

## Request for Expression of Interest - Call to Artists

### Low Level Road Project

Low Level Road, North Vancouver, B.C.



## **Request for Expression of Interest – Call to Artists Low Level Road Project**

Port Metro Vancouver, in partnership with the City of North Vancouver and the Public Arts Office, has identified an opportunity for public art to be integrated into the design for the Low Level Road Project located alongside the north shore port terminals, Moodyville Park and Low Level Road in North Vancouver.

Port Metro Vancouver is seeking an artist or artist team to create a design for incorporation into a section of retaining wall for the Low Level Road Project, located on Low Level Road in the City of North Vancouver, B.C. The scope for this art call is limited to creating the design and consultation with the Main Contractor, however the Main Contractor will be responsible for fabrication and installation of the art.

This request for Expression of Interest is an open call to all professional artists.

This call requires a statement of qualifications, images of previous artwork and a written project proposal. Artists considered will have experience with public art projects of a similar scale and scope.

The public art scope for the Low Level Road Project may expand to include other features to be delivered by the Project, subject to budget constraints.

### **Low Level Road Project Overview**

The Low Level Road Project is a \$100 million (capital cost) road project designed to improve the international competitiveness of the North Shore Trade Area by improving Port operations and efficiency, while also addressing long-standing community needs within the existing Low Level Road corridor. The Project includes:

- realigning and elevating the existing Low Level Road to the north
- providing space for two new rail tracks
- improving cycling and pedestrian facilities
- construction of transparent noise walls and landscaping
- completing the City of North Vancouver's Spirit Trail between St. Georges Avenue and Kennard Avenue.

Port Metro Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver are working together to deliver these improvements in a way that accommodates anticipated growth in trade, minimizes impacts on the local community and businesses and maximizes community benefits. For further information about the project and to view a video animation, please visit [www.porttalk.ca/lowlevelroad](http://www.porttalk.ca/lowlevelroad).

Given that the new road will be elevated and realigned north into the Moodyville bluff, the Project involves a significant amount of retaining walls to support the road or the hillside above. One section of these walls is to be a shotcrete wall over which a design will be cast. It is within this area where the public art opportunity exists.



**Site Design Features**

Detailed design work is currently being finalized. The successful artist will be required to work closely with members of the Project Team as required, in order to meet all necessary technical scheduling and maintenance parameters. The structural component of the wall is shotcrete (shotcrete is a method of applying concrete where concrete is effectively shot out or sprayed on a surface; the shotcrete mix uses smaller gravel than standard concrete and can be a little more fluid) is 240 metres long and 6 metres high. The final wall finish will be cast in place over the top of the shotcrete wall.

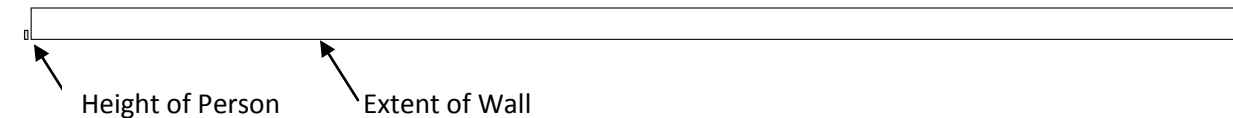


## Site Conditions

This shotcrete wall is located approximately half way along Low Level Road. To the north of the retaining wall is the Spirit Trail and residences, and to the south of the wall is Port industrial property and tenants. At either side of the shotcrete wall will be more retaining walls, which will be angled to assist with noise mitigation. The bottom 4 metres of these walls will be vegetated and the upper remaining portion of the walls will consist of wire baskets filled with rocks.

The design of the road itself will consist of dedicated 2 metre cycle lanes either side of the road and two lanes for traffic (one in each direction). The road is a primary east-west route for the North Shore and all road traffic types use the Low Level Road, with approximately 11,000 vehicles using the Low Level Road per day.

The size and nature of the design must fit the scale and location of the site. The 'canvas' is a long thin strip 6 metres high by 240 metres long. The viewers/audience is limited to road users, either cyclists or vehicular traffic, as there is no sidewalk on the road and no place to stop and contemplate or view the design. The road will have a 50km/hr speed limit which may be more suited to a bolder or simplistic design approach. The diagram below provides an ideal of the scale of the wall providing the canvas for the artwork.



## **Theme**

During community consultation in 2012, consultation feedback indicated a preference for public art themes including First Nations (Coast Salish), history of Moodyville and the working Port.

The landscape design and mix of the surrounding environment invite artistic expression. The chosen artist will be given as much creative licence as possible to develop a design that reflects the neighbourhood context while respecting the site limitations and use. The artist may conduct their own research of the community in developing a design that will have significance to the community and do so with a theme that has layers of meaning that will give the design longevity. The rationale for the design will be derived from its context both in place and time.

