



The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection



Public Art Opportunity: Request for Expressions of Interest
Royal Botanical Gardens, Hendrie Gardens, Oak Allée
4 Commissions Available

Deadline: Friday December 2, 2022

Budget: \$15,000 - \$20,000 per artwork commission

For more information:

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Requests for Expressions of Interest

The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection (DLISC) invites professional artists to submit Expressions of Interest to create a permanent public artwork to be installed in the Oak Allée located in the Royal Botanical Gardens' (RBG) Hendrie Garden.

Four artworks will be commissioned with a \$15,000 - \$20,000 (CAD) budget per artist. Artists will only be selected to create one of the four artworks. Commission fee is inclusive of all taxes, artist fees, fabrication and transportation to the RBG.

Please note - this is a Request for Expression of Interest. **Artwork proposals are not requested at this time.**

Background: Royal Botanical Gardens

For over 80 years Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) has been an ecological jewel at the western tip of Lake Ontario. Conceived and founded through the tireless efforts of early conservationist Thomas Baker McQuesten, RBG lands were set aside to create the region's first botanical garden. Patterned after Kew Gardens in England, RBG was created to serve as both a regional botanical tourism site and an environmental agency.

Designated as a national historical site, RBG is revered world-wide for its extensive 400 acres of display gardens. What makes RBG unique is that it also protects and stewards over 2300 acres of environmentally sensitive lands and diverse ecosystems that connect the Niagara escarpment to Lake Ontario. In acknowledgement of this crucial environmental role, Royal Botanical Gardens was granted a provincial mandate in 1941 for the development of four areas of focus: Conservation, Education, Horticulture and Science. In the 70 years that followed, RBG has established a national and international reputation as a living laboratory for science, a connecting point for children in their early embrace of nature, a leader in sustainable gardening and the standard-bearer for ecological restoration and plant preservation.

In the face of devastating environmental threats world-wide, RBG is more relevant now than ever before. Its established and evolving environmental programs provide straight-forward, workable solutions designed to maintain sustainable biodiversity in Canada, for the world.

Learn more about the RBG: www.rbg.ca

Project Background

The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection was founded by philanthropist Dan Lawrie with the Royal Botanical Gardens in 2014. Through Mr. Lawrie's generous support, the RBG has acquired / commissioned sixteen permanent outdoor sculptures from local and international artists for its Hendrie Park location. The existing collection can be viewed at: [**DLISC Collection**](#)

DLISC is managed by Cobalt Connects, a Hamilton-based non-profit arts service organization that is the connecting element for creative communities. More information about Cobalt can be found at [**www.cobaltconnects.ca**](http://www.cobaltconnects.ca).

Artwork Location

Royal Botanical Gardens is located at the western tip of Lake Ontario. Four distinct formal gardens are contained within 1,100 hectares of nature reserve, nestled into the slopes of Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve. The ever-changing seasons, blooms, and natural phenomenon make each visit a new experience. Explore and enjoy the many historical outdoor plant collections, the indoor Mediterranean Garden, and 27 km of nature trails.

Hendrie Park features a variety of interesting landscape features including the newly renovated Medicinal Garden and the revamped SesquiCentennial Rose Garden, which features superior-genetics cold hardy hybrid tea roses, a wide array of perennial companion plants, and the history of roses interpreted walk. In the center of the Rose Garden are a pair of reflecting-pools that provide a beautiful canvas for hardy and tropical water lilies.

The **Oak Allée** is the primary entry point to Hendrie Park. This 250-foot artery breaks off into multiple pathways that lead visitors to the distinct gardens within Hendrie, the central reflecting pools, rose garden and tea house. As RBG explores its Master Plan, it envisions substantive change to current gardens that will become a compendium known as Showcase Gardens. This concept will carry through the current **Oak Allée** to become a more open central plaza incorporating water features, gathering and seating space, and places to reflect.

Oak Allée Artwork Commissions

DLISC is seeking **4 artworks that will be mounted on above-grade plinths**. Each plinth will be approximately 30" x 30" x 30", consisting of a concrete block, painted steel shell and mount. This display method will allow the works to be moved throughout the gardens during events, renovation periods, and to accommodate the organically changing nature of the RBG grounds.

