



## Request for Qualifications: External Art Installation

### ABOUT CLOSER TO HOME (CTH)

**Vision:** Every child thriving within supportive family and community relationships.

**Mission:** Closer to Home Community Services facilitates growth and belonging in communities of meaningful relationships. Our integrity is grounded in evidence-based practice authentically informed by, and connected to, diverse cultural wisdom. We journey with children and families to uncover strength, hope and healing, creating new possibilities for a brighter future.

**Our Work:** Through the use of evidence-based practices and innovative solutions, Closer to Home strives to preserve, reunify and build stronger families who can care for their children and contribute meaningfully in their community. Our family-centred, strength-based services ensure that children have stable, healthy and safe living environments in which to grow and develop. And in some cases, when families are separated, we provide a place for children and youth to call home while offering therapeutic support with the ultimate goal of family reunification.

Closer to Home is grateful for our relations with Elders and Knowledge Keepers from and in Treaty 7 region. We strive to walk as allies and are committed to doing our part to address injustices identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

### SUMMARY OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The intention of this RFQ is to commission artwork from an Indigenous Artist or Artist(s) from Treaty 7 region based on qualifications, experience and references to create the design for a permanent, embedded public-facing artwork installation at the new home of CTH, opening in early 2024. Sketch concepts **ARE** requested for this RFQ. These need to capture the essence of the design and need not be fully specific until final Artist is selected.

#### **Commissioned artwork depicts buffalo running eastbound with a Prairie landscape background**

Closer to Home Community Services (CTH) is seeking qualifications from experienced, creative and innovative Indigenous Artist(s), with a demonstrated ability to create the design for a permanent, embedded public-facing artwork installation at the new home of CTH at 3404 Bow Trail SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, opening in early 2024. The successful Artist(s) will be from the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta, the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3).

Title	<b>Closer to Home Community Services: Call for Artists, Request For Qualifications (RFQ) Commission of External Public-Facing Artwork Bow Trail Community &amp; Family Hub</b>
Date of Issue	April 1, 2022
<b>Due Date of Submission</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 4:00pm MST (concept sketch(es) included)</b>
Committee Discussions	May 11 through May 28, 2022



Short List Interviews	May 30 through June 10, 2022
<b>Artist(s) Selection</b>	<b>Monday, June 20, 2022 (contract engagement and final design prep)</b>
Artist Remuneration	<b>\$10,000.00 (CDN)</b> (after selection, paid by installments on milestones) <i>(Note, there will be no remuneration or payment for expenses related to the RFQ submissions or preparation of submission.)</i>
Name of Project	<b>Closer to Home Community &amp; Family Hub</b>
Location of Project	3404 Bow Trail SW, Calgary, Alberta
Location of Artwork	South facing outside wall of new building on Bow Trail SW westbound. This is a major roadway, highly visible wall to Bow Trail.
Materials for Artwork	Note, <b>Artist is not responsible for materials or installation</b> , only ensuring the commissioned artwork will be compatible with prechosen materials. The base material of the building is precast panels with the installation either being integrated with or mounted upon the precast panels. The precast panel dimensions will be uniform with the panel (width not yet determined). Final material and integration with the building will be determined with the selected Artist, CTH, CTH Elders, and design construction teams to align with overall project and budget considerations.
Dimensions of Artwork	<b>Approximately 10 feet-6 inches HIGH and 110 feet WIDE (3.2M by 33.5M)</b> Design sketch will be digitized to fit to wall dimensions.
Other Specifications or Restrictions	<b>Only seeking design</b> ; fabrication to be completed by Construction Manager. <b>Please consider repeatability in the proposed design.</b> Design becomes property of CTH.

RFQ Contact [RFQ@clostertohome.com](mailto:RFQ@clostertohome.com)

The successful Artist(s) will work with CTH and the architectural design team, construction manager, and in consultation with the **CTH Public-Facing Art Committee** to create the final artwork installation.

