BACKLANE PUBLIC ART PROJECT

NATIONAL CALL TO ARTISTS / DESIGNERS

downtown WINNIPEG BIZ





EXAMPLES OF BACKLANE ENHANCEMENTS FROM OTHER CITIES



OVERVIEW

The Downtown Winnipeg BIZ and partners invite conceptual design proposals from artists / designers who are interested in shifting perceptions and celebrating the unique spaces of downtown Winnipeg backlanes. Those interested will need to submit an application package to the Downtown BIZ by March 31, 2016.

Project Summary

The Downtown BIZ seeks a design for a semi-permanent (three to five year lifespan), impactful, innovative contemporary public artwork or spatial enhancement for installation in a downtown Winnipeg backlane. The goal is to transform uninviting backlanes into vibrant, unique and welcoming places that invite exploration, wandering and events.

Budget

The artist / designer (or team) of the winning entry will receive a $5,000 honorarium. The project **budget is $35,000** (total for all expenses related to this project, including the honorarium). Please note that in-kind costs to be incurred by the Downtown BIZ, related to project management, labour and marketing, are not included in this total. For more information about the budget, please contact **Stephanie Voyce at the Downtown BIZ at 204-958-4621**.

Application Package

Those submitting a proposal will be asked to provide a concept statement, CV, two elevation or perspective drawings that specify materials and size, a detailed plan view and an application form. The winning entrant will later be requested to provide construction drawings that will be reviewed by a technical committee.

Please visit www.downtownwinnipegbiz.com to download high resolution project images, including a backlane site plan and site photos.

Artist / Designer Eligibility

This is a national design competition open to all individuals engaged with the design and art community including: artists, architects, landscape architects, interior designers, planners, designers and other creators (including students enrolled in the previously mentioned disciplines).

Design Parameters

Artists / designers are encouraged to consider the potential of backlanes to be shifted and celebrated through a design intervention. Sensitivity to the context and function of the backlane must be considered (including the potential to connect the artwork or spatial enhancement from the backlane to Donald St.).

The installed art piece(s) shall:

- Not inhibit the passage of people / vehicles in the backlane.
- Maintain a minimum 6.0m unobstructed travel lane width of the public lane.
- Maintain a minimum height clearance of 4.6m for areas accessible by motor vehicles.
- Not obstruct existing parking or building egress in the backlane.
- Not take the form of a mural.
- Meet the safety and accessibility standards of the City, including being constructed of vandalism resistant materials (please see www.aacwinnipeg.mb.ca to download City of Winnipeg Accessibility Design Standards 2015).
- Consider and/or integrate lighting towards backlane safety.

Notes:

- Proposed installations that are to touch or be anchored to adjacent structures will be subject to approval by property owners.
- Mounting the artwork / spatial enhancements on a foundation, at grade, is a possibility as long as the above clearances are met.

Site Location

The site for the project is the backlane at the north side of Portage Ave, between Donald St. and Smith St.

IMMEDIATE

Day to day, this backlane currently provides staff and visitor parking as well as loading for adjacent buildings (minimum two parking spaces per building). This lane also houses large waste and recycling containers (approx. nine bins total). And growing evening crowds and tourists for nearby events mean this backlane is used more and more as a pathway to return to parked vehicles or to scurry back home.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

Businesses surrounding the project site include Mountain Equipment Co-op, Dollarama, The Planit and Credit Union Central. To the west of the lane is a new tower (part of the Centre Point Development), housing the Alt Hotel, Merchant Kitchen and Stantec. A modern design 21-storey residential tower (Glasshouse) will soon be completed (also as part of this development). To the east of the backlane is a heritage hotel – The Marlborough Hotel.

Within a larger context, this site is part of The SHED (The Sports, Hospitality and Entertainment District) which is an important new area in Downtown Winnipeg, which encompasses the MTS Center, city place, the Millennium Library, the Winnipeg Convention Center and more. The aim of The SHED is to create a lively mixed-use district that showcases entertainment venues and high quality public spaces. The vision for the district also includes restaurants, retail shops, cultural institutions, civic amenities and places to live that will appeal to the entire community.



