



ARTS | CULTURE | NORTH VANCOUVER

# PUBLIC ART CALL For Expressions of Interest Chief Mathias Joe Park

Deadline: March 24, 2014 @ 4 pm

For more information contact:

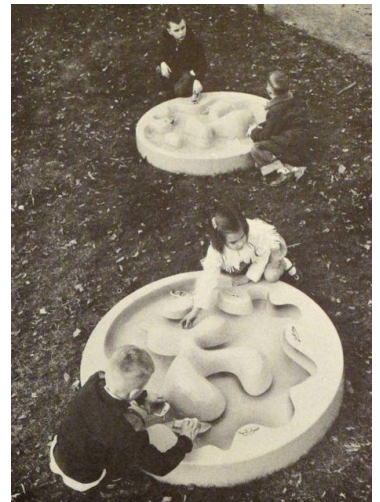
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[www.artsoffice.ca](http://www.artsoffice.ca)



Precedent Image: Play house, Cow Hollow School, San Francisco California 2010



Precedent image: Water play puddle sculpture



View of existing park from Fourth Street facing south.



Precedent image: Open ended sand play, Vauban Playground, Germany

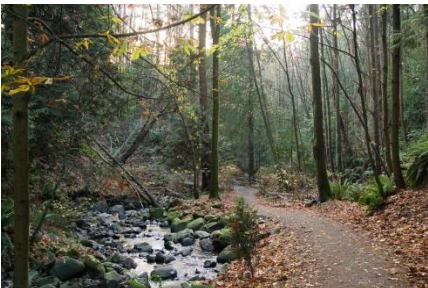
This is a call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the City of North Vancouver Public Art Program, seeking an artist or artist team to create and install site specific Public Art project as part of the 2014 Chief Mathias Joe Park renewal project.

**MUNICIPAL CONTEXT**

The City of North Vancouver is a vibrant urban municipality with a population of 48,000 that is situated within Metro Vancouver, Canada's third largest metropolitan region. The City offers a diversified economy and extensive range of employment, education, and recreation opportunities. It is a compact, waterfront community centrally located on the North Shore of the Burrard Inlet, one of the world's great ports. Sloping topography, views to both the mountains to the north and the Burrard Inlet and Vancouver skyline to the south, and high rainfall are distinctive attributes of the area. The municipality is blessed with a number of outstanding natural attributes that set it apart from others.



The City's park system is highly diverse ranging from urban plazas and horticultural gardens to natural ravines and small neighbourhood parks. Collectively these contribute to the sense of community, enhance social connections, and hold significant ecological values. Many of the City's large ravine parks and natural trail systems are located on the lower density periphery and are associated with remnant forest areas. In the more urbanized areas, community and neighbourhood parks include recreational facilities, open grass or play equipment. City parks, greenways and natural areas are fundamental to the daily lives of North Vancouver citizens.



St. Andrews Park and Mahon Park are two frequently visited and distinctly different parks. Mahon Park is one of the City's large ravine parks while St. Andrews Park functions as a play environment that reflects the character of the North Shore.

## Neighbourhood Context - Lower Lonsdale Neighbourhood

Most of the City's population is concentrated within a roughly five-block wide corridor centred on Lonsdale Avenue which makes the Lower Lonsdale area the most populated and fastest growing census neighbourhood in the municipality. It is a dense area with more apartment dwellings in Lower Lonsdale alone than there are single-detached houses and other ground oriented housing than in the City's other neighbourhoods combined. There are a growing number of children in the neighbourhood and Lower Lonsdale accounted for 48% of the overall increase of seniors in the 2006 census.



Left: Chalk drawing in one of the neighbourhood parks. Middle: One example of the diverse Lower Lonsdale streetscape. Far Right: Historical context. housing at 230 East 3rd in 1941.

## Project Context – Lower Lonsdale Small Parks Improvements

The renewal of Chief Mathias Joe Park is part of the first phase of the Lower Lonsdale Small Park Improvements Project. Over the next several years, improvements will also be made to Semisch Park, Chief August Jack and Derek Inman Park. The scope of improvements for each park will vary according to its unique character.

## PROJECT SCOPE - CHIEF MATHIAS JOE PARK

The park design will be completed internally by City staff within the Parks Department. The selected artist will work collaboratively with the City team to integrate public art into the overall park design.

