

# Referral - Call for Artists

## **UCI Mountain Bike Downhill World Cup – Event Podium Trophy Base & Legacy Artwork Deadline for Expression of Interest: May 15, 2026**

Whistler Blackcomb invites artists from Lil'wat Nation and Squamish Nation to submit proposals for an original artwork design in the Coast Salish design style to be featured on podium trophy base, commemorative gifts, and two permanent installations at the Whistler Mountain Bike Park.

This project takes place on the shared territory of the Lil'wat Nation and Squamish Nation, and we welcome submissions that reflect connection to land, movement, story, and community. A collaboration between a Squamish Nation artist and Lil'wat Nation artist is encouraged but not required.

### **Design Context & Story**

The artwork will be connected to the 1199 trail in the Whistler Mountain Bike Park, a purpose-built downhill track created for world-class competition.

The trail is named in honour of Canadian downhill rider, Steve Smith, whose 2013 World Cup season earned him 1,199 points and the overall title and the first Canadian to win this title. Known as the “Canadian Chainsaw,” his riding style, determination, and legacy are central to the identity of the trail.

The trophy design incorporates a chainsaw blade as a reference to this nickname and the history of the trail. The base of the trophy will be awarded separately on stage as a podium gift. Artists are encouraged to approach their design through storytelling and interpretation, rather than literal representation, and to ground their work in perspectives that reflect their Nation's values, relationship to land, and creative traditions.

The chainsaw element is part of the trophy form; however, artists are not required to depict it directly in the artwork.

### **Project Overview**

This commission will result in a single Coast Salish artwork design that will be applied across three elements:

#### **Podium Trophy Base**

- Awarded as a podium gift to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place across four race categories, and one overall team at the UCI Mountain Bike Downhill World Cup.
- The trophy itself will include a chainsaw blade that will be embedded horizontally into the base.
- The selected artwork will appear on the front face of the base.

### Partner Gift

- Smaller commemorative blocks featuring the same artwork (no chainsaw element).

### Permanent Installation

- A larger-scale version will be installed at the start of the 1199 trail in the Whistler Mountain Bike Park and at the base of Whistler Mountain in Creekside Village.
- The artwork will be adapted for long-term outdoor display.

The final artwork will be translated into CNC-cut wood or metal and must be suitable for this method of fabrication.

### Eligibility

Open to artists from Lil'wat Nation and Squamish Nation. Submissions may be:

- From an individual artist, or
- A collaborative team (a collaboration between a Squamish Nation artist and Lil'wat Nation artist is encouraged but not required).

### Artist Fee

\$4,000 CAD for the selected artwork (including delivery of final digital files).

- If a collaborative submission is selected, the fee will be shared among collaborators.
- Additional costs related to production, fabrication, and installation will be covered separately.
- The selected artist(s) will be credited in association with the artwork, where possible, including on-site (for the permanent installation) and in event communications.

### Artwork Requirements

The selected artist/team will provide:

- A high-resolution, vector-based digital file suitable for CNC production
- Preferred formats: .AI, .EPS, or .SVG

Design must translate effectively into:

- CNC-carved wood or
- CNC-cut metal

Artwork should consider:

- Coast Salish design style
- Clean linework and scalability
- Application at multiple sizes (small gift to large installation)
- Durability and adaptability for outdoor use

## **Submission Requirements**

Please submit the following:

- Portfolio (examples of previous work)
- Concept proposal (sketch, mock-up, or written description)
- Short artist statement describing your approach and connection to the theme
- Indication if submission is a collaboration and between who (names and Nation membership)

All submitted concepts remain the intellectual property of the artist(s) and will not be used without permission.

## **Selection Criteria (High-Level)**

Submissions will be evaluated based on:

Connection to place and story

- Thoughtful response to the 1199 trail, its legacy, and the broader landscape

Cultural integrity and authenticity

- Work reflects the artist's knowledge, perspective, and cultural grounding

Creativity and originality

- Strength and uniqueness of the concept

Suitability for fabrication

- Feasibility for CNC production and adaptability across applications

Collaborative representation (where applicable)

- Consideration may be given to submissions that reflect both Nations

## **Timeline**

Call Opens: April 2026

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2026

Artist Selection: June 1, 2026 (approximately 2 weeks following deadline)

Final Artwork Delivery: June 30, 2026

## **Additional Notes**

- The selected artist/team will enter into an agreement outlining usage rights and production details.
- Artists may wish to seek guidance from Elders or knowledge holders as part of their process; this is welcomed and respected
- The intention of this project is to create a piece that is not only celebratory, but also respectful, enduring, and grounded in place

**Usage Rights Summary:**

The Artist will grant the usage rights for Whistler Blackcomb to use the digital version of the art design for the sole purpose of the Whistler World Cup project located at Whistler Mountain. This will include a digital design that will be translated into CNC cut wood or metal to be incorporated into three event components including trophy bases, partner gifts and two permanent event display installations, printing of signage related to the art installation and online promotion material. The artist will retain all digital usage rights.

**How to Apply**

For questions or to discuss the opportunity, please contact: Wendy Robinson  
[wrobinson@vailresorts.com](mailto:wrobinson@vailresorts.com)

Please submit your application materials to: Wendy Robinson by May 15, 2026  
[wrobinson@vailresorts.com](mailto:wrobinson@vailresorts.com)

The selected artist will be contacted June 1 with final artwork due June 30, 2026.