



Indigenous Themed Mural | Arts & Learning Campus Plaza Call to Artists



Subject: Respect for the Land Murals

The Town of Okotoks is pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for Indigenous artist(s) -- First Nations, Inuit, and Métis -- to enrich the plaza at the Okotoks Arts & Learning Campus with a mural that showcases a respect for the land.

Selected artist(s) will have the honour of showcasing their talent and creativity on a prominent platform, contributing to the visual landscape of our community. We encourage those who create in all mural styles to apply and share their unique artistic vision with the community.

Location

The mural will be installed at the Arts and Learning Campus plaza, which is located beside [Ethel Tucker Centennial Park play space](#) and along the Sheep River.

Indigenous peoples including the Blackfoot Confederacy First Nations, Tsuut'ina First Nation, and Stoney Nakoda First Nations lived a well thought out and intentional nomadic lifestyle that revolved around the great herds of buffalo. A key ford to cross the Sheep River was located right beside the mural's proposed home. Oral history confirms that Indigenous Peoples travelled this pathway for 10,000 years while moving on the Old North Trail between what is now the Yukon Territory and New Mexico. ([Macleod Trail Cultural Landscape](#))

Indigenous ways of knowing are commonly steeped in a deep respect for the land, and the necessity of a reciprocal relationship with the land. In addition, the Town of Okotoks is committed to promoting environmental responsibility and stewardship with particular attention paid to the Sheep River valley. The mural should encourage visitors to work, live and play in harmony with the environment, land and each other.

Background

The name Okotoks was derived from the Blackfoot word “Ohkatok” meaning “Rock.” Ohkatok refers to the Big Rock that rests seven kilometres south-west of Town.

The abundance of plants, animals, medicines, and a favourable environment made the Foothills region very significant to the First Nations and Métis peoples of Treaty 7. For this reason, the area’s design, construction, and adoption of elements in the park space were prepared with input from an Indigenous artist, an Indigenous elder, and were supported by the Town's Indigenous partners.

The Sheep River begins high in the Rocky Mountains and winds 107 km across the prairies before joining the Highwood River, which ultimately flows into Hudson Bay. Today, the Sheep River provides drinking water for the towns of Diamond Valley and Okotoks.

Rationale

This call to artists is in support of the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Call to Action 83: “We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.”

Key Details

Scope:

- Creation of one (1) mural on two (2) spaces at the Arts & Learning Campus Plaza. See attached images, pgs. 4-5.

Submissions

- Deadline: February 29, 2024
 - Instructions on pg. 3

Paint dates:

- Begin: September 1, 2024.
- Completion: September 27, 2024

Compensation:

- \$20,000.00, design and installation
- \$2250.00, reproduction rights

Submission Requirements:

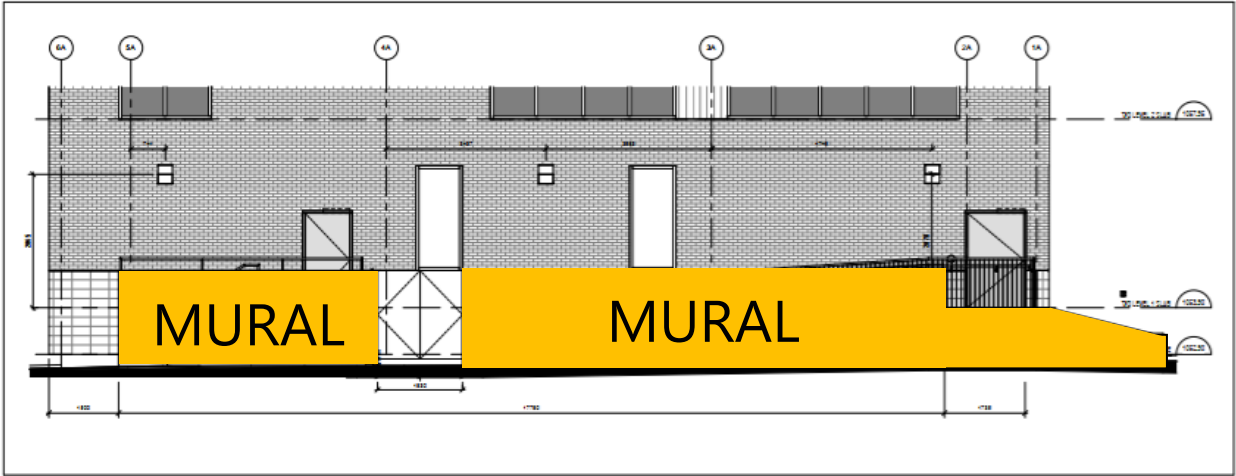
- The artist(s) must be and Alberta resident.
- The artist(s) must be Indigenous: First Nations, Inuit, or Métis
- Artist Statement (1 page maximum): A written description of your artistic background, inspirations, and approach to creating art, including details on your artistic process, styles, influences, and subject matter.

