

2026 - Call for Indigenous Artist

PROJECT

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is seeking an Indigenous artist from a Host Nation – Squamish Nation (Sk̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw), Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaɬ) Nation or Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) Indian Band - to design artwork for a new community health clinic in Vancouver.

The project teams aim to:

- (1) Honour the Host Nations on whose territories 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 Nation (Sk̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw), Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaɬ) Nation or Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) Indian Band
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OPPORTUNITY

The opportunity is **to incorporate Indigenous artwork at a new community health clinic in Vancouver**, 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 and agreed upon 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, copyright ownership and any approved future use of the artwork.

Note: The selected artist will be invited to meet with the VCH team to learn more about the facility and its services and develop a draft of the artwork. VCH will provide feedback on the draft artwork to arrive at a final design in collaboration with the artist, taking into account project requirements, installation needs, the artist's cultural knowledge, artistic decisions and Nation protocols.

CONTACTS

Shannon Sahota- Leader, Community Engagement	Shannon.sahota@vch.ca
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Artwork Project for Vancouver Area	
Description of location / services	Opportunity for Artwork
The project team has identified four interior surfaces at the site – in the hallway, waiting room and at the care team station – where they wish to install custom artwork designs. The murals will be located in highly visible spaces and are intended to create a welcoming, culturally respectful and calming first impression for patients, families and visitors. The murals will be installed on the interior walls and glass of the facility. The mural dimensions are approximately as follows: Wall #1 (Waiting Room) 12 ft 7 in × 8 ft 8 in. Wall #2 (Waiting Room) 17 ft 10 in × 4 ft 11 in. Wall #3 (Hallway) 14 ft 10 in × 6 ft 1 in. Wall #4 (Care Team Station) 23 ft 6 in. × 5 ft 2 in.	To design artwork for installation, with VCH responsible for printing and vinyl installation. Artist design fee: Up to \$9600. Application Deadline: September 14, 2026. Artwork draft due: October 2026 (TBD) Artwork final design due: November 2026 (TBD)

SUBMISSION PROCESS	
1. Expression of Interest	- Contact information: email and phone number - Nation affiliation - Biography about you, your digital design experience and your interest in this artwork opportunity <i>Applicants are not required to share private cultural knowledge, family histories or information they do not have permission to disclose.</i>
2. Previous art experience	Provide 4 – 6 samples, if available, of previously completed work - Include details of the samples provided (e.g., size, location, materials). - At least two Coast Salish traditional design(s) that the artist has the authority and permission to share for the purpose of this application - The artist must be a member of Squamish Nation (Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw), Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaɬ) Nation or Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) Indian Band. - 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.

Submission: Please send an email containing the information above to shannon.sahota@vch.ca

SELECTION CRITERIA

The artist will be selected by a panel including representatives from VCH. The panel will review the submissions and select the artist. The artist will then be notified and schedule to meet with the team to discuss the artwork.

If you have been awarded a contract for an art project with VCH in the last six months, please note we may give preference to new applicants. Evaluation criteria will include:

Selection Criteria

Artistic knowledge based on samples provided

Digital design experience

Coast Salish art design

DEADLINE

Application Deadline: September 14, 2026

Estimated Decision: Late September, 2026