

Guide to Participating in a Selection Committee

There are many details to consider when selecting artwork for the public realm. The artwork must be robust enough to stand up to our climate and the interaction of many people. It cannot pose any safety issues and must be as vandalism-resistant as possible.

This guide is intended to help you understand the process for applying to participate in a public art or placemaking project selection committee.

If you have questions not addressed in this guide, contact us using the [‘Ask a Question’ widget](#) on our [Public Art and Creative Placemaking page](#).

1. What is a selection committee?

Art selection committees review proposals from artists and make recommendations to the Region based on their informed and independent consideration of relevant factors. Selection committees are organized on a case-by-case basis and typically include three to five members. As arms-length groups, selection committees help maintain transparency, integrity, and professionalism in the selection process.

2. How are members chosen?

Durham Region is committed to selection committees that are reflective of the diversity of the region’s population. This includes having representation from people of different ages, backgrounds, identities, and abilities. Everyone deserves access to public art that reflects their history, society, and place. Diverse and representative selection committees help the Region combat the systems of power that grant privilege and access inequitably.

Members of each selection committee will be chosen to recognize the unique characteristics and stakeholders of a site. To align with best practices, Durham Region will endeavour to include a majority of members who are art and design professionals (such as practicing artists, curators, art critics, architects, landscape architects, etc.). Specific topic experts, individuals from Indigenous communities or equity-deserving groups, and local representation will also be sought.

3. What are the responsibilities/time commitment?

Participating in a public art selection committee may require a significant commitment of your time. You will be required to attend art selection meetings, score each submission against selection criteria, and actively participate in discussions. Submissions will be selected based on consensus.

All committee members will sign a terms of reference document that will outline the expected commitment required for the selection committee including key dates, procedures for declaring conflicts of interest, and how confidentiality will be maintained

throughout the selection process. Selection committee members are expected to comply with the Region's [Public Code of Conduct Policy](#).

Selection committees will typically be established at the end of an artist call to ensure that selection committee members are aware of the number of submissions to be scored and that they are available on the dates and times of the planned selection meetings.

4. Are selection committee members paid?

Depending on the project, a small honorarium may be offered. This will be discussed with prospective committee members at the outset of a project, if applicable.

5. How do I apply?

You can submit an expression of interest by completing [an online application](#). Your application may include your name(s), demographic information, contact information, a one-page letter stating your interest and, if applicable, your art and design experience with your supporting C.V. or resume.

Durham Region is committed to an inclusive, barrier-free selection process. If you require assistance submitting your expression of interest, or if any of the information in this guide is required in an accessible format, please contact art@durham.ca.