## Site Description

Chief Mathias Joe offers outdoor space for the immediate neighbourhood with the intent to form the visual, physical and social focus of the neighbourhood. The park is located mid-300 block on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street between St. Andrew's Ave and St. Patrick's Ave. It is approximately .4 acres or .17 hectares (three City lots) in a residential neighbourhood adjacent with a bike route to the north and laneway to the south.



The park is a sloping south facing site. The park includes a toddler play structure, swings, spring toys and two picnic tables.

### Site Opportunities

The character of the site is derived primarily from its rolling topography and southern aspect. The topography provides an opportunity to integrate play features and slopes. A decommissioned irrigation box on site also provides an opportunity to incorporate water play into the new design. Several existing mature trees also contribute to the character of the site.

### Site Constraints

The site is constrained by a lack of transitional space between the park, laneway and adjacent housing. Many of the trees and shrubs are pushed to the edges of the space. During the public consultation phase, many of the neighbours have noted that vandalism is an ongoing issue in the park.



View of park from the laneway facing north.



View from the east side of the park facing south.



From left to right: There is little transition between the park, adjacent housing and lane; Existing pine tree on the north edge lends some character; Rolling slopes are enjoyed by the neighbourhood children.

## Public Consultation

The City Parks department held two public open houses on February 12, 2014 to seek feedback from surrounding neighbours and the larger community. Public input will be gathered online until February 26, 2014. Please visit the City website [www.cnv.org/ChiefMathiasJoe](http://www.cnv.org/ChiefMathiasJoe) to view the open house boards, precedent images, site opportunities and constraints, and early programming concepts.

## Early Concepts for the Park

Based on preliminary feedback from the public open houses, City staff will be considering incorporating water and sand play areas into the new inclusive design. There is also an interest from the neighbourhood to provide play elements that appeal to an older age group (5-12 years), so City staff will be looking into purchasing unique, open ended play structures from play equipment manufacturers. Early programming concepts also include creating a looped pathway throughout the site, providing shady areas of rest, and highlighting seasonal change.



Clockwise, Richter Spielgerate climbing logs; Berliner Seilfabrik Spaceball; Waterplay at St. Andrews Park; Rock scramble; BUGA Playscape 2005; Storytelling circle.

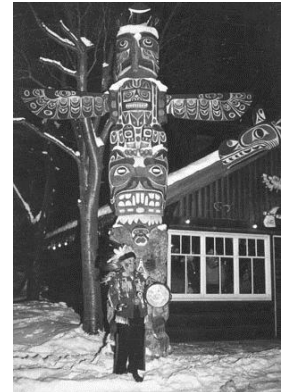
When neighbours were asked to share stories about Chief Mathias Joe, many talked about random meetings with neighbours and children spontaneously making friends at this park. The residents enjoy sitting to watch their children play while socializing with other parents. Children eat the apples from the existing apple tree, pick blackberries and roll down the hills. One neighbor had played at this park 36 years ago when she was a little girl and now it will be her children's neighbourhood park.

## Park Name

In 1974 the park was named after Chief Mathias Joe, Squamish hereditary Chief of Xwemelch'st/Capilano IR#5. Tl'it'sela was a charismatic man of many talents. He is remembered as a fisherman, hunter, longshoreman, logger, historian, artist, singer and longhouse member. He was a famous orator and entertainer who loved to make people laugh. He also had a serious side and fought for Aboriginal Rights.

Some of his carvings and totems stand in front of the Tomahawk Restaurant just off of Marine Drive at Philips Road, and as the original native art at the Capilano Suspension Bridge. The Museum of Anthropology at UBC and Vancouver Museum both house examples of his work.

He is remembered by his family as a man who loved his wife, children, grandchildren and community. He loved life and all people, no matter what age, color, or nationality. (Text source: Elders of the family and Squamish Community, 1980's).



## PUBLIC ART OBJECTIVES

The Public Art project created for Chief Mathias Joe Park will:

- ❖ Be celebratory of children's play in a creatively open-ended fashion;
- ❖ Deliver bold visual impact;
- ❖ Create a socially engaging park element for rest or play;
- ❖ Provide ongoing interest and meaning for park users.

