

Call for Proposals (Fall 2023): Socially-Engaged Housing Justice Art in Parkdale

Overview:

The South Parkdale Neighbourhood Planning Table (“Parkdale Planning Table”) is requesting proposals for community-based arts projects that respond and engage locally with how we value and champion supportive and affordable housing as a diverse and inclusive community. Proposals should outline how your design and production of activities, materials, creative content, and/or other arts-based tools can be featured as part of a campaign to support neighbourhood integration for new affordable housing tenants.

Commissioned projects will explore how we can create a sense of belonging for future neighbours moving into new housing at [150 Dunn Avenue](#) (“150 Dunn”). Projects should be socially-engaged; focusing in particular on what local acts of inclusion, solidarity, and mutual aid means in the face of housing insecurity - in other words, what ‘neighbouring’ looks like in Parkdale. In one year alone, over 100 people die in Toronto because they are unhoused. People experience being unhoused for many reasons, from job loss to health setbacks, as well as intergenerational trauma and poverty that is often tied to racism. We all deserve chances to find safety and belonging.

Parkdale is a place where we can connect to each other and are richer for it. These kinds of spaces where we can overlap diverse identities, ways of life, and lenses, are only possible when different groups of people can afford to live here and different journeys end up here. We are looking for artists who through their art will catalyze sharing stories of how we build homes not only for ourselves, but each other, here.

Who can apply:

Local, Parkdale-area artists and creatives who are interested in making socially-engaged art that reflects how a neighbourhood can work together to support housing justice.

Applicants who have lived experience of being unhoused, disability, neurodivergence, as well as those who are Black and/or Indigenous will be prioritized in this process. We encourage applicants to identify themselves in their application for this prioritization.

What kinds of art are we looking for?

Socially-engaged art highlights social issues, political activism, and community collaborations, with aims to create social and/or political change through collaboration with individuals, communities, and institutions. We are looking for artists interested in creative, community-based collaboration that strengthen values of inclusion, diversity, and housing justice.

Please note there are no boundaries for artistic mediums or formats for the community-based arts projects. Project proposals can involve creating in any recognised fine art, performance art, or creative design medium, as long as you are able to share your artwork in a broad, community-wide manner (examples include zines, installations, woven textiles, music, skill-share workshops, photography, parades, street theatre, and other performances).

Artists interested in applying should consider including elements that can be participatory for community members such as involving them as participants alongside being an audience, whether as co-instigators, co-producers, or collaborators of your process.

Each project can receive \$250 to \$1000 to cover project expenses. Funding is intended to include both artist fees and materials.

Who we are:

The Parkdale Planning Table is facilitated by [Parkdale People's Economy](#), a network of 30+ organizations, as well as community members, collaborating to build decent work, shared wealth, and equitable development.

The [150 Dunn Ave Welcome Committee](#) (“Welcome Committee”) is an engaged group of Parkdale neighbours and service users who have come together to support the Parkdale Planning Table’s efforts to welcome new residents at 150 Dunn. The Welcome Committee meets in-person on a monthly basis to share information and plan local activities intended to engage existing and new residents.

Background:

150 Dunn is the first [social medicine](#) housing being built in Canada, providing 51 new homes for unhoused neighbours in Toronto with chronic, complex health conditions. This is a new kind of supportive housing that combines direct onsite supports with healthcare access to help tenants stabilize, recover, and heal. Parkdale has a long-standing history of welcoming new neighbours into our community and is proud to be a home for growing families, essential workers, immigrants, and others seeking a place to call home. 150 Dunn continues these traditions and is a demonstration of how our community can work together to promote solutions to the housing crisis by supporting diverse, affordable options in our neighbourhood.

How to apply:

Please apply by email to welcomel50dunn@gmail.com or by hand delivery to the West Neighbourhood House office located at 1497 Queen Street West with the application materials.

The office is open on Wednesdays and Fridays, 2:00 - 4:00 PM.

