



WATERSHED+ RESIDENCIES

at Ralph Klein Park

Photo: Charles Hope



SUMMARY

The WATERSHED+ Artist Residency intends to support, promote and facilitate innovative and collaborative contemporary art practice.

The selected artists will broadly explore issues relevant to Calgary's watershed, water management and the Ralph Klein Park (RKP) environment. The residency will provide artists wishing to research, experiment and produce new work in relation to these issues, with time, space and resources in a unique context.

In turn the residencies will offer City of Calgary staff, the artist community and the public, the opportunity to engage with new work of national and international significance and enrich our understanding, appreciation and emotional connection to our environment.

The WATERSHED+ Artist Residency Program at RKP is a partnership between The City of Calgary's Public Art Program, Utilities & Environmental Protection Department, and Parks Environmental & Education Initiatives.

The Residency program will offer two streams of continuing residency opportunities – a short term residency of up to four weeks in length and a long term residency for a minimum of three months in length (which does not have to be consecutive). The first residency will begin October, 2012. Artists of local, national and international provenance are encouraged to apply.

BACKGROUND

WATERSHED+

WATERSHED+ is a way of working that aims to develop awareness and pleasure in the environment, not by changing water management practice, nor developing a uniform visual language, but rather by creating a climate of opportunity for water initiatives to build an emotional connection between people and the watershed.

In 2007, the Public Art Program and the Utilities & Environmental Protection (UEP) Department launched a visionary Public Art Plan. The Plan is founded on the principle that public art, in collaboration with other disciplines, can create remarkable places that encourage sustainability and stewardship of the environment.

As a result of the UEP Public Art Plan WATERSHED+ was developed by an artist lead multidisciplinary team as a visionary new program which will embed artists and artistic practices within UEP's core activities.

Now in the pilot phase of the program, WATERSHED+ proposes a long term plan to build an emotional connection between Calgary's citizens and their watershed by placing creativity at the heart of projects and initiatives related to Calgary's watershed.

Its guiding motive is to embed artists and, more specifically, their creative process within UEP core activities and the Calgary watershed. This program presents an innovative approach to public art and a distinct way of working with the public and other partners.

WATERSHED+ was developed and is currently being led by Lead artist team Sans façon.

<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Recreation/Pages/Public-Art/Watershed-Visual-Language-Project.aspx>

<http://www.watershedplus.ca>

BACKGROUND

UEP

The City of Calgary's Utilities & Environmental Protection (UEP) Department includes four city business units:

- Environment & Safety Management,
- Waste & Recycling Services,
- Water Resources and
- Water Services.

Through Water Resources and Water Services UEP manages the quality and delivery of Calgary's water supply – from the river, to the taps and back to the river – protecting public health by delivering clean, reliable drinking water and by treating Calgary's wastewater before it returns to the river.

UEP also manages the city's stormwater drainage, responding to floods and contributing to the conservation of the precious water resource.

<http://www.calgary.ca/UEP/>

PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of Calgary's Public Art Program, within the division of Culture, is committed to great public art that impacts Calgary's urban landscape and transforms the way Calgarians see, think and experience the city around them.

Established in January 2004, the Public Art Program ensures the allocation of 1% of all capital Upgrade and Growth projects over \$1 Million to public art (excluding land purchase, capital maintenance programs, moveable equipment and rolling stock). Scope of public art opportunities, as outlined in the Policy, includes discrete, semi-integrated, integrated and temporary works, and allows for artists on design teams, community based public art and special projects such as artist residencies.

<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Recreation/Pages/Public-Art/Home.aspx>

BACKGROUND

RALPH KLEIN PARK

RKP is Calgary's newest major park and is located within the Shepard Stormwater Diversion Project – a 156 hectares (385 acres) man-made wetland that functions as both a stormwater storage facility and a treatment wetland that naturally filters stormwater. It is the largest constructed stormwater treatment wetland in Canada and provides a route for stormwater from the east side of the city to the Bow River.

The wetlands also protect critical wildlife habitat through the natural wetland system which improves the quality of storm water entering the Bow River.

Historically, the Shepard area is a part of a regionally significant wetland complex, which is an important migratory and breeding habitat for waterfowl. As a part of this larger wetland complex, Shepard provided connectivity for birds and other forms of wildlife that depend on wetland habitat for survival. This larger system includes the Nose Creek watershed in the north of Calgary and Frank Lake – directly east of High River – to the south.

Within the constructed wetlands, a 75 acre Park incorporates a range of facilities and activities including the Environmental Education Ethics Centre (EEEC), learning gardens, wetland viewing areas, interpretive trails and day use/picnic areas. This Park is the first of three major park initiatives to provide park and open space amenities in future growth areas of Calgary.

The forms and influences on the Park design are inspired by the forms of the Canadian prairies – both natural and human influenced. The Park is a low-maintenance landscape intended to encourage exploration and discovery.

<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Pages/Locations/SE-parks/Ralph-Klein-Park.aspx>

<http://www.calgary.ca/UEP/Water/Pages/construction-projects/Stormwater-quality-retrofit-program/Shepard-stormwater-diversion-project/Shepard-Stormwater-Diversion-Project.aspx>

BACKGROUND

LEAD ARTISTS

The WATERSHED+ program was developed by artist team Sans façon through the UEP Public Art Plan. Sans façon has been selected as the Lead Artist for the pilot period to establish and implement the initiatives of WATERSHED+.

Sans façon began as an investigation between British artist Tristan Surtees and French architect Charles Blanc and has developed into an ongoing, collaborative art practice. Their work explores the complex relationship between people and place.

Over the past 10 years they have worked internationally on diverse projects of both a temporary, permanent and strategic nature.

<http://www.sansfacon.co.uk>

RESIDENCIES

As part of WATERSHED+ program an artist studio space has been developed at Ralph Klein Park (RKP) for an ongoing artist residency program. The residency offers artists a unique opportunity to explore, experiment and engage in thoughts and conversations around Calgary's watershed, water management and the Park environment, resulting in a enriched understanding of contemporary artistic practice and the environment – for artists, the public and the City of Calgary staff.

During their residency, artists will be expected to engage with the RKP staff to promote collaboration and connections between contemporary art practice and natural and man-made processes on site, and potentially more broadly in the city.

The residency will provide artists the opportunity to research and develop their ideas through the production of new works in response to their time in RKP and the processes present on site (water treatment, natural environment, biology and hydrology, urban watersheds, etc). Artists are encouraged to establish a collaboration/discussion with Parks and water-related specialists. An aspect of this residency is expected to be publicly accessible and artists will have the opportunity to define how they intend to interact with a wider public.

The artist will have the support and work closely with members of the WATERSHED+ team, throughout their term in residence.

A purpose built individual artist studio space will be provided at RKP, positioned on the top floor of the EEEEC building overlooking the manmade wetlands, with access to a workshop with a selection of basic hand and power tools. Access to special equipment requirements may be negotiated.

The artist in residence will be responsible for their own hours of work. It is anticipated however that the studio will be used as the main place of work, and whilst in residence artists are requested to dedicate the majority of their time to this residency.

For the long term residency the artist will be provided with accommodation options (within the accommodation allowance). Artists are not required to accept this accommodation if they wish to make alternative arrangements.

RESIDENCIES

BUDGET

Long Term Residency

As part of the long term residency, the artists selected will work for a minimum of three months (this does not have to be consecutive).

A stipend will be paid to the artist at a weekly rate of \$600 per week.

A material budget of up to \$5000 will be paid upon submission of receipts to the Project Manager.

A total transportation allowance of \$2000 per artist will be paid upon submission of receipts to the Project Manager.

Accommodation allowance limited to \$1300 per artist per month will be paid upon submission of receipts to the Project Manager. (Artists not requiring accommodation will not be eligible for this allowance)

Short Term Residency

In addition to the long term residency program, there is an opportunity for artists to participate in short term residencies up to four weeks in length. These are paid opportunities that invite artists to use the facilities as a short term residency space.

A stipend will be paid to the artist at a weekly rate of \$600 per week.

A material budget of up to \$1500 will be paid upon submission of receipts to the Project Manager.

All expenses claims are subject to the project manager's discretion. Budgets for artist groups and collaborations will be discussed on a case-by-case basis. Car allowance for local transportation to be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The deadline for application is **Monday, July 16, 2012**

We do not accept postmark submissions, submissions must be received by Monday, July 16, 2012

This opportunity is open to local, national and international artists of all disciplines. Artists applying for the WATERSHED+ Residency Program at Ralph Klein Park must submit the following information:

1. Letter of Interest (Max 1 page)

Submit a signed Letter of Interest outlining an overview of your approach to this self-directed residency. Include your background, qualifications and relevant past experience. Include details on your experience working within set budgets and schedules. If possible, give insight into your experience collaborating with multidisciplinary teams and your knowledge of working within a public process (not a prerequisite).

NB. We would like to understand your interest at this stage. We do not want a proposal.

2. Curriculum Vitae (Max. 2 pages)

Include current contact information

3. References

Provide a minimum of two professional references and include their name, address, e-mail and telephone.

4. Images (Max. 10)

Images must be presented in a PDF slide show and be compatible with PC. Please include an annotated image list.

The application requirements are the same for Long and Short Term residencies.

SELECTION PROCESS

The WATERSHED+ Artist Residency Program is a two-stage application process. Submissions are jury reviewed and a short list of applicants will be produced from the initial application review.

Short-listed artists will be given two weeks to submit a detailed proposal for how they intend to use their time at the Residency, ideas that will be explored, what they will be working on, how they intend to engage with the wider public, resources they may need, etc. A telephone interview will be conducted with those short listed following submission of proposals. There will be between 1 to 5 artist residencies awarded at this time.

Short-listed artist(s) can expect to hear back within three weeks of the close of the call.

The selected artist will be required to sign the City's artists master agreement, and provide proof of appropriate insurance prior to being awarded a residency.

ARTIST MASTER AGREEMENT

The Artist Master Agreement is a blanket agreement, renewable for up to five (5) years, and is not contract specific. To view the referenced document at The City's website, (www.calgary.ca/bids) and click on "Supply Management Terms and Conditions" - Artists should review prior to submitting for this opportunity.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

As per Clause 7 of the Artist's Master Agreement, proof of insurance, will be required prior to award of any contract with the City. Please review prior to submitting for this opportunity - (www.calgary.ca/bids)

Please submit applications to:

WATERSHED+ Residency
randy.niessen@calgary.ca

or

WATERSHED+ Residency
Attn: Randy Niessen
City of Calgary
Water Centre
625 25 Avenue SE
Calgary, AB T2G 4K8

For more information or questions please contact
Randy Niessen, WATERSHED+ Project Development:
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