



Call for Indigenous Artists: Application Form

Project Context:

At Niagara Health, we are committed to listening and learning more about the experiences of Indigenous Peoples so we can take meaningful action towards reconciliation in the health system. We acknowledge the land on which we provide care is the shared traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples. To acknowledge this traditional territory is to recognize its extensive history. Niagara Region is now home to many diverse First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples with their own unique cultures, identities, traditions and languages. We acknowledge the impacts that colonialism, systemic racism and violence have on members of the Indigenous community, both professionally and personally. We are committed to listening, learning and allyship with Indigenous communities.

Niagara Health is seeking Indigenous artists to apply for three commissions to create art pieces that will be displayed in our Outpatient Mental Health Units in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Welland. These art pieces will be designed to support clients who seek mental health care at our hospitals, creating a welcoming and culturally safer environment where every client feels seen and heard.

Working closely with Niagara Health's Indigenous Health Services and Reconciliation team, the successful artists will create art pieces that represent the community we serve and the concept of 'two-eyed seeing' – acknowledging traditional Indigenous and Western healing methods. They will be displayed in our outpatient mental health waiting rooms.

"Two-eyed seeing is learning to see from one eye the strengths of Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledge and ways of knowing... and learning to use both eyes together for the benefit of all" - mi'kmaq elders Murdena & Albert

Display Locations:

One mural will be placed directly on the wall at the Marotta Family Hospital in St. Catharines, while the Niagara Falls and Welland Hospital will feature moveable displays.



Location	Details	Size	Budget
Niagara Falls Hospital 5546 Portage Road Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6X2	<p>The design selected will feature a moveable display in the Outpatient Mental Health waiting room.</p> <p>The art piece can be displayed against a burnt orange or white coloured wall.</p>	5 ft x 3 ft (15 sq.ft)	\$2,000
Welland Hospital 65 Third Street Welland, ON L3B 4W6	<p>The design selected will feature a moveable display in the Outpatient Mental Health waiting room.</p> <p>The art piece can be displayed against a white coloured wall.</p>	5 ft x 3 ft (15 sq. ft)	\$2,000
Marotta Family Hospital 1200 Fourth Avenue St. Catharines, ON L2S 0A9	<p>The design selected will be hand painted by the artist directly on the wall.</p> <p>It will be displayed in the Outpatient Mental Health waiting room on a purple painted wall.</p>	Minimum 5 ft x 3 ft (15 sq. ft) Can be larger if required.	\$2,000

Art Themes

Themes are provided as guidelines for artists when considering their designs. Concept submissions may relate to one or multiple themes.

- Water / water is life
- Medicines / Traditional medicines / smudging
- Family / Community / Connection
- Wildlife
- Support / Healing
- Clan systems / 7 Grandfather teachings
- Mental health pathways
- Showing the journey of healing
- Mental health rights
- Grounding
- Land-based learning
- Fire keeping / Dancing / Sweat Lodge / Beading



Artist Eligibility

This is an open call to all Indigenous artists. Priority will be given to artists with a connection to the Niagara Indigenous community.

Artists must:

- Identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit)
- Have a connection to the Niagara region
- Optional: Connection to the Niagara Indigenous community. **

**** In addition to the application, artists may submit letters of reference from local Indigenous community members who are familiar with them and their work.**

Timeline:

Call for Indigenous artists released	June 19, 2024
Virtual Information Session to provide more information about the projects and answer questions from potential applicants. Click to join here. Meeting ID: 718 4548 8287 Passcode: ART	July 4 3 to 3:30 p.m.
Final day to submit submissions	August 2 at 4 p.m.
Community selection period	August 2024
Successful submissions announced	September 2024
The three Indigenous artworks will be unveiled in late 2024.	



Selection Process:

All concept submissions will be reviewed by a panel consisting of Niagara Health Outpatient Mental Health staff members, Indigenous Health Services and Reconciliation team members and local Indigenous community artists (who did not apply). The panel will review all ideas submitted to ensure they meet the requirements. Concepts will be shared on Niagara Health's website in August for community members, patients, clients and staff members to select their favourite designs. The three successful artists will be chosen by the community. Community members may view and select their favourite concepts through an online selection page.

Artwork considered for display must fit with the overall aesthetics of the area in which it is to be displayed. The artwork must not interfere with signage, wayfinding and normal hospital operations. The panel will consult with clinical area leads to ensure art considered for display is appropriate to the specific unit(s).

