



The
Robert
McLaughlin
Gallery

Community Arts Playground +
Greenspace

**Call for Expressions
of Interest**

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Land Acknowledgment



The Robert McLaughlin Gallery is in the treaty lands of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation. This land has been the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg since 1700; before that time, it was stewarded by various communities belonging to the Haudenosaunee and Wendat confederacies. It is covered under the Williams Treaties and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum.

This area continues to be home to many Indigenous people from across Mishiike Minisi. We recognize the sovereignty of all Indigenous nations and are grateful for the opportunity to learn, live, and work on this land.

We acknowledge that the RMG is in treaty land, and respect our collective responsibility to protect and nurture the land. We also recognize the continuing impacts of colonialism and our responsibilities to redress the ways this has helped shape our organization. We are committed to working to address structural inequities and to centering Indigenous voices in the gallery.

Project Vision + Description

The RMG has a large greenspace for public use and for gallery programming. We are seeking proposals to help us achieve our vision for an accessible community playground and greenspace.

Our goal is to create a significant outdoor space through creative placemaking and placekeeping that will lead to greater community well-being for all.

We are seeking expressions of interest for the following project components:

- Improve the greenspace through an accessible, artist-designed playground, park, and seating
- Addition of a permanent shade structure on the level area adjacent to the gallery building
- Adapt the slope or include the installation of a ramp to ensure safe, physical accessibility throughout the space
- Improve our front steps to create a gathering space

The project will also include the creation of an Indigenous medicine and butterfly garden in partnership with our partners and commissioning of public artworks. Consideration for these components must be included in the overall project plan.

The RMG is an asset for Oshawa and Durham residents and this project will develop a creative, community space for all to use and enjoy. We believe this greenspace will encourage people to come downtown and experience a recreational and cultural hub.

You can access initial thoughts from the RMG Team through this [Jamboard](#)

Community Consultation + Involvement

Community consultation is an important thread for this project, and will be integrated throughout the planning and at key milestones. This consultation will be led by PROCESS consultants in collaboration with the RMG team and selected external team.



Any organization, ad-hoc collective, or individuals submitting an expression of interest should be excited about working with and alongside community to realize a shared vision. Our communities will participate in the co-creation and be invested in its future use.



A Note on Accessibility

The playground, seating, and any other structures will be fully accessible and consider people with physical, neuro, and other disabilities. Currently the slope down to access Oshawa creek is steep. This project will also include grading for physical access or a ramp structure for those with mobility needs.

Limitations

The RMG backs onto Oshawa Creek. The team will be working alongside the Central Lake of Ontario Conservancy Association (CLOCA) to ensure that we are protecting the environment in achieving our goals.

A fence surrounds the area designated for the community arts playground and greenspace, and the project is limited to this area.

There is lighting and security for safety. Any adjustments require consultation with the City Of Oshawa.

There are two public artworks already in the area, which you can view on the RMG's website. It is possible to relocate these, but would need to be considered within the project budget and in conversation with the RMG's curatorial staff.

Durability

The RMG has a limited ongoing budget for maintaining the space. The City of Oshawa maintains landscaping. Annual maintenance of structures should be no more than \$5,000.

Project Schedule 2022

It is tight due to the timing of funding notification and deadline for grant spending.

March 15	Call for Expressions of Interest circulated
March 23	Open onsite visit for interested applicants (3 – 5 pm)
March 24	Virtual Information Session (12 – 1 pm)
April 2	Open onsite visit for interested applicants (2 – 4 pm)
April 8	Deadline for questions
April 15	Deadline for Expressions of Interest at 5pm EST
April 18-29	Meetings with select applicants
May 6	Final selection
May – June	Landscape grading + Final Concept Design
July – Aug	Final Detailed Design + Fabrication
Sept - Nov	Installation of remaining project elements

There will be no other onsite visits scheduled.

Budget

The total project budget for these components is \$300,000 - \$375,000. This will be dependent on whether the selected proposal includes addressing issues such as landscape grading, engineering costs, environmental assessments, etc. The final budget and fee for the selected proposal will be determined and agreed to in a contractual agreement between the RMG and the selected proposal.

Application + Selection Process

Who Can Apply

This project may appeal to a variety of individuals, organizations, or collectives. We welcome expressions of interest from all interested parties. You may apply individually or submit a collaborative team proposal.

As an artist-centered organization, we welcome diverse thinkers and ways of approaching the project. We welcome applications from people with a connection to the RMG, Oshawa, or the Durham Region. We encourage applications from equity deserving individuals, organizations, or collectives.

Selection Process

Following a review of the request for qualifications submissions, we will invite finalists to develop a proposal after an initial consultation meeting with the project team. You will be required to demonstrate project feasibility, including meeting budgetary and durability constraints once installed. Depending on the nature of the selected work, the next stage will include prototyping and materials testing. Confirmation of all aspects of community consultation, project planning, permits, and installation will happen before fabrication begins.