Your application should include:

Artist Bio (maximum 50-300 words)

Give a description of your artistic focus and practice as they relate to this project. Please share general information about yourself, such as your past projects, lived experience, training, both formal and informal education, and community groups you are in relationship with.

Project Proposal (maximum 200-600 words)

Give a brief description of how you would approach this project.

Please answer the following questions:

- What is the project? What will it look like?
- When will the project occur?
- What are your ideas for community outreach, promotion, and sharing your work? Do you plan on focusing on a specific group(s)?
- What do you want the outcome and impact of the project to be?
- Are there groups or organizations you will collaborate with?
- Are there spaces you plan to use for production/storage, exhibition and/or performance?

Your proposal should also mention items included in your budget and their intended use.

Budget Summary

Please itemize all materials, supplies, fees, and other production costs with as much detail as possible. (See blank chart for your use and a sample budget attached).

Description of Previous Work (maximum 2 pages)

Please provide a list of previous artworks including title, year, and medium, and a one sentence description of each piece. Successful inclusion in juried processes, exhibitions, public performances, arts grants, prizes and other awards can also be included.

Samples of Work (maximum 3 images or 3 pages)

Please show up to three examples of your previous work. Links to online samples can also be submitted.

Thinking about applying?

The Parkdale Planning Table will be hosting two information sessions (in-person and virtual) as well as an applicant help workshop to answer any questions, gather feedback, and help interested applicants complete their submissions:

Drop-In Information Sessions:

online, Wednesday August 16 at 6:00-7:00 PM

in-person, Tuesday August 22 at 6:00-8:00 PM

Application Help Workshop:

online/in-person, Wednesday August 23 at 4:00-8:00 PM

please contact Mary Gelinias by email maryge@westnh.org or by phone 437-882-9986 to confirm appointment slots

Project Selection Process:

In-person submissions are due Friday, September 8, 2023. Electronic submissions of proposals can be sent in by Sunday, September 10, 2023.

The Parkdale Planning Table will review applications to identify artists for the opportunities. Artists will then be invited to meet and discuss the overview of the project proposal, budget summary, ideas for outreach and community engagement, anticipated outcomes and impact, and the timeline for completing the project.

All submissions will be informed by Monday, September 25 if their project proposals have been accepted.

Call for Proposals Timeline:

Call for Proposals Deadline:

Sunday September 10 at 11:59 PM

Artist Selection Process Interviews:

Monday September 11 through Wednesday September 20

Approval of Proposals:

Monday September 25, 2023

For more information and accessibility needs:

Please contact Mary Gelinas, Community Development Worker

email: maryge@westnh.org

phone: 437-882-9986

Budget Chart Template

Item Description* *Please provide a breakdown per unit cost as much as possible	In kind* *Describe goods and services that you will use that will be not be part of the costs you're requesting, ie. free, discounted, or donated	Item Amount Requested* *Provide amount in Canadian dollars (\$)
TOTAL REQUEST (\$ amount)		

Budget Chart Example

Here is a sample budget for a local writer who would like to invite community members to take part in a creative writing workshop to help develop poems that will be simply illustrated into a series of postcards to share with new tenants.

Item Description* *Please provide a breakdown per unit cost as much as possible	In kind* *Describe goods and services that you will use that will be not be part of the costs you're requesting, ie. free, discounted or donated	Item Amount Requested* *Provide amount in Canadian dollars (\$)
Creative Writing Workshop facilitation fee (3 hours)		\$180.00
Workshop space	Program space for 3 hours at local cafe	\$0.00
Refreshments x 10 people @\$6/pp		\$60
Postcards Graphic Design @\$25 x 6h	\$100	\$50
Printing @ \$3.50 x 100		\$350
Postcards Launch Event	Good Food Market	
Launch snacks x 30 people x \$7/pp	\$50 donated fruit/veggies	\$160
TOTAL REQUEST (\$ amount)		\$800