- Portfolio (3 pages maximum): Showcase a selection of past work that highlights your artistic style, versatility, and proficiency in creating visually engaging artwork. Include images or descriptions of previous mural projects, if available.
- References or Testimonials: If available, include references or testimonials from previous clients or collaborators to showcase the artist's professionalism and quality of work.
- Concept (1 page maximum): A written description explaining the relevance of your design concept for this mural.
- Vision (4 pages maximum): A visual representation (sketch, painting, collage, etc.) of your proposed design.

The Town of Okotoks values equity, diversity, and inclusion where every person has a right to equal treatment; and where we are strengthened by diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences. Building an equitable, diverse, and inclusive community that is collaborative and supportive of all residents is a priority and marginalization is not tolerated.

Interested artists are invited to submit their expressions of interest online using the [Call to Artists form](#). Questions can be submitted to Allan Boss, Culture & Heritage Team Leader at culture@okotoks.ca with the subject line “**Respect for the Land Murals**” by March 31, 2024. Selected artists may be invited to a meeting to discuss their project with the selection committee. The selected artist will be informed, and the information released to the public by April 30, 2024. Upon contract signing, the selected artist is required to present proof of \$5M insurance and Workers Compensation Board coverage.

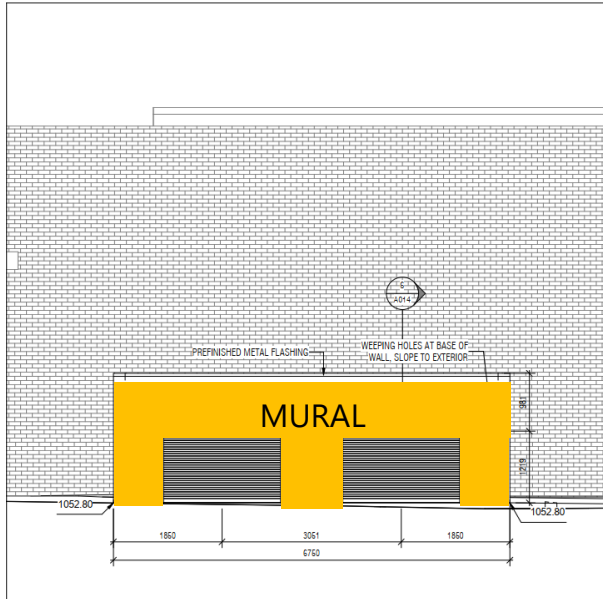
East Facing Mural -- 58' 2" L x 6' 2" H.