**Applicants will be expected to work with the design team to produce digital copies of the design for fabrication.** The CTH Public-Facing Art Committee may be comprised of Closer to Home leadership, Construction Team partners (Project management, architect, builders) and CTH Indigenous Elders Circle. Previous experience on a design team is preferred. This is a permanent external installation.

Artist Remuneration: \$10,000.00 CDN all-inclusive of Artist time to facilitate design creation and working with CTH team through the completion of the art installation. This payment will be made after selection, by installments on project milestones as detailed in the Artist contract with CTH upon selection. There will be no remuneration or payment for expenses related to the RFQ submissions or preparation of the submission. We thank all Artists who choose to submit.

This RFQ and further details on the CTH Indigenous Public-Facing Art Project can be found at:

<https://clostertohome.com/RFQ/>

**Closing Time: Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 4:00 pm MST**

Note: Submissions will NOT be opened publicly

**Selection of Artist: June 20, 2022**

It is the Applicant's responsibility to request clarification of any item that is unclear or uncertain within the content of this RFQ package before closing time by contacting: [RFQ@clostertohome.com](mailto:RFQ@clostertohome.com) **Please do not contact any construction partner or CTH directly but use the email provided.**



## THE CTH COMMUNITY & FAMILY HUB

Designed by MTA | Urban Design Architecture Interior Design, **Closer to Home's Community & Family Hub** will be a 55,000 square-foot, architecturally stunning destination in the heart of Calgary's west central area off Bow Trail near Westbrook Mall. It will resonate with the community through a purpose-designed space that will serve as an anchor for community. Accessible to all Calgarians, people of all ages, backgrounds, identities, orientations and abilities will have a place to connect and forge meaningful relationships. Children, youth and adults will access a wide range of programs and services – all under one roof. And for 18 families, apartments on the top three floors of this Community & Family Hub will be a place to call home.

In addition to supporting our community, this new Hub will provide space and opportunity for Closer to Home to:

- Enhance and increase our wraparound and community-based services and programs.
- Expand and support partnerships and collaborations with other community-minded organizations.
- Develop a self-sustaining business model using a social enterprise and entrepreneurial framework.

### THE DESIGN

This building is purpose-designed to reflect the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy and the nations who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta. The exterior elements will be reminiscent of wood and metal, while the interior flow will be inspired by a repeating circle theme.

### SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE HUB

The building itself and programs within it are predicated on a social enterprise business model that will generate revenues to support operations and

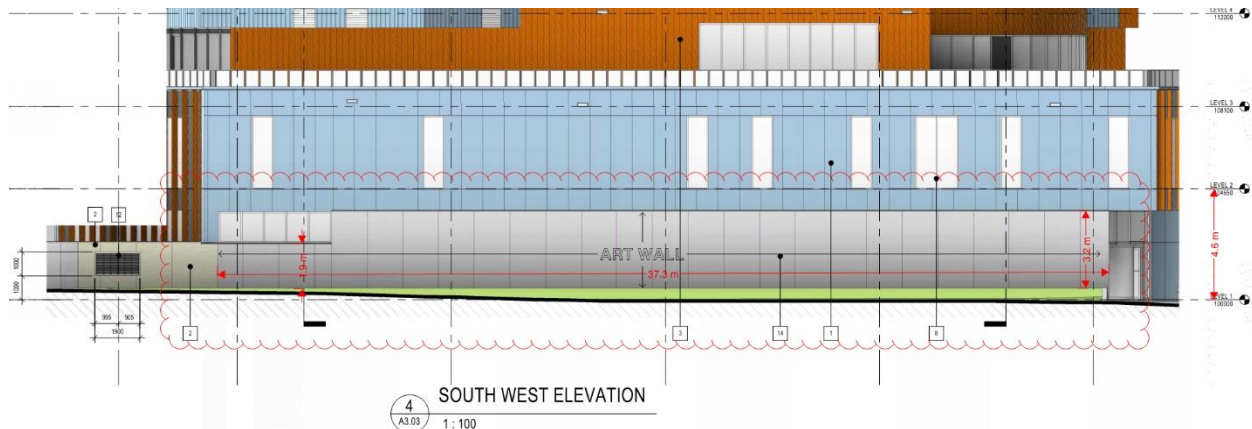
widen the social impact of our services to the community. Our goal is to build connections with neighbours and community members who offer supports and friendships beyond our doors, through:

- A main floor community gathering space for programs, engagement of the general public with program participants.
- 18 units of affordable family housing.
- Dedicated 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and spaces for Indigenous culture, connections, programs, education and awareness.
- Social Enterprise with retail tenants with aligned business and social purposes to serve CTH children and families and the general public.



### LOCATION AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE PUBLIC-FACING ART

South-facing outside wall of the new building on Bow Trail SW westbound.



### SPECIFICATIONS:

- Dimensions approximately 10 feet-6 inches HIGH and 110 feet WIDE (3.2M by 33.5M)
- The installation will need to account for durability and resilience – assume no maintenance required over a 15 year life cycle. Graffiti resistance is a must.
- The base material of the building is precast concrete panels with the installation either being integrated with or mounted upon the precast panels.
- The precast concrete panel dimensions will be uniform with the panel width (not yet determined).
- Please consider repeatability in the proposed design.
- Please consider constructability and propose the means of assembly / construction and connection with the building.
- Final material and integration with the building will be determined with the selected Artist, CTH, and design construction teams to align with overall project and budget considerations.
- Please consider landscaping restrictions/ requirements that will be in front of building and how they can integrate and/or interact with your concept (for example, prairie grasses).

### EXTERIOR WALL ASSEMBLIES

- 100mm Pre-Cast Concrete Panel, c/w Tan Colour, Formliner Surface or Light Sandblast, c/w Purpose Made Clip Anchors as per Manufacturer's Specifications
- 25mm Void Space
- 125mm Rigid Insulation
- Self-Adhered Air/Vapour Barrier Membrane
- 16mm Exterior Grade Gypsumboard Sheathing
- 152mm Steel Studs @ 400mm o.c.
- 16mm Gypsum Board Sheathing

**See attached PDF for detailed information on the location of art: External Art Wall Specifications.pdf**



## MORE ABOUT CLOSER TO HOME (CTH)

### CTH'S PUBLIC-FACING ART STATEMENT

CTH's expectation for the public-facing art component is the creation of a work that is reflective and respectful of the lands, animals and peoples of the Blackfoot Confederacy of Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta. The work should integrate with the site in a sophisticated manner and should inspire the public to visually experience the lands and people of the Blackfoot nation and Treaty 7 region.

### THE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF CTH

CTH takes pride in having established a culture that is built upon a unified set of principles:

- *Respect for Diversity:* Practices that accept and promote individual cultures, traditions, spiritual beliefs and lifestyles. Services that are aware of the complexity of social issues related to the historical trauma experienced by Indigenous communities and promote ethical spaces within the organization that respect Indigenous values and worldview related to health, healing, and cultural connections.
- *Individualized Approaches:* Interventions developed to preserve the family, in partnership with the child and family, are strength-based, inclusive, and solution-focused.
- *Effective Services:* Integrated quality assurance systems provide the necessary feedback to improve services and facilitate continuous quality improvement that results in better outcomes for children and families.
- *Outcome-Focused Programs:* Meaningful outcomes are identified, measured and achieved with integrity, excellence, and accountability. The CTH Evaluation and Outcome Framework provides an internal roadmap to better identify salient outcome indicators, reliable measurement tools and clear feedback loops to ensure outcome information is utilized to continuously improve services.
- *Trauma-Informed Approaches:* Interactions with children and families are respectful, dignifying and positive. Interventions are trauma-informed and focused on family preservation and reunification. Children are safe, their voices are heard and valued, and their choices respected.
- *Client and Stakeholder Satisfaction:* Services solicit the opinion of all participants and stakeholders in a systematic manner, and are responsive to identified needs and concerns.
- *Collaborative and Inclusive:* CTH participates in partnerships that offer benefit to, and increases the social impact of services offered for children, families and communities.