■ Backlane site ■ Potential connected zone



Note – CentrePoint Development has now filled in the construction site as seen in this image

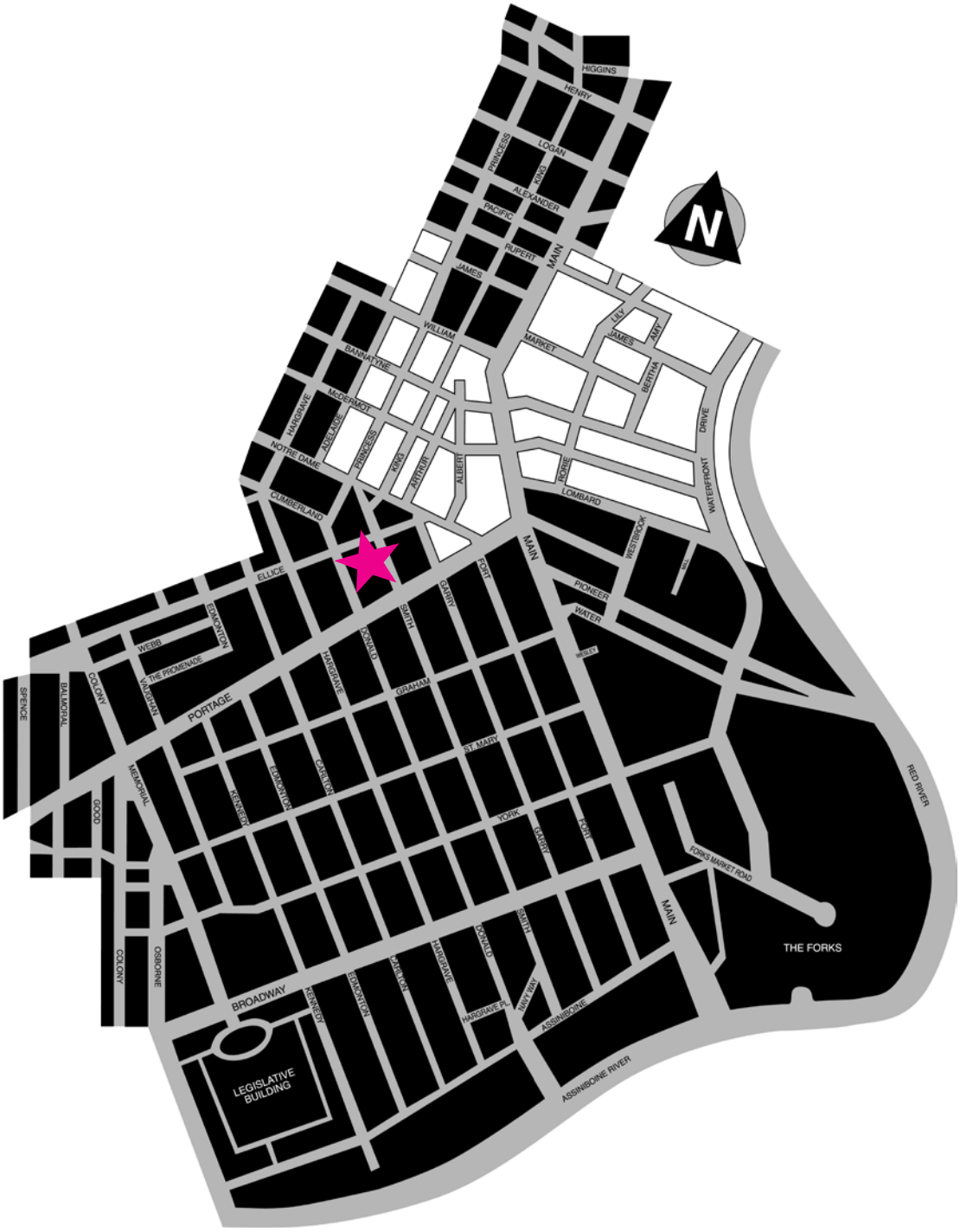
Site Location

DOWNTOWN

Downtown: The Driving Force for Winnipeg's Growth
(as seen on the Downtown Trends website - downtownwinnipegtrends.com)

From Portage and Main and from communities across Canada to our neighbors worldwide – people are taking note of the exciting progress occurring in our downtown.