The design chosen for Low Level Road will engage the travelling public and provide a sense of place. The artist will aspire to the highest level of creativity and excellence in design, creating a landmark work for the City of North Vancouver.

## **Specifications**

The selected artist will need to work with the contractor for the Low Level Road Project in the development of the 'forms' which will be used to construct the design component of the shotcrete wall. The design component will include the artwork which will be in the form of a relief/embossed image cast into the concrete finish of the wall. The maximum relief is limited to 60mm and the maximum depth of emboss is also limited to 60mm (the total depth of the finished image would be 120mm). The design would ideally be a repetitive design over 3 panels (each panel a maximum of 10 metres wide by 6 metres high) which would run for the full length of the wall i.e. at 10 metres wide per panel and with a 3 panel width design, this 30 metre long design would be repeated 8 times across the entire 240 metre long wall. Any section of the panel which is not embossed will need to be textured to assist with noise mitigation.

## **Artist Commission**

The artist's commission is \$30,000 and this includes artist fee, final design package, travel and artist consultation as required during all phases of the Project. Please note that fabrication and installation of the formwork panels of the concrete wall will be undertaken by the Main Contractor.

## **Artist Selection Process**

A selection panel will be established by the City of North Vancouver and Port Metro Vancouver to select the artist and artwork. This panel will consist of five representatives as follows:

- North Vancouver Public Art Advisory Committee representative
- Local Artist representative
- City of North Vancouver representative
- Port Metro Vancouver representative
- Low Level Road Project design team representative.

The selection panel will shortlist three artists from the Letters of Interest submitted. The shortlisted

artists will be required to sign an Agreement and will be provided with an honorarium of \$1,000 to prepare and develop a detailed concept proposal. This honorarium will be paid upon receipt and presentation of the final concept proposal.

### **Shortlist Selection Criteria**

Shortlist submissions will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- I. Images: Previous work is refined, high quality, creative and original.
- II. Context: Previous work demonstrates ability to explore variety of themes and site applications.
- III. Resourceful: Provides a good cost/benefit ratio, durable, high quality, environmentally sensitive.
- IV. Project Fit: Artistic style shows potential for translation into project scale and construction medium.
- V. Availability.

An artist or artist team will be chosen in March 2013 from the shortlist after careful and thoughtful review of the concept proposals presented. The final artist selected will enter into a Contract Agreement with Port Metro Vancouver to complete the proposed artwork on time.

### **Final Selection Criteria**

- I. Design: Delivers an innovative and memorable visual experience, particularly at monumental scale.
- II. Sense of Place: Design explores a theme(s) appropriate and unique to the site.
- III. Resourceful: Design provides a good cost/benefit ratio, within the parameters of the defined wall construction.
- IV. Project Fit: Artist is available during project timeframe, can work collaboratively with the project team.

Port Metro Vancouver reserves the right not to award the commission.

### **Project Schedule**

December 18, 2012	Call to Artists is posted
January 18, 2013	Submission deadline - all submitted materials must be received by 4pm
February 1, 2013	All submitted proposals will be reviewed by the Selection Panel. Up to 3 artists will be shortlisted
February 28, 2013	Concept Proposal Presentation by selected Artists

Early March, 2013	Final Artist Selection and Artist Contract
Late 2013 (TBA)	Fabrication (artist must be available for consultation)
Late 2013 (TBA)	Installation (artist must be available for consultation)

### **Submission Requirements**

Artists interested in this project must prepare and submit the following:

- i) A Letter of Interest (no more than two pages) summarizing the idea you are interested in developing
- ii) A current resume (no more than three pages)
- iii) Up to 10 digital images of past work. Each image must be labelled with the artist's name and numbered to correspond to the annotated images list with the artist's name and contact information, title of artwork, medium, date of artwork, dimensions, budget and corresponding image number. Also include a brief description (30 word max) of the artwork. Submit only quality j-pegs with 200 dpi (do not use GIF's, TIFFs or other formats) PC compatible
- iv) Two professional references of people you have worked with on past commission projects and are familiar with your art and practice. Include complete addresses and telephone numbers.

Applications can be submitted hard copy or electronically. Please note: if submitted hard copy, please include and self addressed envelope with postage if you would like your materials returned.

### **Project Contact and Submission**

SUBMIT APPLICATION PACKAGES TO:

Attention: Cindy McCarthy  
 c/o Port Metro Vancouver  
 100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place , Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6C 3T4  
 P: 604-665-9382 E: cindy.mccarthy@portmetrovancover.com

**Any further information and any questions received will be posted to [www.porttalk.ca/lowlevelroad](http://www.porttalk.ca/lowlevelroad).**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 18, 2013 at 4pm**