



DUKE HEIGHTS

**Information Brief
Call to Artists**

**LANDMARK ARTWORK FOR
DUKE HEIGHTS BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA (BIA) INITIATIVE
KEELE/ FINCH LANDMARK**

**CLOSING DATE AND TIME:
Proposals must be received prior to:
Monday, June 15, 2020 at 11:00PM Eastern Time**



May 13, 2020

**INFORMATION BRIEF
CALL TO ARTISTS**

**LANDMARK ARTWORK FOR
DUKE HEIGHTS BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA (BIA) INITIATIVE
KEELE/ FINCH LANDMARK**

This Information Brief is issued to interested artists who have expressed interest in submitting their credentials for consideration as the first stage of a two-stage public art design competition sponsored by the DUKE Heights Business Improvement Area in partnership with the City of Toronto.

The catchment area for the BIA is home to a great variety of uses including residential as well as an innovative mix of businesses. The completed artwork will be located near the entrance to the under-construction Finch Avenue LRT Station on the substantial east median of Finch Ave. at the intersection of Keele Street and Finch Ave. This is a high-profile landmark location.

This \$350,000. project will be one of the landmark artworks undertaken to celebrate 2021 as Toronto's Year of Public Art. Announcement of the winning design will take place at the end of 2020 or in early 2021. The completion of the project is expected to take place in 2023.

Kindly read the information carefully and if you are interested in submitting your credentials for consideration, please respond on or before the Closing Date providing all information described under Submittals.

If any information is missing, this may eliminate you from further consideration. We thank all artists for their interest but note that only advancing artists (the Finalists) will be contacted.

All communications must be in writing.

1. BACKGROUND and REQUIREMENTS for ARTWORK

The DUKE Heights BIA is Ontario's second largest BIA with over 2,500 businesses employing over 32,000 people. Situated at the northernmost part of the city of Toronto, DUKE Heights is one of the highest points of the city. Nestled between Downsview Park and York University, the area has great potential and is home to a wide variety of uses from residences through to an innovative mix of businesses. With the TTC, GO transit, the under construction Finch West LRT and various highways surrounding the BIA, the community is better positioned than any other business area for strategic and planned growth.



DUKE Heights BIA began as the Dufferin Finch BIA in 2014. This newly created Business Improvement Area elected a group of business leaders who had a new vision for the area. A vision of change. Of opportunities and untapped potential.

The DUKE Heights BIA's primary objective is to promote the potential of the area, provide support to businesses in the area and inject new resources to tap into the potential of the community.

These goals will be expressed in physical form through a permanent work of art to be placed in the substantial median at one of the busiest and most important intersections in Toronto, at Keele Street and Finch Ave. The site has been identified and is governed by specific requirements for placement, loading and public safety.

The DUKE Heights BIA, sponsor of this public art competition, is issuing this **Call to Artists** as **the first stage of a two-stage competition process** that will result in the installation of an artwork that symbolizes the vision for DUKE Heights.

Art is a powerful form of story-telling – sharing, learning, giving pleasure – an instinct and practice as old as humanity. The completed commission will be part of the daily experience for commuters and area residents and workers and will be experienced by a vast audience. It will symbolize the dynamism of the Duke Heights BIA.

Above all, it is expected to:

- Engage the community at large in the urban and employment neighborhood
- Serve as a memorable and welcoming landmark
- The completed artwork should be a source of pride for the community.

The completed artwork will become part of the City of Toronto Public Art Collection. As such, durability, ease of maintenance, respect for public safety and originality of expression are of paramount interest. The commissioned artist will be expected to work with the DUKE Heights BIA consultants and City of Toronto representatives (who will manage the design and procurement process after the selection is made) to ensure that all requirements are met within the design, fabrication and installation of the artwork.

Fabrication must be carried out by qualified personnel situated in the Province of Ontario (preference for firms operating in the GTHA). The artist must engage a Professional Engineer licensed to practise in the Province of Ontario for structural design.