While we all strive to create a more liveable city – one with a better built environment, increased cultural amenities, a thriving economy, improved social well-being and feelings of safety, and sustainability for the many generations to come – it is our undeniable love for Winnipeg and the heart of our city that continues to drive development forward. That sense of community pride and optimism beats in the heart of downtown Winnipeg, in every one of the tens of thousands of students, office workers, residents, and tourists who frequent this bustling part of the city daily.




CATERING
PARTIES
PIZZA
FOOD TRUCK WARS




MTS centre



Site Location

DOWNTOWN

- 15 LEED certified buildings (or awaiting LEED certification)
- 30 BOMA BEST/Green Globes certified buildings
- 861 postal codes in the downtown
- 210 free WIFI locations, with dozens more currently being installed
- Over 324, 000 Twitter followers of downtown agencies
- More than 69,000 people come downtown to work everyday
- More than 24,000 students come downtown to learn every year
- Almost 16,000 people live downtown
- 1,812 housing units have been constructed since 2005, with 1719 more planned
- More than 2.8 million out-of-town tourists visit Winnipeg each year
- An estimated $647 million is spent by tourists in Winnipeg each year
- An estimated 308,000 people attended nearly 655 events/conventions in Winnipeg in 2012. An estimated 404,000 will attend 743 events/conventions when the Convention Centre is expanded.
- There are 4 million annual visits to The Forks, which was named Best Public Space in Canada (Canadian Institute of Planners)
- There are about 1.5 million annual visits to the Millennium Library
- There are 1 million annual visits to the MTS Centre, the 13th busiest venue in North America
- More than 2 billion has been invested downtown since 2005
- More than 950,000 people attended downtown events every year
- Over 4,000,000 people visit downtown arts and entertainment venues every year, with an additional 4 million attending The Forks
- 20% of creative industries are located downtown (670 businesses in total). Creative industries [1] employ over 25,000 people citywide, attract 1.1 million tourists and spend $87 million annually.
- 18 major public art installations, adding over $1.8 million of investment downtown
- Cycling is up 60% in Winnipeg since 2009, and an estimated 6,200 people commute downtown by bicycle
- Walk Score is a website that rates over 10,000 neighbourhoods in almost 3,000 cities with respect to their access to public transit, commuting time, and proximity to people and places. We looked at 3-4 downtown neighbourhoods and they scored between 88-98 out of 100 for walkability. [2]
- There's 440,000 m2 of downtown green space

[1] The arts and creative industries are made up of arts and cultural organizations, which we define as non-profit entities engaged in artistic activities, and creative industries, which include private firms whose business relates to arts and culture. The Ticket to the Future report employs a definition of the arts and creative industries based on the North American Industry

Classification System (NAICS).

[2] www.walkscore.com

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee of qualified persons. The committee will review applications on the basis of:

- Qualifications and professional experience of the artist or designers
- Sensitivity and creative response to the site and context
- Distinctive, dynamic and captivating design
- Feasibility of construction with the parameters, timeline and budget set out
- Durability of design for a three-five year period

Selection Committee

The selection committee will be composed of one representative from the local business community as well as five Winnipeggers who are proponents of art and design in the downtown environment. The selection committee names will be listed on the Downtown BIZ website by December 30, 2015. For more information about the selection committee, please contact Stephanie Voyce at the Downtown BIZ at 204-958-4621.