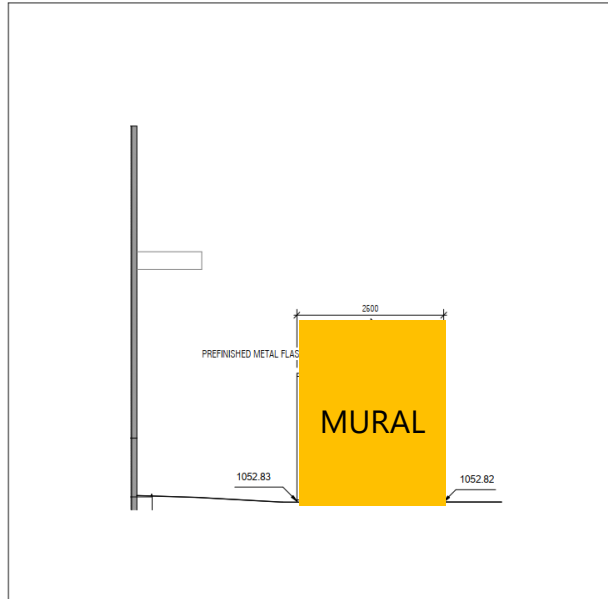
11 LOADING AREA EAST ELEVATION
1/20



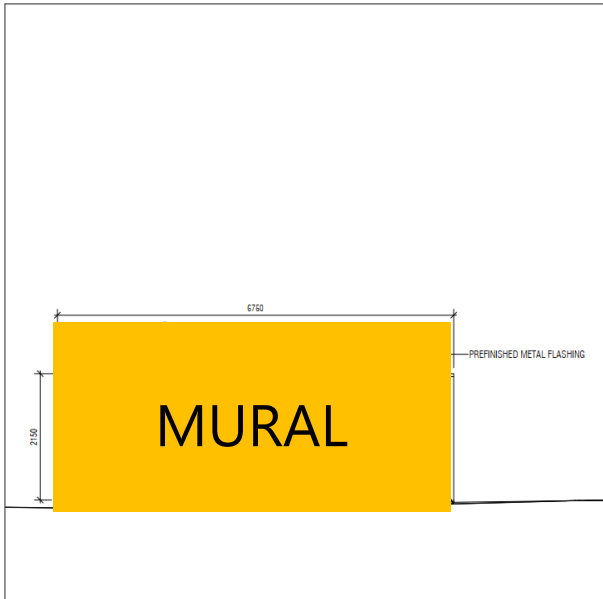
Storage Building Mural -- 22' L x 7' 3" H x 8' W (Doors 6'6")



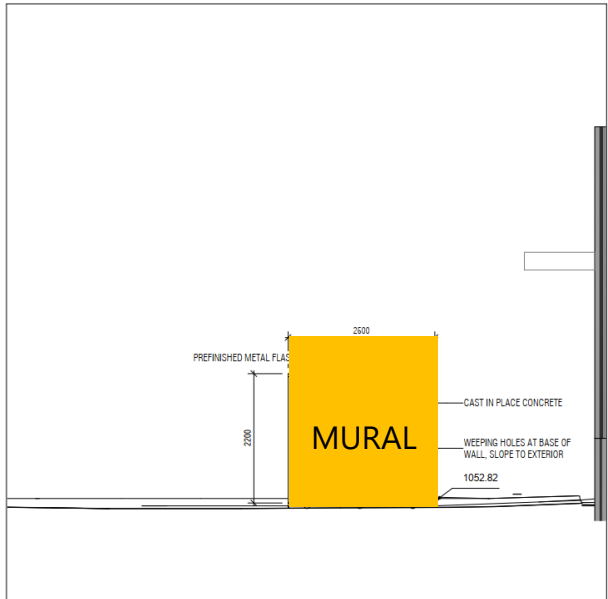
2 EAST GARBAGE ENCLOSURE FRONT VIEW
4014 1:50



3 EAST GARBAGE ENCLOSURE NORTH VIEW
4014 1:50



4 EAST GARBAGE ENCLOSURE REAR VIEW
4014 1:50



5 EAST GARBAGE ENCLOSURE SOUTH VIEW
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