

CALL FOR ARTISTS + CREATORS – PASSAGEWAYS

Taste of the Junction 2026: A Creative Crossroads of Culture & Community

To be distributed: December 2026

Application Deadline: Friday, March 14, 2026

Commission: \$3,000 + HST per installation (all-in) x 5 installations

Overview

The Junction BIA invites proposals from artists, designers, muralists, theatre makers, scenographers, students, and cultural practitioners to create **five immersive, interactive installations** as part of **Taste of the Junction 2026: A Creative Crossroads of Culture & Community**.

This one-day outdoor celebration takes place:

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Green P Parking Lot – 385 Pacific Ave (at Dundas), Toronto

Each commissioned installation, called a “**Passageway**,” will transform a **10×10-ft tent** into a culturally inspired environment that invites the public to **step inside, linger, interact, and reflect**. Think of each tent as a small, walk-in world: story, atmosphere, and detail are key.

The goal is to spotlight **five of the largest cultural and ethnic communities in the Junction** through storytelling, design, and participatory experience, while celebrating the neighbourhood’s vibrant diversity during a FIFA World Cup™-adjacent event.

Cultural Themes

Applicants are asked to interpret **one** of the following communities, based on 2021 Census data for the Junction neighbourhood:

British (~36.6%)

England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands

Black (~5.0%)

African and Caribbean heritage, including (for example) Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Haiti, Barbados, Nigeria, Ghana, Somalia, Ethiopia, DRC, and others

South Asian (~4.5%)

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives

Chinese (~4.5%)

Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan

Portuguese (~3.0%)

Mainland Portugal, Azores Islands, Madeira Islands

Although First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples are not counted within the “visible-minority” table, they hold a unique place on this land. In alignment with the City of Toronto’s Reconciliation Action Plan, The Junction BIA will work with a local Indigenous organization to provide a separate, dedicated Indigenous-led platform at the event.

Artists from **all equity-deserving communities** are warmly encouraged to apply.

Choosing a Cultural Theme

Each proposal must focus on **one** of the five cultural communities listed above.

Artists who wish to respond to more than one theme may submit **separate proposals**, each clearly tied to a single community.

The intent of the project is to commission **five distinct Passageways, each led by a different artist or collective** (one per cultural theme). In exceptional cases, the selection panel may award more than one Passageway to the same lead artist/collective if it clearly strengthens the overall project.

Who Should Apply

We welcome applications from:

- Visual artists and installation artists
- Muralists and public art practitioners
- Theatre makers, set, props, and production designers
- Scenographers and immersive/experiential creators
- Students, recent graduates, collectives, and faculty-led teams
- Community-engaged artists and cultural practitioners

Eligibility

- Open to artists, designers, and cultural practitioners with **lived experience** or **demonstrated knowledge** of the cultural community they wish to represent.
 - **Priority** will be given to artists from **equity-deserving communities**.
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Commission & Key Details

Artist Commission: \$3,000 + HST (all-in, per Passageway)

– inclusive of artist fees, materials, fabrication, transport, installation, strike, and accessibility elements

Number of Commissions: 5

Location: Green P Parking Lot, 385 Pacific Ave at Dundas, Toronto

Event Date: Saturday, June 27, 2026

Footprint: One 10×10-ft tent, provided by The Junction BIA

Deadline to Apply: Friday, March 14, 2026

The Junction BIA will provide:

- 10×10-ft tent structure
 - Basic power access (details to be confirmed)
 - Technical support for QR code setup and signage for the audio guide
 - On-site coordination during installation and on event day
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What You'll Create

Each Passageway should:

- Offer a clear, thoughtful interpretation of the selected cultural community

- Use immersive design (surfaces, props, textiles, sound, light, etc.) to create a strong sense of place.
 - Invite the public to engage, participate, and take photos.
 - Be safe, durable, and family-friendly in a high-traffic outdoor festival environment.
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Accessibility Requirements

Accessibility is a core value of this project and is **already built into the \$3,000 commission** to simplify administration.

Each Passageway must include:

Tactile Element(s)

- At least one meaningful tactile component to support sensory accessibility.
- Examples: textiles and garments, textured surfaces, sculptural or cultural objects that can be safely touched, braille or raised graphics.

Audio Guide Script & Recording (1–2 minutes)

- A short narration, accessible via QR code, that:
 - Introduces the cultural community and the inspiration behind the Passageway
 - Describes key visual and tactile elements for low-vision attendees
- Artists will provide a script and a simple recording (phone-quality is acceptable); the Junction BIA will assist with QR code and signage.

The Junction BIA will provide **technical support** for QR code setup and signage.

Submission Requirements

Please include the following in your application:

Concept Sketch

- A simple drawing or layout showing how you will use the 10×10-ft footprint.

100-Word Narrative Description

- A concise description of your Passageway concept and how it represents your chosen cultural community.

Simple Budget Outline

- A basic breakdown of how you will allocate the \$3,000 all-in commission (materials, labour, transport, etc.).

Accessibility Elements

- A brief description of your tactile component(s) and a short outline of your proposed audio guide.

Optional Support Material

- Up to 5 images of past work, and/or
- A portfolio link (website, PDF, Instagram, etc.).

Selection

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of community members, cultural advisors, and Junction BIA staff. Each application will be scored on a simple 1–5 scale for **cultural authenticity, artistic concept, visitor engagement, accessibility, and feasibility within the \$3,000 commission.**

The panel will aim to select **one Passageway for each of the five cultural themes, led by five different artist/collective teams.**

In the case of similar scores, priority may be given to **artists from equity-deserving communities** and to projects that help **balance representation across the five cultural themes.**

How to Apply

Please email your submission (single PDF or clearly labelled files) with the subject line:
“**Passageways Proposal – [Your Name] – [Cultural Theme]**” to:

Attn: Audrey Swartz, Operations Manager

 operations@torontojunction.ca

Cultural Reference Prompts for Artists

These prompts are **creative springboards**, not checklists. You may draw on personal narratives, family histories, contemporary perspectives, or abstract symbolism, as long as the result is culturally authentic and respectful.

British

Victorian/Edwardian architecture; Junction-era and railway heritage; rose gardens; heritage textiles; British literature and theatre; afternoon tea culture; iconic British music across eras.

Black (African & Caribbean Heritage)

Carnival colour palettes and costume references; kente/kuba cloth and other textiles; Afrobeat, reggae, and soca; market or street-festival scenes; braided hair and protective styles as visual motifs; diasporic stories rooted in Toronto.

South Asian


Handcrafted textiles and embroidery; rangoli patterns; marigold garlands; diya lamps; Eid and Diwali lanterns; Bollywood and folk-dance imagery; bustling street-food and spice-market references.

Chinese

Lunar New Year motifs; brush-stroke calligraphy; red-and-gold accents; tea culture; ancestral altar imagery; paper lanterns; contemporary Chinese-Canadian stories.

Portuguese

Azulejo tile patterns; fado music; fishing-village and coastal imagery; festa decorations; bakeries and cafés; blue-and-yellow maritime palettes; references to Toronto's Portuguese communities.

Questions about eligibility, logistics, or how this might align with your program or practice are welcome.  operations@torontojunction.ca

We look forward to seeing how artists, students, and creators from across the arts community will help us **bring these Passageways – and the Junction's cultural stories – to life.**