

2026 - Call for Indigenous Artists

PROJECT

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is seeking an Indigenous artist from a Host Nation – Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation or Musqueam Indian Band – to design and create a carved wooden door for a new clinical services site in Vancouver.

The project team aim to:

- (1) Honour the Host Nation on whose territory the site is located; and
- (2) Create a welcoming and inclusive space for clients that supports a sense of cultural safety and belonging for Indigenous clients and families.

ARTIST ELGIBILITY CRITERIA

Host Nation	Identify as a member of Squamish or Tsleil-Waututh Nation or Musqueam Indian Band.
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OPPORTUNITY

VCH is seeking an Indigenous artist to design and create a custom carved wooden door for the Sacred Space within a new clinical care site in Vancouver.

Opportunity is to incorporate Indigenous artwork at the VCH site, promoting a welcoming and culturally safe space for clients seeking services at this location. This initiative aligns with Recommendation 10 from the In Plain Sight Report, emphasizing the inclusion of Indigenous artwork, signage and territorial acknowledgment as part of VCH's broader responsibility to promote culturally safe care.

The timeline, project milestones and payment schedule will be determined in a contract to be finalized upon the selection of the Indigenous artist. The contract will clearly identify the artist's fee, payment dates, project responsibilities, intellectual property rights and ongoing maintenance.

Note: The selected artist will be invited to work with VCH to develop an artwork concept that reflects their artistic practice and cultural knowledge, while honouring the purpose of the Sacred Space and the territory on which the building is located.

VCH will provide input on the draft artwork to arrive at a final design in collaboration with the artist, taking into account project requirements, installation and maintenance needs, the artist's cultural knowledge, artistic decisions and Nation protocols.

CONTACT

Daniela Segatto, community engagement advisor	Daniela.segatto@vch.ca
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2026 ARTWORK PROJECT

Description	Opportunity
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Sacred Space carved door commission

The Sacred Space is intended to provide a welcoming environment for reflection, ceremony, healing and cultural connection for patients, clients, families, visitors and staff at the new site. The commissioned carved door will contribute to a broader collection of Indigenous artwork throughout the site. Together, these artworks will help acknowledge the traditional territories on which the building is located and support a culturally safe, welcoming and inclusive environment.

The selected artist will create an original artwork that reflects their artistic practice while responding to the purpose and significance of the Sacred Space. The artwork concept and overarching themes will be developed collaboratively by the selected artist and VCH.

Materials, delivery and installation

VCH will supply the solid wood slab for the project. Once the selected artist confirms their preferred cedar material, VCH will procure and deliver the wood slab directly to the artist.

The artist will be responsible for the design development and carving of the artwork in collaboration with VCH.

VCH will be responsible for transportation of the completed artwork from the artist's studio and for final installation, finishing, protection and ongoing maintenance of the carved door within the health-care site.

The commissioned artwork will consist of a custom carved solid wood door for the Sacred Space.

The artwork will be carved on both sides of the door. As each side will be experienced by individuals entering and leaving the Sacred Space, artists are encouraged to consider how both sides of the artwork work together to create a cohesive and meaningful experience. Please see [Appendix 1](#) for details.

Artwork specifications

Item	Specification
Artwork	Sacred Space carved door
Carving	Both sides of the door
Height	2,112 mm
Width	909 mm
Thickness	45 mm
Maximum Weight	500 lbs
Material	Solid wood (cedar preferred; artist to select either yellow cedar or red cedar)

Artist design fee

Up to \$15,000

Timeline

Application deadline: September 30, 2026

Artwork concept: February 2027

Artwork completion: December 2027

SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. Expression of Interest	Contact information: Full name, email and phone number Nation Affiliation Biography about you, experience with carving and your interest in this artwork opportunity
2. Submission Guidelines	Provide 4 – 6 samples of previous carving work that has been completed. - Include details of the samples provided (e.g., size, location) - At least two Coast Salish traditional carving(s) that the artist has the authority and permission to share for the purpose of this application

	• Artist must be a member of Musqueam, Squamish or Tsleil-Waututh Nations • VCH will keep submitted artwork samples confidential and will not copy, publish, circulate or use them for any purpose other than evaluating the application without the artist's written permission
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Submission

Please send an email containing the information above to Daniela at Daniela.segatto@vch.ca

SELECTION CRITERIA

The artist will be selected by a panel including representatives from VCH. The artist will then be notified and scheduled to meet with the team to discuss the artwork. Evaluation criteria will include:

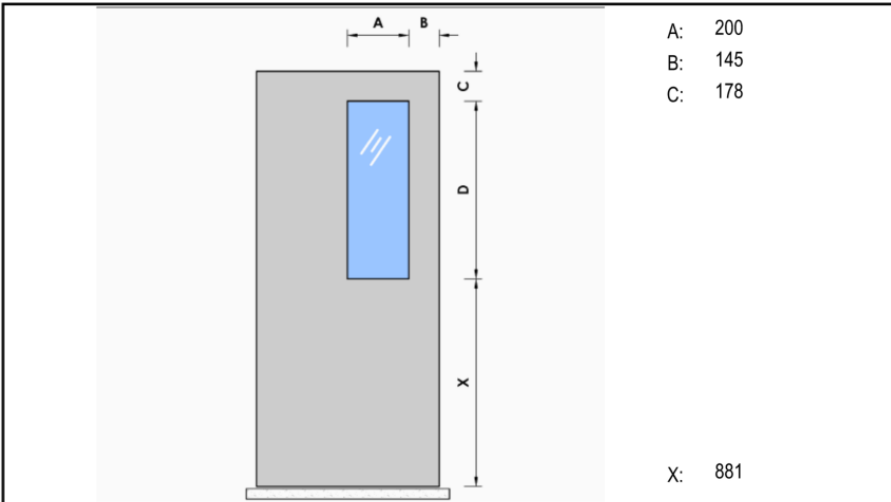
- Artistic knowledge based on samples provided
- Carving experience
- Coast Salish art design

DEADLINE

Application Deadline: September 30, 2026

Estimated Decision: October 16, 2026

APPENDIX 1 – Artwork Placements

Placement						
 A: 200 B: 145 C: 178 X: 881 WD-NL Arch Dr Type E SCW						
Item	Height (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Max. Weight (lbs)	Material	Mounting
Sacred Space Carved Door Carved both sides	2112	909	45	500	Solid Wood (cedar preferred; artist to select either yellow cedar or red cedar)	Attached to pressed steel door frame. Ives 7255 pivot hinge.