Request for Quotation

Artist Commission – Land Stewardship & Restoration of the Buffalo

Glenbow-Alberta Institute

Closing Date: 14:00 MT on October 14, 2026

Photo credit: Adam Borman, 2026

Glenbow

1. Invitation

Glenbow-Alberta Institute ("Glenbow") invites qualified artists to submit a non-binding quotation to develop a large-scale artwork for the Blackfoot Gallery, part of the museum's reopening exhibition program in 2027 as described in sections 4 and 5 of this Request for Quotation (RFQ).

The selected artist will work collaboratively with Blackfoot Elders co-curating the exhibition and Glenbow's Collections & Curatorial team to create an original artwork that explores themes of land stewardship and the restoration of the buffalo within the Blackfoot experience. The consultant will report to the Director, Collections and Curatorial.

The anticipated contract term is from October 2026 through final artwork delivery in Q1 2027. Proponents should anticipate participating in meetings with Blackfoot Elders, Glenbow staff, and project stakeholders throughout concept development, review, and approval phases.

The Artist will be engaged through Glenbow's professional services agreement (PSA). A template of such contract is included as Appendix B – Professional Services Agreement Template.

- **Date Issued: September 23, 2026**
- **Proposal Deadline: October 14, 2026**
- **Budget: Up to $20,000 CAD (inclusive of all fees and disbursements, exclusive of GST, shipping, fabrication, and installation of vinyl application)**

2. Introduction and Background

Glenbow is one of Canada's leading art museums – a nationally recognized innovator in arts, culture, and education, with a deep commitment to reconciliation and decolonizing museum practices. For nearly 60 years, Glenbow has played a vital role in Calgary's arts and culture landscape. The museum's diverse and expansive collection of over 250,000 artworks, objects, and cultural belongings – including the largest public art collection in Western Canada – sets it apart from other museums and galleries in the country.

Since September of 2021, Glenbow has been closed to the public as it undergoes a complete reimagination, renovating its 1970s building in downtown Calgary to create an open, accessible, and dynamic community hub. This transformation marks an exciting new chapter for the museum, driven by a mandate for radical accessibility. Thanks to a $35 million gift from Shaw Family Foundation, Glenbow will become the first major museum in Canada to offer free general admission – permanently removing financial barriers to access. In recognition of this transformative support, Glenbow's revitalized building will be named the JR Shaw Centre for Arts & Culture.

Glenbow's opening exhibition program will include a reimagined version of the original *Niitsitapiisini: Our Way of Life* exhibition exploring Blackfoot history and culture, curated by Blackfoot Elders and with support from Gerald McMaster and the Glenbow Collections & Curatorial team.

As part of Glenbow's reimagined visitor experience, the Blackfoot Gallery will serve as a foundational exhibition, presenting stories, perspectives, and knowledge shared by Elders and community members. This commissioned artwork will serve as a visual backdrop to an exhibition area exploring Blackfoot efforts to reclaim land stewardship practices and restore the buffalo to Blackfoot lands, communities, and ways of life.

To support this work, Glenbow is seeking a qualified Blackfoot artist to develop an original artwork that responds to these themes in a thoughtful and culturally meaningful way. The successful artist will work closely with the Elders co-curating the exhibition and Glenbow's Collections & Curatorial team to develop a concept that reflects the vision and intent of this exhibition section. The final artwork will be digitized by Glenbow and reproduced as a large-scale graphic installation within the gallery.

3. Project Purpose and Objectives

- The Land Stewardship & Restoration of the Buffalo Commission will serve as a visual backdrop to an exhibition section highlighting contemporary Blackfoot efforts to restore relationships with the land and buffalo. The Blackfoot Artist will:
    - Explore themes related to land stewardship, buffalo restoration, reciprocity, and Blackfoot relationships with the natural world.
    - Reflect themes, stories, and perspectives identified by the Elders co-curating the exhibition.
    - Support visitor understanding of the cultural, ecological, and spiritual significance of buffalo within Blackfoot life.
    - Support the presentation of the images, stories, and voices featured within this exhibition section.
    - Contribute to a meaningful and engaging visitor experience.
- Create and artwork that can function effectively as a large-scale environmental graphic within the gallery space.

