

CALL FOR LOCAL FIRST NATION AND URBAN INDIGENOUS ARTISTS WHO WORK IN DIGITAL MEDIA

STEWARDSON WAY: SKYTRAIN PILLAR ART PROJECT

CALL CLOSES: June 15, 2025

BACKGROUND

We recognize that the Stewardson Way site sits on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the First Nations connected to this region. TransLink is grateful to live, work, and operate across these territories, and we are committed to deepening our relationships with Indigenous communities.

We know that reconciliation is an ongoing process, not a static goal. As we plan and manage the region's transportation system, we aim to build inclusivity and respect into everything we do—and we recognize that we still have much to learn.

Through this **design-only project**, we are proud to highlight a wide diversity of Indigenous artists whose work reflects both the deep ancestral connections of the local Nations and the vibrant contributions of Indigenous artists who now call New Westminster home. While we are committed to ensuring **strong representation from local First Nations**, we also believe it's important to showcase the voices of **urban Indigenous, Métis, and Inuit artists** whose presence and practice contribute meaningfully to the cultural life of the city today.

The Stewardson Way Project is a partnership between TransLink and the City of New Westminster. By pooling resources, we've expanded funding for this site, allowing us to support more artists and a greater diversity of artwork.

ART OPPORTUNITY

TransLink is seeking applications from artists from local First Nations, as well as urban Indigenous, Métis, and Inuit artists who work in digital media.

Selected artists will create original digital artwork designs that will come to life on vinyl prints and installed on SkyTrain pillars along Stewardson Way in New Westminster (see picture below).

Each design will wrap around an individual pillar, covering a height of 14 feet. The pillars measure approximately 5.25 feet wide at the base, tapering to 3.8 feet at the top.

Up to eight artists will be selected, with each artist contributing one unique design for a designated pillar.

This is a design-only contract. Artists must be able to produce digital files to submit to TransLink but will not be required to fabricate and install the artwork.

Themes:

Artists are invited to submit designs that reflect their personal artistic practice and vision. Works may draw from Indigenous cultural heritage and explore connections to land, community, and cultural stories.

As prompts, artists may also wish to, but are not obligated to, consider:

- Reflections on reconciliation
- Experiences with public transit
- Interpretations of TransLink's Indigenous Relations Guiding Principles: recognition, respect, perspectives, inclusion, celebration, and communication

These themes are offered as inspiration only; artists are encouraged to approach them in ways that feel meaningful and authentic to their practice.

Image and location map of the SkyTrain pillars:





ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to Indigenous artists who live in, or have strong connections to, New Westminster. Urban Indigenous, Métis, and Inuit artists are welcome to apply.

Artists from the following local Nations are encouraged to apply:

q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie), q̓ʷa:ḥ̓ ʷən (Kwantlen), k̓w̓ik̓w̓ə́l̓əm (Kwikwetlem), máthxwi (Matsqui), x̓ʷməθk̓ʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), q̓iq̓éyt (Qayqayt), se'mya'me (Semiahmoo), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), scəwaθən məsteyəx̓ʷ (Tsawwassen), səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh).

Priority consideration may be given to artists from local First Nations.

Artists at all stages of their career are encouraged to apply, including established and emerging artists or artist teams and those without prior public art experience.

Applicants must be **19 years of age or older** at the time of application.

Artists must be able to digitally draw designs in vector format using Illustrator or Photoshop.

ARTIST FEE

Artists will receive \$3,500 for their artwork design, with additional compensation at \$100/hour for work beyond the initial scope if additional work is required.

SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES IF SELECTED FOR THE PROJECT

- Artists will produce three iterations of their artwork design, with each phase building upon the last:
 - Phase 1: Concept Design – Initial concept in digital or alternative format
 - Phase 2: Detailed Design – Refined digital design that meets TransLink’s technical specifications
 - Phase 3: Print-Ready Design – Finalized digital artwork prepared for printing
- Digital Design Delivery:
 - Artists are expected to provide digitally drawn designs in vector format using Illustrator or Photoshop.
- Collaboration:
 - If required, artists will work with TransLink graphic designers after Detailed Design to finalize any technical requirements for print-ready files.
- Meetings: Artists will attend up to four meetings with TransLink staff and possibly the other artists:
 - Project Launch Meeting: A 1-hour meeting to kick off the project.
 - Design Review Meetings: Three 1-hour meetings for each design phase.

PROJECT TIMELINE

*Please note dates are subject to change

Call for Artists Posted	May 20th, 2025
Call for Artists Closes	June 15th, 2025
Artists Selected and Notified	Week of July 7th, 2025
Artist Contracting	July 7-25th, 2025

Artist Design

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| • Phase 1: Concept Design | July 25 - Aug 22 (4 weeks) |
| • Phase 2: Detailed Design | Sept 1 – Sept 29 (4 weeks) |
| • Phase 3: Print-Ready Design | Oct 6 - 20 th (2 weeks)  |
| • Installation | November 2025 |

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit the following:

- A 300-word Letter of Intent explaining:

- Your interest in the project; and
 - The cultural elements you plan to explore.
- Up to 4 images of **previous work**, with optional links to your portfolio or social media.
- An Artist Bio outlining your background and experience, including your ability to produce digital artwork

Send your submission to **IndigenousRelations@translink.ca** by **June 15, 2025**.

Please visit [Indigenous Relations | TransLink](#) for information on Indigenous Public Art and Language Revitalization projects.

SELECTION PANEL

A selection panel consisting of three Indigenous community members, one TransLink representative, and one representative from the City of New Westminster will review the submissions. Up to eight artists will be selected—one for each pillar—based on their qualifications and previous work.