$230,000 plus HST. This is inclusive of all related expenses such as: materials, permits required, travel, delivery, insurance, etc.

Submissions should be formatted as one pdf with a file name FPAC.artistname.pdf. Submissions must be sent via email to bids@fredericton.ca with "RFQ – Public Art" in the subject line. Please use this e-mail address only when sending your Submissions. Artists should receive an automatic reply confirming receipt of their Submission. If the Artist does not receive the automatic reply, the Cultural Development Officer should be contacted by telephone. Limit the submission email size to a maximum of 50 MB or send the submission in multiple pieces. Files that are larger than 50 MB will bounce back. The City of Fredericton or Fredericton Playhouse Inc. shall not be liable for any loss or damage of any nature whatsoever if an email submission is not received prior to the designated time and date due to malfunctioning equipment, the inability to complete the transmission of a document, or for any other reason.

Proponents shall be solely responsible for the delivery of their submissions in the manner and time prescribed. The City of Fredericton recommends the Proponents send their Proposals well ahead of the Closing Date and get confirmation of receipt, last hour submissions are not recommended.

Proposals must be in English only or in English and French.

An optional information meeting will be held on November 7, 2023, from 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. (Atlantic). There will be a presentation by the architect and an opportunity to post questions. The presentation will be in English only. [Use the Teams link to access the meeting.](#)

Submissions must be received no later than **Monday, December 4 @ 11:59 P.M. (Atlantic)**. Artists are solely responsible for the timely receipt of their submissions.

Questions concerning this process, or the submission requirements should be submitted in writing by Wednesday, November 8. Any questions deemed relevant to all applicants will be posted to the [Public Art pages of the City website](#) on Monday, November 20. Questions should be submitted in writing to:

Angela Watson
Cultural Development Officer
City of Fredericton
New Brunswick, Canada
angela.watson@fredericton.ca
(506)471-3378

A complete RFQ must include:

- a cover letter indicating the artist's interest and contact information (artist's name, address, daytime telephone, evening telephone number (including area code), email address and website address);
- a description of the artist's qualifications and experience (2 pages max);
- written outline (maximum one page) of the artistic approach to this opportunity;
- a resume for each person on the artist team;
- name and contact information for 2 project references.
- 3 descriptions and digital images (up to 3 for each) of past work. Images are to be included in the pdf file. Each project to clearly identify:
 - title of artwork
 - year completed
 - location
 - size and materials
 - concept
 - approach to collaboration with other designers or specialists
 - total budget (including fabrication and installation)
 - recommended budget allocated to ongoing maintenance
 - how the project was completed on time and within the confirmed budget. If not, describe why.
 - for commissioned works, indicate commissioning body and reason for work.

Applicants should not include any specific proposals at this time. Any such elements will be redacted from the submission prior to review by the Selection Committee.

5 Evaluation of the RFQ

The submissions will be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee, comprised of representative(s) from the Fredericton Performing Arts Centre, project architect, arts professionals, and artists with expertise in public art.

engineer/manager, architect, and arts centre manager; and,

- proven record and ability to complete similar scale projects on time and within budgets.

Submissions will be evaluated based on:

- proposed approach to the project;
- demonstrated strong, contemporary, innovative and original work;
- demonstrated experience of the required scale, and permanent, sustainable public artworks;
- demonstrated ability to work within a team environment which may include a project

Based on their evaluation, the Committee will select up to five (5) short-listed artists to advance to the next stage. The short-listed artists will be invited to develop Public Art Proposals based on a Competition Brief. Each of the short-listed artists will be given a fee of \$3,000 (plus HST if applicable) to develop their Public Art Proposal concept.

The following is a general timeline, with dates subject to change.

STAGE 1

October 23, 2023	Advertise the Request for Qualifications
November 7, 2023 2:00-4:00 P.M. (Atlantic)	Virtual Information Session on the Performing Arts Centre, the location of the public art installation
November 8, 2023	Deadline for questions
on or before November 20, 2023	Questions and Answers to be posted to City website
December 4, 2023	Deadline to respond to the RFQ
Early-Mid January 2024	Selection Committee meets to select shortlisted artists Reference checks
Late January/Early February 2024	Notification of shortlisted artists invited to Stage Two – Public art Proposal A Competition Brief, including complete building design and construction details, will be provided

STAGE 2

Mid-late March 2024	Deadline for submission of public art concepts from shortlisted artists
April 2024	Technical review of proposals
May 2024	Presentation of each public art concept to the Public Art Selection Committee
June 2024	Notify the selected artist Initiate public art commission contract

DESIGN, FABRICATION, INSTALLATION

June 2024 - March 2026	Design, Approval, Fabrication of the public art (collaboration with team)
August 2026 – exact date TBC	Delivery and Installation of public art