



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

Squamish Nation Elders Centre – Welcome Figures Project

Submission Deadline: September 30th , 2026

1. Overview

The Squamish Nation invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh artists for the design and carving of two (2) welcome figures to be installed at the Squamish Nation Elders Centre, located at 100 Mathias Road, West Vancouver as marked in the image below (final orientation to be confirmed by artists). This project forms part of a broader cultural recognition initiative to meaningfully embed Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh presence, identity, and values within community infrastructure.

This call is open to Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh artists only. Collaborative submissions and artist teams are welcome. Artists who are interested in incorporating mentorship into their approach, such as mentoring an emerging Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh artist during the design and carving process, are strongly encouraged. Intergenerational knowledge transfer is valued and will be considered an asset in the selection process.





2. Project Scope and Artist Responsibilities

The selected artist or team will be responsible for the design, carving, and completion of the welcome figures using cedar logs provided by the project. One of the logs was sourced from the cedar tree that previously stood on site, and the Elders have expressed a desire to repurpose it for one of the welcome figures on site. The second log will be sourced separately, with the final selection to be determined in collaboration with the artist. The poles will be installed at the Squamish Nation Elders Centre and must be suitable for long-term exterior display.

Existing Log Specifications:

- Diameter: approximately 20-24 inches
- Length: 34 feet

Desired Finished carving height: approximately 10 feet

Artists will be responsible for design development, carving in their own space and finishing, and providing a basic maintenance approach. Artists are also expected to:

1. Coordinate with the project team regarding the placement/orientation of the figures on site (assume 1 or 2 meetings on site)
2. Coordinate with the project team regarding the details for the structural base and how that will be attached to the figures (assume 1 or 2 digital or in person meetings)
3. Coordinate with the team during delivery and installation process (assume 1 or 2 meetings on site), and take part in final raising ceremony, date TBC.

3. Cultural Framework and Design Considerations

Designs should be drawn from traditional Coast Salish visual language and cultural principles, no formline.

Submissions and designs will be reviewed by a Selection Panel, which will include cultural knowledge holders to ensure the work reflects Squamish identity and is distinctly Sḵw̓xwú7mesh in design. The panel will review at concept, development, and final design stages for cultural input.



4. Eligibility

This opportunity is open to Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh artists (individual or teams) only, with demonstrated experience in carving cultural artworks. Applicants should have a strong understanding of Coast Salish forms, and the ability to execute durable outdoor works.

5. Budget and Project Support

The budget for this project is \$20,000 CAD per pole, for a total of \$40,000 CAD. This budget is intended to cover all artist fees associated with design and carving/painting/finishing, and coordination with project team throughout design and installation.

Log procurement, construction coordination, engineering fees, transportation and installation will be provided by Squamish Nation.

6. Selection Process

The artist selection will follow a two-phase process: Phase 1 will consist of an EOI submission and evaluation, with a shortlist of artists identified on October 7th, 2026.

During Phase 2, shortlisted artists will be invited to develop and submit concept proposals for review by the selection panel. Shortlisted participants will be provided with an honorarium in recognition of the time and effort required to prepare design submissions. Final artist selection will be completed by a panel consisting of cultural advisors and project representatives, with decisions based on artists design, their experience, cultural alignment, and overall strength of proposal.



7. Project Timeline

Milestone	Schedule
EOI Issued	August 31 st , 2026
EOI Submission Deadline	September 30 th , 2026
Shortlisting of Artists	October 7 th , 2026
Notifying Shortlisted Artists	October 14 th , 2026
Proposal Phase Commences	Mid-to-late October 2026
Submission of Design Proposals	November 18 th , 2026
Final Selection by Panel	November 25 th , 2026
Notification of Selected Artists	December 2 nd , 2026
Carving and Fabrication Period	December 2026 – March 2027
Project Completion Deadline	End of March 2027
Installation of Welcome Figures	April 2027



8. Application Requirements

Please note: This is not a request for concept proposals. Artists are not required to submit a design at this time.

To support accessibility, artists may submit alternative formats of an application (e.g., interviews, video submissions, email)

Standard submissions should be in a single PDF (max 10MB) and include:

1. Artist Contact info – Name, phone and email
 - If submitting as a team or proposing a mentorship structure, please clearly identify the lead contact person.
2. Expression of Interest and Artist Biography – One-page describing your interest and vision for this project and a brief description of your background and connection to the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh community (max 250 words).
 - If submitting as a team or mentorship group, please outline each member's role, background, and connection to the community.
3. Portfolio – Up to 5 images of past work or sketches/renderings of ideas. Collaborative work welcome.
4. Availability – Confirm your availability to begin design work by October 14th, 2026, with the goal of completing concept design by November 18th, 2026 and delivery ready for installation by April 2027.

9. How to Apply

Submit via email to: amardjuki@squamish.net

Subject line: SQECE – EOI – Welcome Figures – Your Name

We thank all artists for their interest and for contributing to the Squamish Nation Elders Centre. For any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact at amardjuki@squamish.net or at (604) 904-7474.