The site is situated on the large eastern landscaped median at the intersection of Finch Ave. and Keele Street. A concrete foundation/plinth is designed to support the artwork with fixed maximum loading capacity. Power is supplied to the site to illuminate the artwork but water, lighting and kinetic artworks are not of interest. The site is fixed and cannot be changed. No portion of the artwork may extend beyond the plinth. The plinth not only supports the artwork but also serves as a cue to inform the visually impaired that an object is situated nearby. AODA guidelines must be respected.



The Finalists advancing in this competition must have the ability to work within constraints with good humour and understanding. This ability to work within a team environment is important and reference checks will be carried out to assess those qualities of the Finalist candidates.

A budget of approximately \$350,000 has been identified. This must include all artist fees, engineering costs, supply, fabrication, insurance, delivery and installation costs. A complete list of budget requirements will be contained in the Finalist Competition Brief.

The estimated date for completion of the artwork is 2023 (subject to change based on the construction schedule for the Finch LRT project). **Stage 2 of the competition** will be held through the summer/early Fall of 2020 with a winning design to be announced (following contract execution) in 2021 as part of the City of Toronto celebrations for the Year of Public Art.

An important milestone in the project is May 2021 at which point the winning design must have achieved approval of structural design and specifications for the anchoring system into the plinth/slab. The plinth/slab is expected to be poured in July 2021 and anchors and layout (template) required to support the artwork must be approved and delivered to the contractor in accordance with their schedule.

2. ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible, you must be a professional artist, born in or living in the Province of Ontario.

Artists for this commission must exhibit the following attributes:

- demonstrate a history of public exhibition as an artist
- training or experience as an artist
- peer recognition as an artist.

3. QUALIFICATIONS:

You should have completed at least one permanent public art commission valued at \$100,000 or more (project cost) or have equivalent experience in preparing and presenting a project within a museum, sculpture garden or public institution.

4. REFERENCES:

You must provide the name, telephone number and email address of at least 2 professional references. These should be individuals associated with your past public art commission or gallery/museum work.

5. SUBMITTALS:

The Information Brief is available by email only. All details concerning the submission are contained in this Information Brief.

Kindly follow the directions as noted below:



The submittal must be made in two (2) pdf documents:

- A **signed Agreement to Participate** indicating that you are interested in submitting your credentials and references for consideration and agree to abide by the rules for the competition (Form 1)
- A pdf containing:
 - a current curriculum vitae (not more than 3 pages in length)
 - up to 6 images of past public art commissions or large-scale art installations or museum/gallery projects with a brief description of each including location of work, budget and materials (up to 6 pages)
 - names and contact information for two professional references
 - a cover letter of interest (one page) expressing why you would be a good candidate for this project

6. DISQUALIFICATION

The following outlines grounds for disqualification:

- Candidates may not lobby City or DUKE Heights BIA staff nor the competition advisors for advancement
- Candidates may **not** offer ideas for artwork designs nor existing works for consideration for purchase under **any** circumstances. Doing so will result in disqualification from further consideration.
- Submissions that do not contain a signed Agreement to Participate will not be considered

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

Only inquiries in writing will be accepted.
Email questions and your final submittal to:
publicartDHBIA@gmail.com

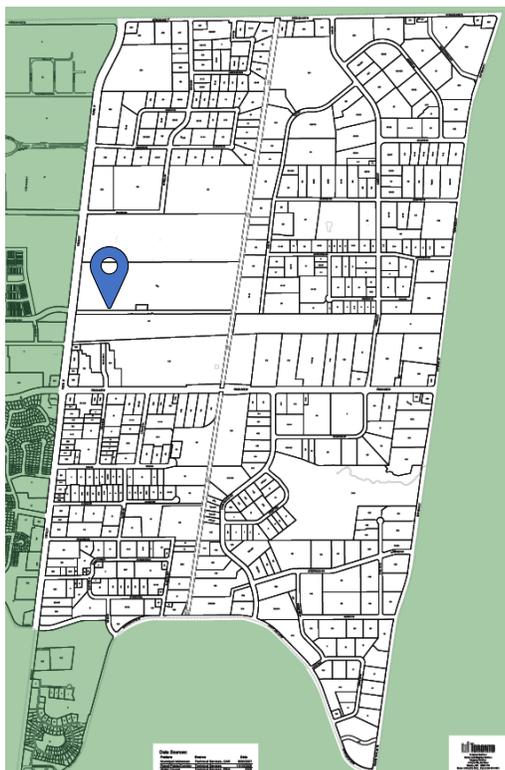
8. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

Closing Date for Submissions is June 15, 2020, not later than 11:00PM Eastern Time.