What to Include

Each Expression of Interest should include the following:

- Letter of intention describing what interests you about the project, what you know about the RMG and Durham Region, and how your values align with ours (up to 2 pages)
- CV or narrative description of the background, training, and related work (up to 5 pages)
- Images of completed works or projects including the title, date, materials, and site (up to 20 images total)

Please submit materials as a single digital PDF or hard copy packet. Deadline for complete submissions is April 15. Incomplete submissions will be subject to disqualification. The RMG will retain all submission materials.

Submissions and questions should be submitted to info@rmg.on.ca.

Vision, Mission + Values

Vision

Art cultivates connected and caring communities.

As an artist-centered and community-oriented public art gallery in Durham Region, we bring people from diverse backgrounds together to engage with art that inspires new perspectives, generates meaningful conversations, and creates a sense of belonging.

Mission

We build relationships with diverse artists and communities through art.

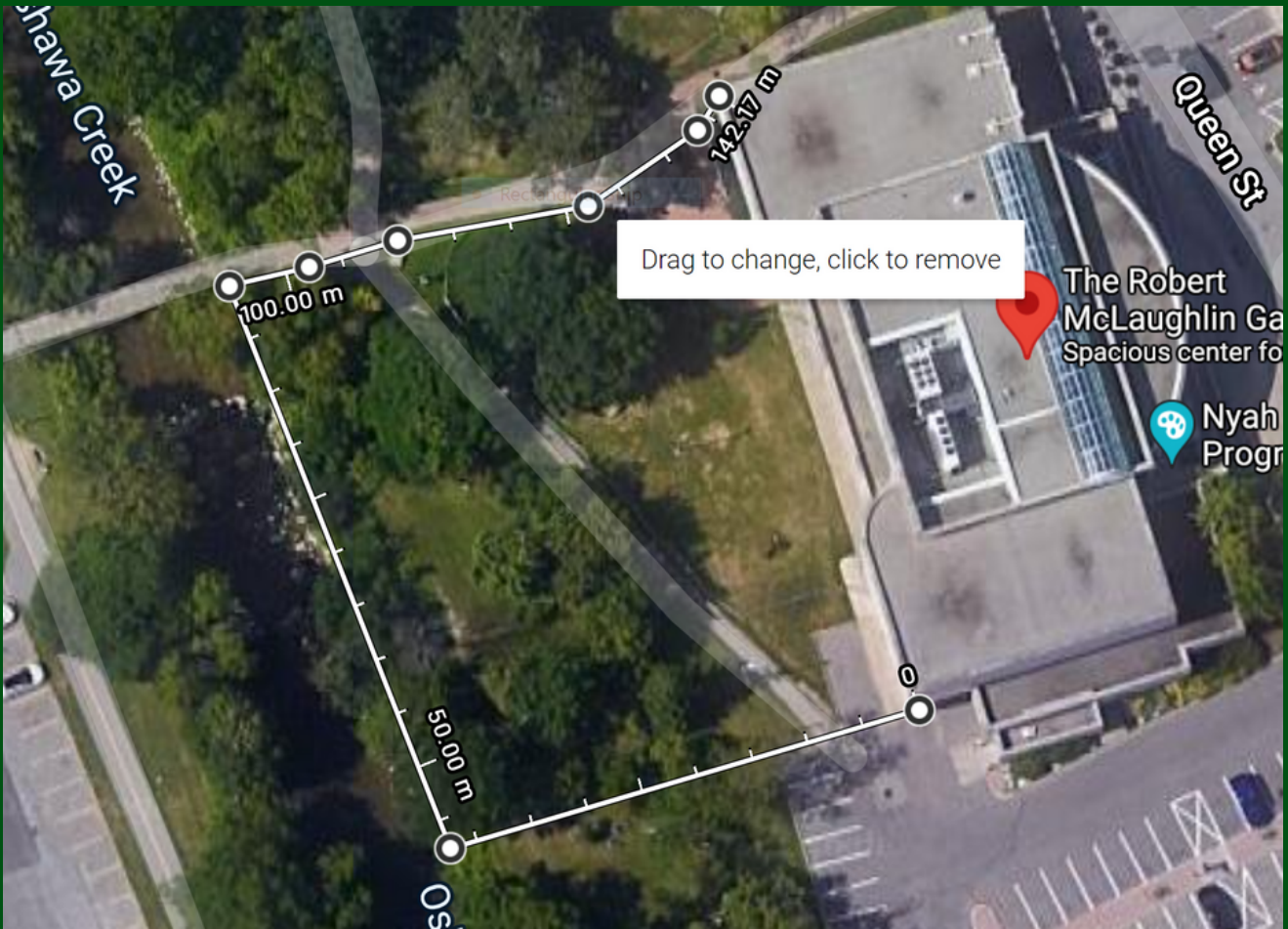
The RMG works in collaboration with artists, partners, and audiences to present dynamic and inspiring collections, exhibitions, and programs in an inclusive and equitable environment.

Values

1. Culture of Care
2. Artist-centered + Creative
3. Equity + Justice
4. Relationship-based + Collaborative
5. Accessible + Inclusive
6. Accountable + Open









For further information please email info@rmg.on.ca. No phone calls.

Please visit rmg.on.ca for further information on the RMG.

**Deadline for Applications
April 15 at 5pm**