Artwork Goals

The goals for The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection include:

- Inspire and provoke the imagination of RBG visitors of all ages through sculpture;
- Enhance the connection between art and nature;
- Increase and diversify the visitor base of the RBG and;
- Support the work of artists in Canada and abroad through meaningful commissions.

Specific goals for the Oak Allée project include:

- Aligns with the RBG Vision Statement:

Connecting People, Plants, and Place to Serve our Planet

“A world in which everyone is awake to the beauty, diversity and necessity of plants, and from that consciousness more actively works together to protect and preserve plant species and habitats and, by extension our planet.”

- Celebrate local biodiversity (i.e., flora and fauna, water, etc.)
- Create a sense of place, and explore the interconnectedness of people, plants and wildlife.

Artwork Fabrication Parameters

The artwork must adhere to the following design parameters:

- Fabricated using materials that are highly resistant to theft, vandalism and weathering
- Fabricated with materials that will not have a negative environmental impact on the site
- Fabricated with materials designed to handle the Canadian climate in a permanent outdoor setting
- Must not pose a risk to public safety (i.e. no sharp points, does not allow climbing, no slip hazards, etc.)
- Meets all Ontario building code standards (<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page7393.aspx>);
- Maximum weight of 1000 lbs.
- Maximum height of 96”
- Mountable with a base plate

Eligibility

This competition is an International call, open to all professional artists. Artist collectives and/or artist-led teams are also encouraged to apply.

** A professional artist is an individual who has specialized skills and/or training their artistic discipline (not necessarily in academic institutions), has a history of public presentation and is critically recognized as an artist.*

Budget

The budget for this project is \$15,000 - \$20,000 per work (maximum, all inclusive). This is the total amount available for all related expenses of this public art project including (but not limited to): artist fees, materials, technical consultation, fabrication, insurance, travel, etc.

Fabrication of the base and mount, and all installation costs will be borne by DLISC and RBG.

Selection Process

A selection panel comprised of the donor, RBG staff and Cobalt Connects staff will review all applications based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications and professional experience of artist(s)
- Artistic merit of previous work (as expressed in digital images submitted)
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines, budgets
- Success in executing projects of a similar scale / complexity to the project outlined in this document.
- The artist(s)' responsiveness to the site and approach to the project (as outlined in the Expression of Interest Statement submitted)
- Geographic and cultural diversity of the applicants

Original Work: The artist must guarantee that the artwork is original and does not violate the copyright of any other person.

Please note, The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection, Royal Botanical Gardens, and Cobalt Connects reserves the right to choose to not recommend any application, proposal or finalist and to terminate or re-advertise any project.

Estimated Project Timeline (2022-23)

Deadline	Activity
October 28 th , 2022	Expression of Interest released
December 2, 2022	Submission deadline
December 16, 2022	Artists selected
February 3, 2023	Artist concepts submitted

June/July 2023

Installation of works at RBG

Application Deadline and Receipt

All applications are due on or before **Friday December 2, 2022 at 4:00 PM.**

Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be accepted.

All applicants will receive notice via email or mail that their application has been received. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that Cobalt Connects has received their application. If you do not receive verification within one week of submitting your application, please contact kim@cobaltconnects.ca or 905-515-9334.

Loss or Damage: While every precaution will be taken to prevent loss or damage, The International Sculpture Collection, Royal Botanical Gardens and Cobalt Connects shall not be liable for any loss or damage, however caused. **Please note, application materials will not be returned.**

How to Submit Your Application

All applications will be submitted through a Survey Monkey form.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OakAllee>

Please submit the following information:

(1) Contact Information

(2) Resume or CV (PDF format only)

(3) Expression of Interest Statement:

2 pages maximum, PDF Format. Submit a brief statement outlining your interest in this project. Please include the following information:

- Your approach to creating artwork for the public realm
- How the goals of this project align with your artistic practice
- How your specific skills and experience bring value to this project

(4) Artwork Images (examples of past work).

- Maximum of 6 images. PNG or JPG Format only.
- Please name all image files in the following format: Last Name #1, Last Name #2.

(5) Artwork Documentation List. Please upload a PDF document that provides detail on your Artwork Images. Please include the following information for each image:

- Title
- Year
- Location (if applicable)

- Materials
- Value of Commission