*Note: If the intent or concept is for the art piece to function as a "play structure", the design should incorporate the Canadian Playground Safety Standard Guidelines (CAN/CSA-Z614-07).*

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This Public Art call invites expressions of interest from all professional Artists or Artist Teams that have the demonstrated creative expertise and technical skills to manage all phases of the process from design development through to installation in coordination with the project contractors and municipal staff. Demonstrated experience working collaboratively with a landscape architect or architect as well as familiarity with playground safety standards would be an asset.

## BUDGET

The total budget available to artist(s) is \$30,000. Artwork budget must be inclusive of all costs including but not limited to: artist fees, studio overhead, consultant fees, artwork fabrication, site preparation, travel, transportation, installation, all taxes, and General Liability Insurance in the amount of five million dollars.

**ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS**

The Public Art selection process will be undertaken by an Artist Selection Panel and will occur in two stages. The Selection Panel will be comprised of individuals representing the following areas: NV Public Art Advisory Committee, Artist, Artistic Professional, Architect, and CNV Project Manager.

**Phase I - Expressions of Interest**

The Panel will review all eligible Expressions of Interest submissions with the goal of short-listing three candidates for further consideration. The submissions will be reviewed using the following creative criteria:

- Images:** Previous work is refined, high quality, creative, and original.
- Sense of Place:** Artist’s ability to create unique site specific interventions.
- Project Fit:** Potential to engage young minds in a creatively open-ended fashion.
- Resourceful:** Provides a good cost/benefit ratio, durable, high quality, environmentally sensitive.

**Phase II – Concept Proposals**

Short-listed artists will be invited to prepare a concept proposal for presentation to the Selection Panel and will receive a presentation fee in the amount of \$500. As part of this phase, the artists will have the opportunity to meet with members of the design team and municipal staff to review project details and ask questions. The short-listed presentations will be reviewed and decisions made based on eligibility and Public Art Objectives as outlined in this Call.

*Note: If there are no submissions that warrant further consideration, the Artist Selection Panel reserves the right not to award the commission.*

**TIMELINE**

Posting Circulated.....	February 25, 2014
<b>Submissions Materials Due @ 4 pm.....DEADLINE.....</b>	<b>March 24, 2014</b>
Selection Process Review & Short-listing .....	April 2014
Short-listed Artists Presentations.....	May 2014
Contract Signing .....	Spring 2014
Anticipated Date for Installation .....	Fall 2014

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

To be considered for the Public Art opportunity, please submit the following information to The Arts Office by e-mail or post before the deadline.

1. **Letter of Interest:** No longer than one typed page.
  - Outlines or describes artist’s suggested approach or methodology for this project
  - May include written description of preliminary concept (*no drawings please*)

2. **Artist Resume or CV** - If applying as an artist team please provide one for each artist.
3. **Digital Images** - Up to 10 digital images showing previous examples of public art created by the artist(s).
4. **Image Descriptions** – Provide the following information to support the images: title, date completed, medium, location and commission value.

#### **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

- Artists are asked to submit the information listed below on **one PDF Acrobat format file, no more than 5 MB**. Please do not secure the PDF file as there may be a need to extract an image for presentation to the selection panel. It is recommended the entire PDF be formatted horizontally as it will be presented to the selection panel projected on a horizontal screen.
- Photos of artwork to be captioned on the same page, with the artist's last name and the artwork title, size, & value and other brief information you wish to communicate about the artwork.
- Email or deliver submission to arrive at The Arts Office, by **4pm Monday March 24, 2014**.
- Alternatively, submissions may be delivered to The Arts Office on a PC compatible CD or USB by Monday March 24, 2014 by 4pm.
- All backup materials to be labeled (CMJ Park) + (Your Last Name)
- Neither the North Vancouver Arts Office, nor the City of North Vancouver will be responsible for any costs incurred in responding to this Call
- Submission packages will not be returned.

\*\*\* Please **DO NOT** submit original artwork, stapled or bound materials, or documents in plastic sleeves.

#### **SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST PACKAGES:**

##### **BY E-Mail to:**

[pasubmissions@artsoffice.ca](mailto:pasubmissions@artsoffice.ca)

Subject line: Chief Mathias Park- (Artist Last Name)

##### **BY MAIL:**

The Arts Office

315 – 1277 Lynn Valley Road, North Vancouver, BC, V7J 0A2

Attention: Lori Phillips, Public Art Coordinator

**DEADLINE: Monday March 24, 2014 4pm ---** Office hours are 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at The Arts Office.