NOTE: This program is open to qualified artists who were born or are resident in Ontario.
We thank all artists for their interest but note that **only** advancing Finalists will be contacted for Stage 2 of the competition.

The decisions of the DUKE Heights BIA Public Art Team are final.





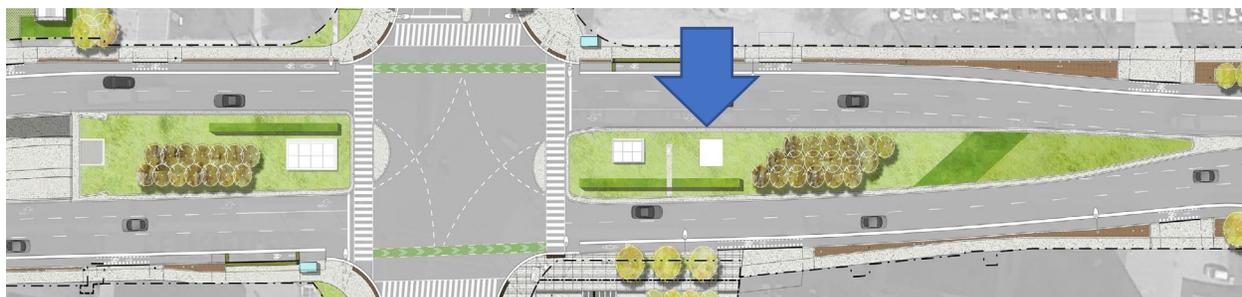
MAP of DUKE Heights BIA:

Map of the DUKE Heights BIA: boundaries extend from Dufferin Street to Keele Street (East-West) and from Steeles Ave. W to Sheppard Ave. W (North-South).

The completed artwork will be located near the entrance to the under-construction Finch Avenue LRT Station on the substantial east median of Finch Ave. at the intersection of Keele Street and Finch Ave.

EXHIBITS:

The Site: 5m x 5m concrete plinth on east median (arrow)
Artwork Location 5m x 5m concrete plinth



For more Information about DUKE Heights BIA, please visit our website at: <https://dukeheights.ca/>





**LANDMARK ARTWORK FOR
DUKE HEIGHTS BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA (BIA) INITIATIVE
KEELE/ FINCH LANDMARK**

AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE & CONSENT FORM

Toronto, Ontario

Terms and Conditions

Each Artist **must** complete this form and return to:

publicartDHBIA@gmail.com

on or before June 15, 2020, not later than 11:00PM Eastern Time.

Candidates who do not provide a signed Agreement to Participate will be disqualified.

I/We, the undersigned artist(s) hereby declare that I/we have read and understand the Call for Artists/Information Brief and credentials guidelines and that I/ we are willing to submit our credentials for consideration for the DUKE Heights Public Art Landmark Project.

Should the submission of my/our proposal not result in a commission award, I/we shall not hold any agent or employee of the BIA, the City of Toronto, the Jury, nor the Public Art Consultant /Administrator personally liable.

I/We stipulate and agree that under no circumstances may I/we or our representatives or others acting for us, lobby employees of the BIA, members of the Arts Review Committee, the Jury nor the public art consultant or engage others to lobby on my/our behalf for a commission.

I/We understand that all decisions made by the BIA, its advisors and the Jury are final.

I/We understand that failure to follow these terms and conditions will result in disqualification.

AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE

I/We have read the DUKE Heights BIA Landmark Public Art Project Guidelines and agree to participate according to the terms and conditions set out therein.

Artist(s): _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

Name:

Address:

Telephone (Day):

(Evening):

Email:

