



Call to Artists

For Expressions of Interest

In support of Toba Centre for Children & Youth



Artist fee: \$500 design | \$2,000 final product
Deadline for expression of interest: January 17, 2025

Art Opportunity Overview

Toba Centre for Children & Youth (Toba Centre) invites artists (and artist teams) to submit expressions of interest to create artwork for a large-scale paint project to be installed along a section of Roblin Boulevard in Winnipeg, Manitoba, located on Treaty 1 Territory and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

Artists (including artist teams) are encouraged to submit their portfolio for review and consideration by Toba Centre for Children & Youth. We are looking for a wide range of artistic styles. Youth artists are strongly encouraged to apply.

Selected artists/teams will design artwork to be painted on a concrete bison that is part of a 20-bison herd. Each bison will be unique, showcasing the artwork of each artist/team.

About Toba Centre for Children & Youth

Toba Centre is a wrap-around child abuse response centre where children are heard, helped, and healed. Established in 2013 as a starting point for the development of a child advocacy centre in Manitoba, Snowflake place rebranded in 2020 to Toba Centre for Children & Youth. Since then, the organization has successfully executed a \$15 million capital campaign, allowing them to relocate to their fully renovated space at 710 Assiniboine Park Drive within Assiniboine Park. The expanded capacity in this beautiful new facility, situated in a calm natural setting, is helping

Toba Centre deliver on the promise of a full-service child advocacy centre providing wrap-around services for children and youth impacted by child abuse.

Project Summary and Goals

Bison on the Boulevard will feature a herd of 20 concrete bison running west along Roblin Boulevard from Shaftsbury, lining the street that leads to the Toba Centre. This project will create a physical point of connection, bringing together children, youth, and families impacted by abuse and the community. As the public enjoys the aesthetic and artful expressions of the bison, they will learn about the issue of child abuse, the services Toba Centre provides, and the important role community plays in helping children and families heal. The goal of this public art installation is to raise awareness of the issue and of Toba Centre, spark conversation, and inspire community to get involved and show their support for children and families.

Bison are known for their loyalty to their herd. They stand as one to protect the young, the elderly, and the injured. Many people have “power animals” that help them in difficult situations and guide them on their life paths. The bison is known for its agility and calmness and is often seen as a protector for its family.

The installment will be on display from May to November 2025. Manitoba businesses sponsoring each bison will then receive the bison for their property in appreciation for their support.

Estimated Project Timeline

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Deadline for expression of interest | January 17, 2025 |
| Selection of shortlisted artists | January 24, 2025 |
| Artwork proposal due | February 14, 2025 |
| Artwork selection | February 2025 |
| Artist meeting and orientation | February 2025 – exact date TBD |
| Artwork production | February – March 31, 2025 |
| Artwork clear coat and logistics | April 2025 |
| Artwork installation | May 2025 |
| Artist payment for artwork proposal | Upon submission |
| Artist payment for finished bison | 50% at start of production 50% upon completion |

Technical Requirements/ Artwork Design Parameters

- Artwork proposal should include a written description of the artwork.
- Artwork will be painted on a bison statue manufactured in concrete.
- The bison will be approximately 5 ft tall x 8 ft long and will sit on a 6 in platform.
- Paint provided: latex.
- Once complete, a clear coat will be applied to ensure the longevity of the artwork.
- Artwork should not be white as white bison are sacred.
- A plaque will be placed on the base of each bison statue.

Process Overview

1. Call for artists to express their interest and submit their portfolio.
2. Toba Centre to review artist portfolios.

3. Artists selected for inclusion in shortlist.
4. Shortlisted artists asked to develop designs for the bison with artwork description.
5. Manitoba businesses to purchase sponsorship for the bison.
6. Participating companies to select a design from the selection submitted by the artists to be painted on the bison they sponsor.
7. Artists to paint their design on the bison in a warehouse space.
8. Bison to be installed along Roblin Boulevard.

Artist Fee

The shortlisted artists will receive \$500 to create original artwork. Artists whose artwork is selected by sponsoring companies will receive \$2000 to paint the bison statues with their artwork.

Paint, supplies, and installation costs will be covered; they are not the responsibility of the artist.

Selection Criteria and Process

Expressions of interest will be reviewed by Toba Centre for Children & Youth on the basis of:

- Expressed interest in this project and sensitivity to the context.
- Artistic merit.
- Qualifications and experience of the artist/team.
- Ability to produce high quality public artwork by the required date.
- Ability to meet artwork goals and technical requirements.

Toba Centre will select a shortlist of artists/teams who will be invited to develop a detailed artwork proposal. An honorarium of \$500 for proposal development will be extended to the shortlisted artists/teams. Shortlisted artists/teams will have 3 weeks to complete the proposal. Artwork proposals will be shared with the companies sponsoring the bison for their selection.

Each artist/team selected for their final commission will be required to enter into an agreement with Toba Centre for Children & Youth and the sponsoring company. The agreement will contain provisions including but not limited to payment, rights of ownership, and use. The completed artwork will be the property of the sponsoring company, but the moral and copy rights will remain with the artist/team.

Artist Eligibility

- Open to artists residing in Manitoba. Team approaches are welcome.
- Toba Center is committed to equity and inclusion, and we encourage applications from all artists included but not limited to Indigenous, Black and racial artists, 2SLGBTQ+ and non-binary artists, Deaf artists, and artists with disabilities.
- Special consideration will be given to artists from marginalized communities. Toba Centre is committed to equal rights within the justice system.
- Please note that artists selected by a company will be asked to provide Criminal Record and Child Abuse Registry Checks that will be paid for by Toba Centre for Children and Youth.

Application

Artists wishing to be considered must submit a complete package. Artists working as a team should submit their application as one package but should include artist information and supporting materials for each team member.

A complete submission package includes the following:

- Complete Artist Information
- Written Expression of Interest (maximum one page)
Please describe your interest in this project. Highlight your qualifications and experience, as well as your ability to successfully execute this project within the timeline set out above.
- Digital Images
Provide a maximum of 10 digital images (jpgs or PDFs) that are representative of your work for the selection committee to review.
- Digital Image List
Complete the template provided with descriptive and contextual information about the digital images, including the year produced, title of the work, medium, dimensions, and description.

Submissions should be sent digitally to marina@tobacentre.ca on or before January 17, 2025. You are welcome to submit via a file sharing site (e.g., WeTransfer, Dropbox). Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of submission.

Questions? Please contact:

Marina Lovell

Community Engagement Coordinator
Toba Centre for Children & Youth
marina@tobacentre.ca
204.583.1941

Artist Information

Individual Artist Artist team

*If submitting as an artist team, please submit one Artist Information sheet per artist.

Please select one member of the team as a main contact.

Main contact for artist team

Last name

First name

Date of birth

Artist team name or affiliation (If applicable)

Mailing address

City

Province

Postal code

Telephone

Email

Please subscribe me to Toba Centre updates

Checklist

Artist Information (this form)

Digital Images

Written Expression of Interest (maximum one page)

Digital Image List

To be eligible for consideration, you must sign below to confirm your agreement with the following statements:

I accept the conditions of this project as outlined in these guidelines and agree to abide by
Toba Centre for Children & Youth's decision.

I certify that the statements in my application are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

Digital Image Document List

Artist or artist team name

| # | YEAR | TITLE OF WORK | MEDIUM | DIMENSIONS | DESCRIPTION/DETAILS |
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