For more information on events, programs, and the future home of CTH please visit [closerhome.com](https://closerhome.com).

## DETAILS OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This RFQ represents the opportunity to be involved in the creation of a facility like no other in Calgary and, to a certain degree, Alberta. The new building will be the catalyst for connecting people of all ages and stages and backgrounds into community experiences and engagements through public spaces, events, businesses while providing social impact through programs, resources and affordable family housing.

CTH encourages local Indigenous Artist(s) with the capability, creativity, skill, and experience to design to scale the external public-facing art of the new Community & Family Hub. CTH is committed to ensuring this RFQ process is open, fair, and transparent, with the express intent of engaging the best ideas and creative minds from Treaty 7 region.

**The commissioned artwork must depict buffalo running east with a Prairie landscape background.**



**Artist Qualifications:** CTH seeks professionally qualified Indigenous Artist(s) from Treaty 7 to submit a proposal for consideration and potential selection. Selected Artist(s) must demonstrate an ability and interest in engaging in site-specific public-facing art.

If Artists are applying/submitting qualifications as a team, the team should be listed on the proposal, specifying a team leader to receive notifications.

Previous experience on a design team is preferred. This is a permanent external installation.

**Artist Selection Criteria:** Includes but is not limited to:

- From the Treaty 7 region.
- Interpretation of CTH mission and building location and purpose expressed through sketch concepts of the commissioned content.
- Integration to building design and purpose.
- Originality and creativity expressed in past work.
- Have a strong understanding of scale.
- Practical understanding of public-facing art, implementation process and the ability to see the project to completion.
- Interested in addressing the challenges of the site, the building and a willingness to work with the design team in the early stages of the project.
- Ability to produce a high-quality commissioned artwork design within the project timeline and budget.
- Proven track record.
- Highly professional.

**Artist Remuneration:** \$10,000.00 CDN all-inclusive of Artist time to facilitate design creation and working with CTH team through the completion of the art installation. This includes time for consultation with the CTH Public-Facing Art Committee, and meetings with the construction team to achieve timely and coordinated completion of the art installation. Payment will be made after selection, by installments on project milestones as detailed in the Artist contract with CTH upon selection.

**Selected Artists will be required to sign a binding Service Contract/Memorandum of Understanding with CTH.** There will be no remuneration or payment for expenses related to the RFQ submissions or preparation of the submission.

**RFQ Deadline:** Proposals must be **received by 4:00 pm MST, Tuesday, May 10, 2022, to the email address [RFQ@closetohome.com](mailto:RFQ@closetohome.com)**. No exceptions.

**RFQ Evaluation Procedure:** All responses will be reviewed by a jury. Short-listed Artists may be invited to an interview. The winning Artist will be selected on the basis of the criteria above noted.

**Schedule: This is a draft schedule and is subject to change.**

- Artist solicitation, RFQ posted for a six-week period: April 1-May 10, 2022
- Jury adjudication and shortlisted Artist interview: May 11-June 10, 2022
- Artist selection, contract process, scope development, concept design: June 20-August 31, 2022
- Detailed Design/Final Design, Alignment with Subtrades: September – December 2022
- Fabrication and Install: January 2023 – TBC (dependent on construction timelines)
- Project unveiling: Upon CTH completion (late 2023, early 2024)
- Project completion and evaluation: One to three months post-installation.