4. Scope of Work

In Scope

- Develop an original artwork exploring themes of land stewardship and the restoration of the buffalo within the Blackfoot experience.
    - This vibrant exhibition area explores Blackfoot efforts to reclaim land stewardship and restore the Buffalo to Blackfoot land, people, and way of life.
    - Featured stories may include the Buffalo Treaty, returning buffalo to the land in Amskapipiikani and Kainai Nations, and Buffalo Harvest.
    - This artwork will be one of four adjacent commissioned works presented within a circular gallery environment. The remaining commissions will explore the themes of Restoring Language, Ceremony, and Cultural Life; Education; and Repatriation.
- Collaborate with Blackfoot Elders co-curating the exhibition and Glenbow staff to develop a concept aligned with the vision of the exhibition.
- Participate in up to 5 project meetings, review sessions, and approval processes.
- Create artwork using any medium suitable for digitization and large-scale reproduction. Video and time-based media are not permitted.
- Provide concept sketches and a detailed study for review and approval.
- Deliver final artwork suitable for digitization and exhibition production. Glenbow will digitize the final artwork. The final installation will consist of a large-scale vinyl reproduction of the artwork. Artists working in digital art would be required to submit vector files. Artists

working in photo-based media would be required to submit works at 300 DPI at 100% scale. Works in all other mediums must be shipped to Glenbow; Glenbow will coordinate and cover the costs of shipping.

- The artwork will occupy an approximately 8,270 mm wide x 3,200 mm high feature wall (exact size and scale of the vinyl artwork to be determined by the Glenbow project team) within the Blackfoot Gallery.
- The artist agrees that the payment is inclusive of production costs, exhibition fees, on-site installation support, and reproduction rights for non-commercial purposes that are related to the exhibition's and Glenbow's promotion, which includes but is not limited to: exhibition advertising, invitations, and posters; Glenbow's promotional website and social media use; and in any commercial catalogue booklet produced for the exhibition, and archiving of the exhibition.
- Upon completion of the work, Glenbow may be interested in acquiring this artwork into its permanent collection. Glenbow shall have a right of first refusal for a period of ninety (90) days following written notice by the Artist of a bona fide third-party offer. If Glenbow does not elect to purchase the work within that period, the Artist shall be free to sell the work to the third party on substantially the same terms. If Glenbow chooses to acquire the work, the $20,000 contractual amount will be applied as a credit towards the purchase.
- Complete all work according to the project schedule.

Out of Scope

- Exhibition curation.
- Historical or cultural research beyond materials and direction provided through the project.
- Graphic design and placement of exhibition titles, donor acknowledgements, or interpretive text.
- Fabrication, printing, or installation services.
- Translation services.

5. Key Deliverables

1. Concept sketch.
2. Detailed study.
3. Final approved artwork.
4. Participation in project meetings and review sessions.

6. Artist Qualifications

Glenbow will evaluate submissions based on:

- Artistic quality, originality, and overall strength of portfolio.
- Demonstrated understanding of Blackfoot culture, stories, and perspectives.
- Ability to thoughtfully engage with themes related to land stewardship, buffalo restoration, environmental relationships, and Blackfoot cultural continuity.
- Experience creating large-scale, exhibition-based, public-facing, or community-engaged artwork.
- Experience working collaboratively with Indigenous communities, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, or community representatives.
- Demonstrated understanding of scale and environmental graphics.
- Strong communication and collaboration skills.
- Qualifications and experience of key personnel.
- Availability to participate in meetings and engagement activities throughout the project.
- Confirmation of ability to deliver within the $20,000 CAD budget and project schedule.

7. Eligibility

Glenbow is specifically seeking proposals from qualified Niitsitapi/Blackfoot artists and/or Niitsitapi/Blackfoot-owned firms. In accordance with Glenbow's Indigenous Identity Affirmation Policy, Proponents are asked to verify Niitsitapi/Blackfoot identity through one of the following methods:

Option 1: Written Documentation

Candidates (individual artists and/or corporate owners) may submit one of the following as valid proof of Indigenous identity:

1. A certified copy of written documentation and identification by accepted Canadian federal, provincial, and Indigenous governments and organizations. This may include a Treaty Card, Status Card, or Tribal Band Membership card; or
2. Written confirmation of Indigenous nationhood from a federally recognized band/tribal authority.

Option 2: Self-Declaration

Candidates unable to provide the required documentation must submit a self-declaration statement, including:

- The candidate's Indigenous identity;
- Information on the First Nations, Métis, or Inuit community to which they claim connection (e.g., treaty, scrip, land claim, settlement, or region);
- Familial relationships and ancestral connections to the community; and
- Circumstances that prevent access to formal documentation (enfranchisement, Sixties Scoop adoption, Bill C-31, Status generation cut off).

Additionally, the candidate must submit:

1. A reference letter from the community's official appointed membership administrator confirming their acknowledgment and acceptance by the Indigenous community. This letter must acknowledge the relationship to the applicant and confirm the applicant's relation to the land and community they are claiming.
2. A statutory/formal affidavit regarding their Indigenous identity.

