

Call for Artists

Momentum in Motion: Mural Opportunity in Strathcona County

Deadline to Apply: August 1, 2025

Strathcona County is seeking artist proposals for a unique mural project that reflects the themes of momentum, movement and collective energy. This commission offers an opportunity to contribute vibrant, meaningful art to an indoor recreational space in Sherwood Park.

We welcome submissions from Alberta-based artists or artist teams working in mural painting, visual storytelling, or community-engaged practice.

Territorial Land Acknowledgement

Strathcona County honors the past, present, and future First Peoples of this land. We acknowledge that this land has embraced and nourished the Cree, Métis, Blackfoot, amongst many others, for generations. We recognize Strathcona County is within Treaty Six Territory and the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Regions Two and Four. Strathcona County has an inherent responsibility to foster healthier relationships with Indigenous partners. We will strive to respond to the Calls to Action as outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Strathcona County

Rich with a diversity of recreation centers and amenities, Strathcona County is becoming Canada's most livable community. The County offers over a thousand square kilometers of diverse ecosystems which span from wetlands to prairies. The presence of art and culture is apparent in the active programming at [Gallery @501](#), [Loft Gallery](#), [Festival Place](#), [Smeltzer House Visual Arts Centre](#) as well as through numerous local festivals and events. The Strathcona County's public art collection further enhances growth of art and culture in the community.

Strathcona County Public Art Program

Established in 2014, the Strathcona Public Art Program is committed to increasing cultural vibrancy in the County by commissioning and collecting works of original art. The program hinges on the strength of past years' commissioning of professional artists to create exterior original works for integration into public places and the annual art purchasing program. The County Public Art Plan mandates one percent (1%) of funds from eligible capital development projects to be set aside for public art to enhance public spaces and make art more accessible.

Momentum – Forces in Motion

Location: Interior Gym Walls, Millennium Place, Sherwood Park

Budget: \$25,000 (inclusive of artist fees, materials, and supplies)

Support: On-site scissor lift provided/after-hours access (when the building is closed to public)

Timeline: Installation fall 2025

This large-scale interior mural will energize a bustling gymnasium used by youth and families. Thematic direction focuses on momentum, abstractly expressing movement, vitality, and transformation through bold, expressive visual language.

The mural should include:

- Bright, uplifting colours
- Flowing forms and gestural lines
- Non-literal depictions of physical and emotional motion
- A contemporary, playful, youth-oriented tone



Gym with areas for mural in blue and numbered 1-4. The walls will be repainted prior to the mural installation in a neutral colour.

Timeline

Call Opens: July 4, 2025

Deadline to Apply: August 1, 2025

Selection and Notification: August 14th, 2025

Final Design Approved and Artist Contract Finalized in August 2025

Mural Production: Fall 2025

Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit the following via email:

1. Artist Statement (max 250 words):
Describe your artistic practice and how your work aligns with the mural theme.
2. Concept Proposal (max 1 page per mural):
Describe your vision for the mural.
3. Preliminary Visual Sketch or Moodboard:
This may be a concept sketch, colour study, or collage representing your vision.
4. CV or Biography (max 2 pages):
Include past public art, murals, exhibitions, or community-based projects.
5. Up to 10 Images of Past Work:
Include descriptions and dimensions.
6. Budget Outline:
A brief breakdown of how you would allocate the project budget.
7. Availability:
Confirm your availability for mural production between September and November 2025.



Court 4 with gym dividers (note the graphics in the right corner will be removed prior to painting the mural)

Evaluation Criteria

- A. Aesthetic qualities and artistic merit: (20 points)
- B. Connection to the theme: (10 points)
- C. Technical suitability to the site (10 points)
- D. Portfolio of Past Work (60 points)

Interviews (Optional – at the discretion of the Assessment Committee)

The County reserves the right to select none, or up to one artist/artistic team, and proceed to an award. The decision of the Assessment Committee will be final.

If the Assessment Committee has questions for the short-listed Artists/Artistic Teams, Artists/Artistic Team may be invited to an interview in person or through a Teams or Zoom video call. Artists should be prepared to speak to their vision for the conceptual artwork as well as speak to a minimum of two past art projects, materials, and processes. A complete proposal is not expected at the interview.

How to Apply

Applications can be submitted by email to public.art@strathcona.ca.

Questions

Contact: Kelly Andres, Public Art Curator

Email: kelly.andres@strathcona.ca

Website: <https://www.strathcona.ca/recreation-events/arts-and-culture/public-art/>



Court 1 with gym dividers (note the graphics in the left corner will be removed prior to painting the mural)