



Black Experiences & Contributions

Call for Artists

September 1, 2022



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA



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UTM BLACK EXPERIENCES AND CONTRIBUTIONS PUBLIC ART PROJECT – CALL FOR ARTISTS

Summary

The University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) is commissioning a new work of critically-engaged contemporary art by a Black Canadian artist or artists for an outdoor, publicly accessible space on campus.

Artists are invited to address the complexities of Black experience and its histories, within and beyond the University, including the aspirations and realities of Black achievement and its histories, locally and in Canada. Responding to the objectives of the [University of Toronto Task Force on Anti-Black Racism](#), the project's goals are to position, acknowledge, strengthen and celebrate Black presence, experience, perspectives, histories, and achievements within the University of Toronto Mississauga campus. UTM is seeking submissions of a short project prospectus from interested Black Canadian artists. This is an open-ended call for prospectus submissions. Bronze is the selected medium for the artwork.

Context

As a society in Canada, we are increasingly aware of the importance of reflecting in our public spaces, values of representation and inclusion, and of recognizing the achievement of all communities. This applies to public spaces at Canada's universities.

In May 2021, the [University of Toronto Task Force on Anti-Black Racism](#) delivered its [report](#) to the University, including recommendations to create more Black-inclusive spaces. Specifically, the Task Force recommended that the University "support art representation across the three campuses that amplify the contributions of Black Canadians and/or the Black experience." The University [accepted all the recommendations](#) of the Task Force.

Drawing from the recommendations of the report, particularly recommendation 5, "Promoting Black Inclusive Spaces," the University of Toronto Mississauga is exploring how public space on campus can be used to celebrate and recognize Black experiences and Black contributions to Canada, Ontario, Peel and the University through art.

A Steering Committee of internal and external representatives has been struck to develop recommendations to the Vice-President and Principal on an art installation interpreting these themes on UTM campus. We are grateful to this Committee for its guidance and participation in the consultation process to commission public art on these themes.

Guiding Concepts and Values

Artists are encouraged to respond to the following framing concepts and values:

- Recognition
- Affirmation
- Transformation
- Inspirational
- Pride
- Celebration
- Community
- Empowerment
- Permanence
- Educational
- Intersectionality, inclusiveness
- Diversity of representation
- Anti-racist, anti-oppressive
- Resilience, endurance
- Vulnerability
- History
- Youth, next generation
- Unsung, everyday heroes

Budget

The budget for the project, including all artist fees, materials, studio fees, 'artist side'- fabrication and engineering, contractor fees, insurance as well as any other, known or unknown costs determined by the artist, will be a maximum of \$200,000 CAD for the overall creation budget. Artists' fees typically are a maximum of 10% of the creation budget.

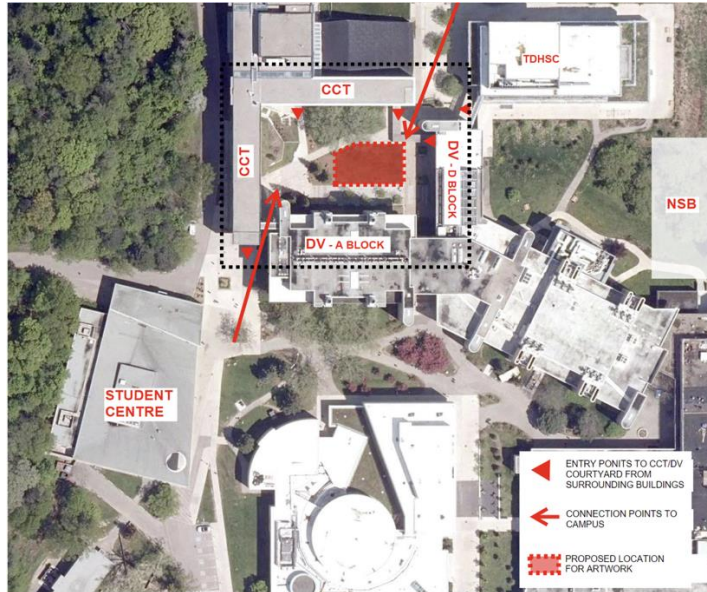
Artists who wish to propose projects with estimated budget beyond \$200,000 are encouraged to identify potential sources of additional funding in their prospectus.

Site

The sculptural artwork is proposed to be installed at the heart of the campus in an outdoor, green, publicly accessible courtyard of the William G. Davis building (DV), and the Communications, Culture and Technology (CCT) building.



Proposed site: Davis/CCT Courtyard



View of the proposed site





Experiential Learning

As an institution of advanced education and research, UTM seeks to integrate experiential learning opportunities for University of Toronto students in aligned programs such as Visual Studies as part of this project. Specific opportunities will be negotiated with the selected artist, but could include observation of elements of the artistic process, engagement by the artist in lectures, seminars, workshops, etc.

Process and Prospectus

This project will follow a two-stage submission process:

1. Brief prospectus
2. Invitation to full proposal

The University of Toronto [art collections policy](#) provides the framework for art collection, and two committees, the UTM Art Acquisitions Committee, and the University of Toronto Art Committee lead the process for acceptance of artworks into the University collection. Additional community consultation will occur as part of the assessment of a short-list of full proposals.

UTM invites artists to submit a prospectus of no more than two pages, outlining how the artist would interpret the project themes and create a piece of public art that contemplates how the built environment - including art - shapes identity, and how it can re-centre and support identities that have historically been marginalized. Prospectus content may be narrative and visual.

Please include the following:

- Letter of interest, including project title and description
- CV
- Portfolio and/or documentation of previous works
- References

Please submit in pdf form to black.utm@utoronto.ca by December 9, 2022

All proposals received will be maintained by the University of Toronto Mississauga as confidential and will only be used for the purposes of review and assessment for this project.