Ownership & Maintenance

The artwork will be owned and maintained by the Downtown BIZ. The Downtown BIZ will ensure that the artwork / spatial enhancement is kept free of litter / graffiti and is washed regularly.

Other Notes

This competition will be managed by the Downtown BIZ. Upon selection of the winning entry, the Downtown BIZ will manage the budget and pursue the city design review, technical/engineering review and permit process. The Downtown BIZ will also manage the construction and promotion of the project. The construction will be done by a team of local individuals, engaged by the Downtown BIZ. The winning artist / designer will be consulted throughout the design development and construction process to ensure their vision is appropriately translated into the final artwork / spatial enhancement.

Submission Requirements

Artists / designers wishing to be considered must submit a complete package (in digital PDF format), which must include the below documents. The digital submission (max nine pages total) should be sent by email at a max size of 7.5MB.

Max five pages in portrait format (8.5”x11”):

1. One completed application form (attached to this document).
2. A curriculum vitae that includes a brief statement of artistic activities for the past twelve months. Designers will need to provide the name of the Professional Association to which the architect or intern member is registered. Design students will need to provide details as to the design degree currently being pursued. Please limit the CV to a maximum length of three pages.
3. A short description of concept (max 1/2 page).

Max four pages in landscape format (11”x17” at 300 dpi):

4. Two elevation or perspective drawings.
5. A detailed plan view.

Application Transit & Receipt

All materials must be submitted in one package as outlined in this brochure. Incomplete and/or late submissions will not be accepted. The BIZ will not be responsible for submissions lost in transit. While all reasonable care will be taken in the handling of materials, the BIZ cannot take responsibility for lost or damaged materials. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the application package reaches the BIZ by the deadline. All applicants will receive a notice by e-mail that their application has been received. If you have submitted an application and do not receive notification within three weeks, please contact the Downtown BIZ office. Application materials will not be returned.

Consequences of Submission & the Acceptance of Designs

Interested creators are advised that the BIZ nor the jury is obliged to accept any of the creators' artwork and may reject all pieces of artwork. Each creator is advised, and by the submission of the artwork agrees, that the BIZ will not be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses, damages (including damages for loss of anticipated profit) or liabilities incurred by the creator as a result of or arising out of submitting an artwork, or due to the BIZ's acceptance or non-acceptance of their artwork, or arising out of any contract award not made in accordance with the expressed or implied terms of the call for artwork. Until a written contract in a form satisfactory to the BIZ is executed by the BIZ and the creators, no legal rights or responsibility shall be created between the creator and the BIZ. The BIZ reserves the right to choose to not recommend any application, proposal or finalist and to terminate or re-advertise any project. The BIZ reclaims the property and rights to use all artwork submitted in future BIZ projects, publications and initiatives.

DEADLINE

Complete proposal packages must be received electronically on or before
March 31, 2016 by 4:00 p.m.

For additional information or questions please call:

Stephanie Voyce, Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, (204)958-4621 or
e-mail at stephanie@downtownwinnipegbiz.com

This is a project of the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, who is a not-for-profit organization funded through a levy on business tax that coordinates many programs and initiatives to improve and promote downtown Winnipeg.

APPLICATION FORM: 2016 BACKLANE PUBLIC ART PROJECT

Include a copy of this form with each application.

Checklist of materials included in your application package:

☐ Application form (this page).

☐ One copy of a curriculum vitae.

☐ Up to a half page written description of the design concept.

☐ Two elevation or perspective drawings that specify materials and size.

☐ A detailed plan view, to scale with dimensions.

Deadline for all submissions is 4:00p.m. March 31, 2016.
Incomplete or late forms and sketches will not be considered by the jury.

