

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Yellowhead Institute Ceiling Mural



Submission Deadline

Stage One: May 5, 2025, by 9:00 AM EST.

Stage Two: June 2, 2025, by 9:00 AM EST

Project Location

Toronto Metropolitan University

297 Victoria St, Toronto, ON

Project Summary

Yellowhead Institute is an Indigenous-led research and education centre based in the Faculty of Arts at Toronto Metropolitan University. The Institute privileges Indigenous philosophy and amplifies Indigenous voices that provide alternatives to settler colonialism in Canada today. Rooted in community networks, Yellowhead offers critical and accessible resources to support the reclamation of Indigenous land and life.

With a new space on campus, Yellowhead is commissioning a mural to accompany renovations – one we hope will contribute to a truly Indigenous teaching and learning gathering space in Toronto. This is Yellowhead's first dedicated space and will be our permanent home. It will be used regularly by the Yellowhead team's day-to-day operations and to host our community.

Project Details

We envision the mural on the ceiling of our hosting space, extending to the ceiling of the exterior of the building (dimensions below). This is a large-scale mural and located centrally on campus, making it accessible to the broader university community. The space is located just off Sankofa Square at Yonge-Dundas, in a high traffic area.

Design Prompt

The interior Yellowhead space is inspired by black ash basketry. **Our concept prompt asks artists to consider the harvesting of black ash, the hammering and peeling of splints and the delicate weaving required to construct a basket, maybe one large enough to live and work in. Sitting or lying on your back in this new black ash basket home, what do you imagine as you look up and out at the world beyond?**

The artist may also consider our namesake, Misko Aki (chief William Yellowhead); Yellowhead's **objectives** as an Institute; and/or the surrounding built and natural environment.

Specifications

The total potential mural area is 255.2 Sq.M, with 189 Sq.M being exterior ceiling space and 66.2 Sq.M interior ceiling space. (A design plan will be available to short-listed artists). The surface is drywall finish interior (primed and painted) and cement board exterior.

Expectations of Artists

- The selected artist will participate in meetings with the Yellowhead team and construction project manager, as required, to establish a shared vision moving forward and technical possibilities; creating the mural design;
- Revisions based on feedback;
- Installation of the mural (paint, vinyl, etc.); and, adhering to key deadlines.
- The artist is also responsible for procuring all required materials and supplies and is responsible for providing the necessary paperwork required for reimbursement and/or payment.

Eligibility Requirements

- First Nation, Métis, and Inuit artists in Canada;
- Established artist(s) or artist teams (with large scale mural experience)

Compensation

Compensation will be discussed further with short-listed artists but minimum compensation is set at \$25,000. This compensation does not include material or any sub-contracting costs.

Application Process

Artists are invited to submit proposals in two stages, both reviewed by the Yellowhead Institute team and advisors.

Stage One (May 5)

- Send an email with the subject line "Yellowhead Space Mural" to info@yellowheadinstitute.org
- Your email must include the following:
 - One PDF attachment with the following documents:

- Letter of interest, including brief biography(ies) and any preliminary concepts;
- Artist CV(s) and statement(s) on art practice;
- Between 2-5 work samples of previous large-scale murals;
- Reference/Contact information for a previous curator or client;

Stage Two (June 2):

Short-listed candidates will be invited to tour the space and discuss potential concepts, materials, budget and deadlines. Following this meeting, short-listed candidates will be invited to submit the following:

- Mock-up or sketches of mural concept;
- Description and budget of installation materials;
- Hiring of any sub-contractors relating to installation;
- Proposed work schedule;
- Any additional requirements or requests.

Short-listed candidates **not selected will be compensated \$500 for this package.*

Yellowhead will make a decision on the selected artist by June 10, 2025.

Please send any questions about eligibility, our process, etc. to info@yellowheadinstitute.org