Successful artists must take into consideration the content, media, display and maintenance of their piece(s). Installation support, durability and ability to be cleaned will be reviewed with Niagara Health Facilities Management, Environmental Services and Infection, Prevention and Control departments. Niagara Health will work with selected artists to meet these requirements.

Artists interested in taking part in the selection process as a member of the panel may email Shyann.Jenkins@niagarahealth.on.ca by July 26.

Artist Fee / Budget:

A budget of \$2,000 (Canadian currency) will be issued to the selected artists for the creation of each art piece. Budget is inclusive of:

- All materials required to complete the artwork
- Time needed to design, create and install art piece(s)
- All necessary site visits
- Attendance at unveiling event at Niagara Health hospital site. Date to be confirmed with artist in advance.

Terms and Conditions:

- Art submitted for the purpose of Niagara Health's Indigenous artwork commissions must be original to the artist.



- Use of the artwork and images containing the artwork, in whole or in part, may be used in the future by Niagara Health and all entities.
- Efforts will be made to display art in specified areas, however, the final decision about the display location rests with the Site Administration, Redevelopment Team or Capital Planning.
- Niagara Health staff will notify hospital site administration of any loss of damage to art piece(s). The most appropriate person/committee will be notified and proceed with remedying the issue.
- Niagara Health and Niagara Health Foundation are not responsible for the loss or damage to the artwork(s) displayed.
- Once the artwork is accepted, full ownership will be transferred to Niagara Health with the understanding that the artwork may be sold. Artwork that is not sold may be transferred to other facilities or organizations.
- Submissions will be publicly shared with the community, including select samples from the portfolio as selected by the panel.

Artwork Unveiling

The three Indigenous artworks will be unveiled to the community by the end of 2024. Successful artists are asked to make every effort to attend the event. The date will be confirmed with the artists in advance.

Artists may be asked to speak to the media on behalf of their artwork and Niagara Health. Niagara Health's Communications team will provide necessary support in line with the hospital's [News Media Policy](#).

Submission Requirements:

Indigenous artists interested in the commissions may send a complete application to Shyann Jenkins, Indigenous Relations Specialist, Community Outreach and Engagement.

Please include the following:

- Concept proposal that demonstrates an understanding of the project's context
- Artist statement speaking to your proposed piece (200-word maximum)
- Name of artwork
- Size of artwork
- Examples of your artwork (Please attach as JPEG, PNG or PDF file. Link to digital portfolio also accepted)
- Address of artists



- Preferred contact method (phone or email)
- Responses to the following questions:
 - How do you identify as Indigenous? (First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit)
 - What is your connection to the Niagara Region? (Born, work, reside etc.)
 - What is your preferred hospital location for the artwork to be displayed?
 - Do you have a registered business? If so, please provide business name.
- Optional: New artists may choose to collaborate with mentors
- Optional: Artists may submit letters of reference from local Indigenous community members who are familiar with themselves and their work

We will not accept:

- **Copyrighted art submissions**
- **Submissions containing harmful messaging**
- **Submissions containing identifiable persons**
- **Incomplete application form**
- **Incomplete submission requirements**
- **Submissions containing artwork inappropriate for a hospital setting**
- **Artwork depicting people will not be accepted with the exception of when human forms are part of the background/surroundings and do not have distinguishable features, gender, ethnicity, etc. Content, form and colours may also be assessed by representatives of the Mental Health staff to avoid works that may trigger negative reactions**

Application Process:

Please email completed applications to Shyann Jenkins, Indigenous Relations Specialist, Community Outreach and Engagement at shyann.jenkins@niagarahealth.on.ca.

Subject line: Outpatient Mental Health Artwork Submission – [HOSPITAL SITE] – [YOUR NAME]

- Please include the commission you are applying for by indicating the name(s) of the hospital site in the email subject line. (EX – St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Welland)
- Artists may submit one piece for consideration at multiple sites.
- Please submit additional applications if submitting different artwork for each site.



Accessibility:

If you require assistance submitting your application or would prefer to submit in-person, please contact Shyann Jenkins to arrange.

Contact:

For more information or questions throughout the application process, please contact Shyann Jenkins, Indigenous Relations Specialist, Community Outreach and Engagement.

shyann.jenkins@niagarahealth.on.ca

W: 905-378-4647 x 29794

C: 289-783-0485