



CALL FOR ARTIST - "CORE SAMPLE" PHASE 2 EXHIBIT DEVELOPMENT: STRATA EXHIBIT

Issue Date: June 5, 2026

Submission Deadline: June 30, 2026, at 4:00 PM MST

The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland is seeking to commission an artist to create a sculpture to become part of Phase 2 Exhibition development in the Strata of Settlement: Power, Policing, and Place exhibit.

About The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland

In the spring of 2024, the name Fort Calgary was changed to The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland. As an ongoing part of that process The Confluence Cultural Centre is undertaking a complete overhaul of its exhibits to expand the narrative of this place to encompass the many diverse histories of the land. Stories of the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) and Fort Calgary help to define this place and will always be a part of the narrative here, but there are other important stories to be told, too.

Long before the NWMP arrived in 1875, Indigenous peoples have been gathering on this land from time immemorial. The shift from colonization to industrialization also brought a new wave of settlers with different worldviews. The Confluence serves as a gathering place to share a full history of this land through diverse voices. Phase 1 included the redevelopment of the entry lobby area and the creation of the Blackfoot gallery called *Kípaitápiiyssinnooni* (ghee-BAHT-ah-BEE-see-noon) which means Our Way of Life in Blackfoot. It invites visitors into an immersive cultural experience rooted in Blackfoot ways of knowing, being, and belonging. Phase 2 will offer stories of the Stoney Nakoda, Tsuut'ina, and Métis, as well as address the changes that occurred with the arrival of the NWMP and the implementation of settler colonialism in the west.

Project Summary

The Confluence Historical Site & Parkland is seeking an artist or creative team to design and create a three-dimensional artistic interpretation of a geologic core sample for the upcoming *Strata of Settlement: Power, Policing, and Place* exhibit as part of Phase 2 exhibition redevelopment.

The artwork is intended to metaphorically and directly explore the layered histories of this site and region, which may include layers to reference minerals, soil, flora, fauna, water, industry, settlement, and human presence over time. The finished work will become a prominent sculptural feature within the exhibit space and will contribute to the broader storytelling approach of the Strata exhibit.

Artists are encouraged to bring their own artistic interpretation and material approach to the project. Proposals may incorporate a wide range of materials and processes, including fibre art, clay, stone, plastic, metal, cast paper, wood, mixed media, or other approaches suitable for long-term exhibit installation.

Project Direction

The artwork is envisioned as a vertically oriented sculptural installation inspired by the appearance and concept of a geologic core sample. The piece should reflect ideas of stratification, accumulation, memory, transformation, and the interconnected histories embedded within the land and this region.

The finished artwork is anticipated to be approximately 12 feet in height and approximately 1 foot in width and depth, with flexibility for artists to propose alternative dimensions or forms that support their concept and structural approach.

The selected artist will be responsible for the creative development, fabrication, transportation, and delivery of the final artwork, including consideration of structural stability, durability, public safety, and long-term installation requirements within a high-traffic exhibit environment.

The Confluence recognizes that the project may continue evolving throughout the development process and is seeking proponents capable of working collaboratively and adaptively within a relationship-based creative process.

Presentation & Technical Context

The artwork will be installed as part of the permanent Strata of Settlement: Power, Policing, and Place exhibit at The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland and is anticipated to remain in place for approximately 5–10 years.

The installation location is a high-traffic public exhibit environment that will accommodate visitors of all ages, including school groups, guided tours, and public programming. Artists should consider durability, structural integrity, maintenance requirements, and visitor safety as part of their proposal.

Final installation specifications and site details will be confirmed during project onboarding.

Timeline

Milestone	Date
Call Issued	June 5, 2026
Questions Deadline	June 17, 2026
Responses Shared	June 24, 2026
Submission Deadline	June 30, 2026
Jury Review	July 2-7, 2026
Interviews with Shortlisted Artists	July 8-10, 2026
Selection of Successful Artist	July 15, 2026
Project Start	July 20, 2026
Mid-Point Review	October 16, 2026
Delivery of Final Artwork	January 18, 2027
Exhibit Installation	January 12-28, 2027

Artist Fee / Budget

The total project budget for this work is anticipated to be approximately \$25,000.00 CAD (exclusive of GST), paid in installments over the production period.

The budget is intended to support the overall development, fabrication, and delivery of the commissioned artwork, including artist fees, materials, fabrication, structural supports, transportation, installation coordination, and any additional project-related costs required to complete the work.

The selected artist will be responsible for:

- creative development and design of the artwork
- material sourcing and fabrication
- structural stability and durability considerations
- transportation and delivery of the completed artwork
- coordination with The Confluence Exhibit Team as required
- providing installation guidance and support as needed
- delivery of the final completed artwork ready for exhibit installation



Final scope, deliverables, payment structure, and installation coordination details will be confirmed through the contracting process with the selected artist.

Submission Requirements

- Artist statement (400-500 words)
- Project Proposal (750-1000 words) to include details on project concepts, media choices, processes of creation, structural support, durability, and care.
- Artist CV (maximum 4 pages)

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by an internal team from The Confluence Historical Site & Parkland and selected Jury to develop a shortlist of proponents, who will be invited to participate in follow-up discussions or interviews as part of the selection process.

Questions & Clarifications

To support prospective applicants in the creation of their submissions, please submit any questions related to this “Call to Artists” by June 17, 2026, by 4:00 PM MST.

All questions and responses will be compiled and shared directly with individuals who submitted questions, as well as with any prospective applicants who request a copy of the Questions & Clarifications document. Responses will be distributed on June 24, 2026.

Submission Information

Submissions must be received no later than June 30, 2026, 4:00 PM MST, with “**Call For Artist-Core Sample**” in the subject line to: **tmanychief@theconfluence.ca**

The Confluence Historical Site & Parkland reserves the right to modify the project scope, schedule, and presentation approach as required to support exhibit development and overall timelines.