



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Out of Site 2025 – Public Art Activation

1. Overview

The Queen Street West Business Improvement Area (BIA) invites proposals from qualified and imaginative art curators to conceptualize, organize, and deliver a public art activation as part of **Out of Site 2025**—a one-night-only event. *Out of Site* was developed as a creative reminder to the City to not forget about the amazing hub of Queen Street West (Simcoe to Bathurst) while their annual all-night-art event takes place. The BIA helped facilitate some great installations in the past like a silent disco and a glow in the dark event at Campbell House.

This high-profile cultural celebration runs from **7:00 PM on Saturday, October 4, 2025, to 7:00 AM on Sunday, October 5, 2025**. The chosen curator will develop a compelling temporary installation that complements the distinct energy and diversity of Queen Street West and aligns with the family-friendly spirit of Nuit Blanche.

2. Project Goals

- Deliver a one-night public art activation that enhances the cultural vibrancy of Queen Street West.
- Engage visitors with innovative, accessible, and inclusive artistic experiences.
- Animate either the Reflector sculpture or Denison Avenue Parkette with an engaging installation that resonates with the local community and Nuit Blanche visitors.

3. Scope of Work

The selected curator will be responsible for:

- **Concept Development:** Propose a creative vision for the installation that reflects the cultural and artistic values of the Queen Street West community.
- **Artist and Installation Management:** Source and manage artists or collaborators, oversee fabrication and logistics.
- **Permits and Logistics:** Coordinate necessary permits, insurance, and safety requirements.
- **On-Site Execution:** Install and de-install the artwork within Nuit Blanche's timeframe.
- **Budget Management:** Ensure that all work remains within the **\$20,000 budget**, inclusive of curator fees, artist compensation, production, transportation, materials, and staffing.
- **Public Engagement:** Facilitate interactive or experiential elements that invite participation or reflection.

4. Project Requirements

The proposed activation must:

- Be a **temporary, one-night installation** (set up and removed on October 4–5, 2025).
- Be **non-permanent** and leave no lasting impact or damage on the site.
- Be **safe, inclusive, and family-friendly**—no offensive, adult, or controversial content.
- Be **accessible** to all audiences.
- Be suitable for **outdoor installation in rain or shine**.



www.queenstreetwest.ca



info@queenstreetwest.ca

Queen Street West BIA



180 John Street, Toronto, ON M5T 1X5



- **Not include** alcohol, cannabis, or any illicit substances.
- **Not require closure of Queen Street West, Spadina Avenue, Bathurst Street, or University Avenue.** Minor side-street closures (if needed) may be considered in consultation with the BIA and City.

5. Locations

- **Primary:** Reflector Sculpture (Queen Street West at Soho Street)
- **Alternate:** Denison Avenue Parkette (Queen Street West and Denison Avenue)
- Proposals may reference one or both locations and may include spatial renderings or technical specifications (if available).

6. Budget

Total available budget: \$20,000 CAD + HST, inclusive of:

- Curator and artist fees
- Installation and deinstallation
- Equipment, materials, and supplies
- Insurance and permits
- On-site staffing or technical support
- Any additional required production elements

7. Proposal Submission Requirements

Please include the following in your submission:

1. **Curatorial Concept Statement** (max 750 words) Describe the artistic vision, thematic inspiration, and proposed activation approach.
2. **Site Usage Plan** Indicate which site(s) will be used and how the installation fits spatially/logistically.
3. **Budget Breakdown** High-level budget showing how the \$20,000 will be allocated.
4. **Timeline** Milestones leading up to the event and post-event deinstallation.
5. **Portfolio** Examples of past curatorial work or public art experience.
6. **CV or Bio** Of the lead curator or project lead.
7. **References** Two professional references (name, contact info, relationship).

8. Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on:

- Artistic merit and originality (30%)
- Feasibility within time and budget (25%)
- Community and audience engagement (20%)
- Curator/artist experience and qualifications (15%)
- Alignment with BIA values (10%)

9. Evaluation Criteria

Deadline: Monday, July 28, 2025, at 5:00 PM EST

Submit proposals via email to:

info@queenstreetwestbia.ca Subject line: *Out of Site 2025 Proposal – [Your Name/Organization]*

Questions may be directed to the same email by **July 23rd, 2025**.

10. Additional Info

- The BIA reserves the right to reject any or all submissions.
- Final approval is contingent upon permits and city compliance.
- Site visits may be scheduled upon request prior to submission.



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About Queen Street West BIA

Art meets commerce on vibrant Queen Street West, the historic area that spearheaded the growth in Toronto's cultural life in the 1980s and '90s. Known then for its mixture of fashion shops, galleries and indie music bars, the eastern part of Queen Street West has become a major shopping district while the western half retains its unconventional roots.

Located just south of the Ontario College of Art and Design and the Art Gallery of Ontario, Queen Street West between Simcoe and Bathurst is the neighbourhood that nurtured young artists for decades. While many of the galleries and artist-run centres are just slightly south of Queen Street West BIA's official boundary line at 401 Richmond, this specific area is still home to bars that showcase independent music and comedy acts. Fashion is another traditional strength of the area and one can shop for designer clothes on Queen Street West – or buy fabrics and create your own.

A hub for nightlife fun, Queen Street West is a place where downtown sophisticates meet tourists and other Torontonians at an array of restaurants and bars. During the daytime, shopping rules, with hordes of youths – and the young at heart – buying new hip vinyl, t-shirts and shoes. Embracing the latest in fashion and technology, Queen Street West mixes culture and merchandising together in one dynamic environment.

Established in 2008, the Queen Street West BIA encompasses the area along Queen Street West from Simcoe Street to Bathurst Street.

For more information about the BIA, please review our website at www.queenstreetwest.ca



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