**Required Elements:** Indigenous Artist(s) responding to this RFQ must provide the following information and elements **in one PDF document by email and labelled with your name.**

- A letter (maximum of three pages)
  - outlining your background and relevant past experience
  - an explanation of interest in this opportunity
  - attestation that you are from Treaty 7
  - a brief description of your Artistic vision for the CTH Public-facing art project and your vision of what makes a public-facing art project important
  - An Artist statement briefly describing the scope of your Artistic practice as related to this project.
- Concept sketch(es) supported by a narrative of materials, methods, etc. to be in the artwork. At least one and no more than five, along with a statement for each concept.
- Qualifications, including biography, current contact information, and current Artist CV.
- Minimum two and maximum five colour images (jpeg or png) of past work labelled with the date, title, and medium (separate, unique artwork).
- Examples of public-facing art experience including any examples from your portfolio - links to web-based portfolios are encouraged.
- Three professional references including their contact information.

Proposals may be submitted by individual Artists, a collective group, or a not-for-profit arts organization, provided the project can be completed within the timeline and budget.

Please do not send materials not specifically requested (ie: DVDs, articles, etc). Submissions will not be returned.

Submissions must be in English.

**Deadline:** Proposals may be **submitted until Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 4:00 pm MST**. Responses that do not fully meet the criteria outlined above will not be considered, at the sole discretion of CTH. Late or faxed submissions will not be accepted. CTH assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged submissions and application contents will not be returned.

CTH may in its sole discretion disqualify any or all proposals that:

- Are not received by CTH by the stated closing date
- Do not fulfill the Application Information, Artist Qualifications and/or Required Elements set out in this document
- Do not advance the intended goals of this CTH art installation.

CTH reserves the right to withdraw the RFQ, initiate a different selection process, or re-issue the RFQ at any time.

**Questions:** Artists may ask questions about the preparation of their response to the RFQ by contacting the Public-Facing Art Project Manager only at [RFQ@clostertohome.com](mailto:RFQ@clostertohome.com). Note that all questions outside the detail in the RFQ and their answers will be posted on <https://clostertohome.com/RFQ/> throughout the RFQ process for the shared benefit of all participating Artists. Applicants are asked to not personally contact any staff or contractors involved with the CTH project.

**Confidentiality:** All submissions will be treated as confidential between CTH and each Applicant and are subject to the protection and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of



Privacy Act (FOIP). This prohibits CTH from disclosing personal or business information where disclosure would be harmful to business interests or would be an unreasonable invasion of personal privacy. CTH will not disclose their contents to other Applicants or the general public. CTH reserves the right to discuss submissions with its consultants and related parties.

**Copyright and Life of Artwork:** Upon completion of commissioned artwork design and contracts, the artwork becomes the property of CTH. Due to the nature of this project and the possibility that the artwork may be vandalized, Artists applying for this project must accept the risk that their artwork may be damaged, altered or removed. The Artist further grants CTH the following permissions:

- a) Reproduction (including electronic images) for not-for-profit promotion and educational purposes.
- b) The right to remove the artwork (or section of the artwork) from the site including but not limited to the following reasons:
  - a. Endangerment of public safety;
  - b. Damage to the project site requiring repair or maintenance;
  - c. Documented significant adverse public reaction.

**Contractual status:** CTH is not bound to accept any RFQ. Applicants should be aware that no contractual relationship with CTH will arise upon submission to the RFQ. All submissions become the property of CTH. There will be no remuneration or payment for expenses related to the RFQ submissions or preparation of the submission.

**Format and address:** Please submit one electronic copy in PDF document by email and labelled with your name to: [RFQ@clostohome.com](mailto:RFQ@clostohome.com)

Full details and up-to-date information on CTH Public-facing art Project can be found at: <https://clostohome.com/RFQ/>

We thank all who apply. **DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, AWARDEES WILL BE NOTIFIED ACCORDINGLY.**

**Please help us promote this opportunity by forwarding it to any interested individuals or organizations in time for submission due May 10, 2022.**