To honour the oral traditions of Indigenous Peoples, Glenbow may consider alternative mechanisms for verification such as oral statements (e.g., testimonials in collaboration with communities and Nations) and assistance with application processes for those who require it.

8. Submission Requirements

Please submit a single PDF (maximum 15 pages) that includes:

1. **Quotation Form** provided in Appendix A, including an itemized quote including hourly/day rates, travel, and additional charges.
2. **Artist Statement** (maximum 500 words) describing your artistic practice, connection to Blackfoot culture, and interest in this commission.
3. **Annotated Portfolio** including 5-10 examples of relevant artwork with the title, date, medium, dimensions, and brief description for each submitted work.
4. **Resume or CV** outlining relevant experience, including 3 references.
5. **Approach to Collaboration** describing your experience working with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, communities, or collaborative creative teams.
6. **Eligibility Documentation** as outlined in the Eligibility section of this RFQ.
7. **Multiple Commission Consideration (if applicable)** Proponents seeking consideration for multiple Blackfoot Gallery commissions should identify the applicable RFQs and demonstrate their capacity to complete multiple commissions within the project schedule.

To honour the oral traditions and storytelling practices of Indigenous Peoples, proponents may supplement written submissions with audio or video submissions. Alternative formats will be accepted where appropriate and will be evaluated equally alongside written submissions.

9. Vendor Selection Process

Quotations will be evaluated and scored on the basis of the criteria set out below. The top-ranked respondent will be the respondent that achieves the highest total score. In the event of a tie, the selected respondent will be the respondent with the highest score on the non-price criteria.

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting (Points)
Relevant Experience and Qualifications	30
Approach and Methodology	20
References	20
Pricing	15
Schedule Compliance and Availability	15
Total Points	**100**

A shortlist of vendors will be selected for interviews. Glenbow will contact shortlisted vendors directly and invite them to participate in a virtual interview to further discuss their qualifications, approach, and alignment with project goals. Please see the Project Timeline below for more details.

10. Project Timeline

Timeline	Milestone
September 23, 2026	RFQ issued
October 14, 2026	Submission deadline
October 29 – November 3, 2026	Artist interviews
November 17, 2026	Artist selected and onboarding starts
November 19, 2026	Project kickoff with Elders
December 11, 2026	Concept sketch submission, including initial specifications and draft artist statement
January 4, 2027	Detailed study submission, including full specifications and multiple sketches
March 31, 2027	Final submission

11. Submission Instructions

Please submit Statement of Quotation and supporting documentation via email to:

Attention: Christine Leppard, Director, Collections & Curatorial, Glenbow
cleppard@glenbow.org

Subject Line: CONFIDENTIAL – GLENBOW ARTIST COMMISSION – LAND STEWARDSHIP & RESTORATION OF THE BUFFALO RFQ

Closing Date: October 14, 2026

Before: 14:00 MT

12. Terms and Conditions

This RFQ does not constitute an offer to contract. Glenbow reserves the right to:

- Modify, withdraw, cancel, or re-issue this RFQ at any time.
- Reject any or all submissions.
- Select an artist without the lowest proposed fees.
- Request interviews or clarification.
- Initiate an alternative selection process.

Proponents shall disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest, including existing business relationships with Glenbow or any known participants involved in the project.

Proponents shall treat all information received through this RFQ process, and any subsequent contract award, as confidential and shall not disclose such information to any person or organization without the prior written consent of Glenbow.

All submissions will be treated as confidential between Glenbow and each respondent. Glenbow will not disclose submission contents to other participants and will treat all submissions confidentially to the extent permitted by law.

Glenbow has no responsibility for costs incurred by proponents in preparing or submitting responses to this RFQ.

All submitted materials become the property of Glenbow.

Appendix A - Quotation Form

Respondent Information

Please fill out the following form, naming one person to be the contact for this RFQ response and for any clarifications or communication that might be necessary.	
Full Legal Name of Respondent:	
Any Other Relevant Name under which the Respondent Carries on Business:	
Street Address:	
City, Province/State:	
Postal Code:	
Phone:	
Company Website (if any):	
Respondent Contact Name and Title:	
Respondent Contact Phone:	
Respondent Contact Email:	

Non-Binding Price Quotations

The respondent will provide the Scope of Work for the following pricing in Canadian dollars (CAD):

Fees for Land Stewardship Artist Commission (inclusive of all disbursements)
$

Signature of Respondent

Name of Respondent

Date