(Please print)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

How did you hear about this competition: _____

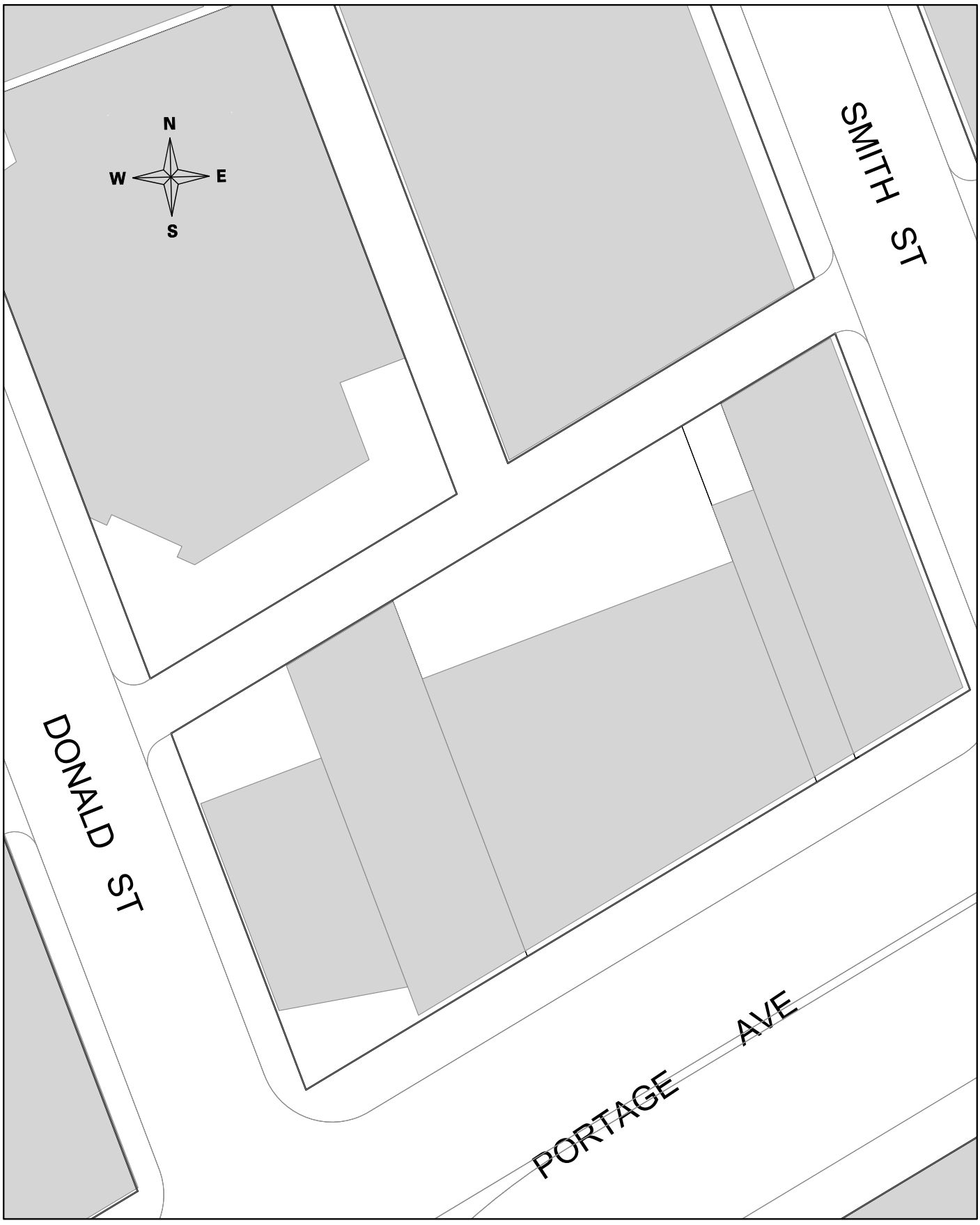
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Please email complete application packages to:

Backlane Public Art Project
Attention: Stephanie Voyce

Stephanie@downtownwinnipegbiz.com

APPENDIX




Credit Union Central of Manitoba

