



CALL FOR INDIGENOUS ARTISTS

OPPORTUNITY

Artwork created by Indigenous artist(s) from the local communities of T'Sou-ke, SC'IA'NEW, and Pacheedaht located at the Museum entrance will provide the visual expression and connection to this place where the T'Sou-ke people have lived since time immemorial and the broader Sooke Region served by the Museum, as the land of SC'IA'NEW and Pacheedaht peoples.

The work(s) of art will build awareness of the different artistic styles and cultural traditions of the Coast Salish (T'Sou-ke and SC'IA'NEW) and Nuuchahnulth (Pacheedaht) and how these Nations and people have distinct cultural traditions and artistic styles.

The Sooke Region Museum & Visitor Centre welcomes over 40,000 visitors each year. Visitors inside the Museum include local residents, visitors from elsewhere on Vancouver Island and British Columbia, Canada, USA and all over the world. The main Museum building includes the Sooke Visitor Centre, a gift shop and the Museum. Visitors come to the space for information about local attractions and are then drawn through the gift shop to the Museum where they can get a sense of the place they are visiting. This original artwork will communicate that this has been inhabited and cared for by T'Sou-ke since time out of mind, and as they explore the Sooke Region, they are also visiting land of the SC'IA'NEW and Pacheedaht peoples.

CONTEXT

The Sooke Region Museum is in the process of updating interior exhibits to prepare for the 50th anniversary of the Museum in June 2027. This update presents an opportunity to mark the Museum entrance with original art by local Indigenous artists. The Museum building also includes the Sooke Visitor Centre and gift shop that visitors pass through before entering the Museum exhibits. Plans for updated exhibits are underway and will include cedar, hemlock and maple within the display materials.

As the art will be at the entryway inside the Museum space, public will be physically close and may touch the work. Proposals for art/installations that do not require intense or costly maintenance, electricity or technology are encouraged.

Artists interested in submitting a proposal are invited to contact staff for a site visit.

ARTIST EXPECTATIONS

Artists will project manage their work until completion, including managing their budget, purchasing materials, preparing detailed design drawings, creation/fabrication, delivery of artwork to the Museum and communicating any needs or questions with Museum staff during the project.

Proposals for 2D or 3D works/installations will be considered in materials determined by the artist. The medium(s) will fit the context and physical space destined for the completed work(s). All mediums will be considered including but not limited to: sculpture/carving (wood, stone, etc.), metal, hides, glass, textiles, weaving (bark, roots, etc.), photography, furs, painting, printmaking, drawing/illustration/animation, fish scales, beadwork, embroidery. Low-tech mediums are preferred, as the Museum is limited in presentation of film/video and digital art in the location this art will be presented.

SPACE ALLOCATION

Metric (cm)	Imperial (inches)
280 high	110 high
290 long	115 long
150 wide/deep	60 wide/deep
Keeping in mind minimum widths for public access -	
92cms / 36 inches - absolute minimum;	
107-122cms / 42-48 inches is ideal for accessibility standards.	

TWO-STAGE ARTIST PROPOSAL PROCESS

STAGE 1

ARTISTS INTERESTED IN BEING CONSIDERED FOR THIS PROJECT TO INCLUDE:

- visual examples of previous, related work
- description of their proposed work and how their proposal meets our objectives
- why they chose the materials, design, form, placement of their proposed work
- maintenance plan/requirements
- budget (including artist fee (conception, creation, supplies, materials, installation))

STAGE 2:

ARTISTS FROM STAGE 1 SELECTED FOR STAGE 2 WILL SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE:

- artist concept statement or creative approach
- draft artwork and design proposal (scaled drawings or in situ representation of the proposed art work)
- project plan outline including detailed timeline
- references
- artists selected for Stage 2 will receive a Proposal Fee of \$3,000 for the preparation of stage 2 requirements

ARTWORK BUDGET

up to \$15,000 per artist or \$45,000 (full project budget)

Proposed budget to include all costs for the conception, creation/fabrication (all materials, supplies), artist fee, drawings, and delivery of art to the Sooke Region Museum at 2070 Phillips Road, Sooke, BC. Museum staff will work with artist(s) for installation.

Proposals will be accepted from individual artists (in which case the budget will be shared) or from a collaborative representing T'Sou-ke, SC'IA'NEW, and Pacheedaht.

ELIGIBILITY

This Call for Indigenous Artists has been prepared to solicit responses from artists working in the local Coast Salish and Nuuchahnulth Indigenous traditions who have the skills and availability to work on this project during February to May 2027 (extension to September 2027 can be considered). T'Sou-ke artists are encouraged to consider a joint submission with SC'IA'NEW and Pacheedaht artists to fulfill project objectives.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Selection Panel will be comprised of up to 9 members representing:

Sooke Region Museum – Executive Director, Collections & Exhibits Manager, Exhibits Technician

Sooke Region Historical Society – 2 members of Exhibits Refresh Working Group

T'SOU-KE First Nation Councillor Rose Dumont

PACHEEDAHT First Nation – TBD

SC'IA'NEW First Nation – TBD

T'SOU-KE Artist - TBD

The Selection Panel will review all eligible submissions to recommend selected artist(s) to the Exhibits Refresh Committee.

TIMELINE

September 2026 – call for artists circulated

September-October 2026 - site visits, responding to questions from artists considering or preparing proposals

30 November 2026 – submission deadline Stage 1

14 December 2026 – selection panel meets to select artists invited to Stage 2

- artists invited to prepare proposals for Stage 2 (8 weeks to prepare proposal)

1 February 2027 – Stage 2 Proposal Deadline, forwarded to selection panelists

15 February 2027 - selection panel meets to determine selected artists

- selected artists contracted and coordinated timeline established

March – Sep 2027 – artwork creation, fabrication

8-17 Sep 2027 – artwork installation

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Eligible artists are invited to respond to this Call for Indigenous Artists by submitting the following for Stage 1:

1. Name, contact information (phone, e-mail address) and statement of availability during March to September 2027.

2. A letter of introduction: who you are, description of your art practice, which nation you are from, what you would bring to this project.

3. Up to 10 digital images of previous art and/or link to artist website.

4. Description of art work/installation you propose for the Sooke Region Museum entrance, including materials and preliminary sketch/ideas.

4. E-mail above to: director@sookeregionmuseum.ca

Use subject line: Art Proposal + Your Name

For further information, clarification and to arrange site visits, contact:

Michelle Richard, Executive Director, Sooke Region Museum

250-642-6351 director@sookeregionmuseum.ca