

# LESLIE NYMARK PUBLIC ART PROJECT

## FAQ

- + How was the Public Art site selected?
- + How were artists shortlisted?
- + What happens in Stage 2?
- + Did the artist collectives get to meet anyone from the Villaways/ Leslie Nymark community or development team?
- + When do I get to see the proposals?
- + Is the work that is being presented the final artwork?
- + What if I can't make the artist presentations on October 7?
- + How will the final artist collective be selected?
- + How do I best respond to the survey?
- + What if I don't like any of the proposals?
- + When will we find out who was selected?
- + I have questions related to the Public Art process and the proposals. Who do I connect with?

### + How was the Public Art site selected?

Three locations were proposed as part of the public art plan submitted to the City of Toronto in 2018. Of these options, two sites were preferred by residents and have been selected for this Call. Artists or collectives may apply to one of the two public art locations outlined below. Both sites will be visible to the public and will be used by the residents of the Leslie Nymark community.

Site 1 is the larger of the two options, this space would allow for different forms of art (both 2- and 3-dimensional works) and would have the potential to activate the western portion of the site.

Site 2 is located on the northwest corner of the Leslie Street and Adra Grado Way intersection.

### + How were artists shortlisted?

On March 2, 2020, art consultants Art Starts and The STEPS Initiative (STEPS) released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) which invited Ontario-based artists and/ or collectives to apply to the public art competition with examples of past work, a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and a written proposal outlining both their interest in the project and connection to the Leslie Nymark community.

On July 17, 2020 a jury committee consisting of five individuals, two Toronto-based public artists and three Leslie Nymark artist community members, convened to review and discuss the applications. This session was facilitated by Art Starts and STEPS. Through this process, four artist collectives were shortlisted and selected to proceed into Stage 2 of the competition.

# LESLIE NYMARK

## PUBLIC ART PROJECT

### **+ What happens in Stage 2?**

Stage 2 of a RFQ competition is when the artist collectives begin to learn more about the community, local stakeholders and the site in which the artwork will be installed. From conversations, research and a deeper understanding of the Public Art site, each artist collective begins to identify themes and approaches they would like to develop. The artist collectives have 8 weeks to learn as much as possible and translate those learnings into a public artwork proposal. Artist collectives in this competition are also asked to develop a community engagement strategy or approach which will involve Leslie Nymark residents in the development, creation and/ or production of the final work.

### **+ Did the artist collectives get to meet anyone from the Villaways/ Leslie Nymark community or development team?**

To facilitate connections, STEPS arranged a series of Zoom calls in August and September between the short-listed artists and local stakeholders, including Councillor Carroll (Ward 17), Art Starts, TCHC/Tridel planning, construction and engagement teams and relocated residents. Artists had between 30 minutes and 1 hour on each of these calls and were given the opportunity to ask questions specific to their project ideas and the history of the community.

### **+ When do I get to see the proposals?**

You will have the opportunity to meet each artist collective and hear their proposal presentation on October 7, 2020 from 6 to 8:30 PM. This is your opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the proposals presented. The feedback will be gathered through an online survey and shared with the jury committee to assist them in making their final decision. We want to hear from you! Register at [leslienymark.eventbrite.com](https://leslienymark.eventbrite.com) to receive a link to attend the session.

### **+ Is the work that is being presented the final artwork?**

No. Remember the work being presented is only a concept, a well-developed but initial idea by the artists based on their research, outreach and understanding of the site to date. The artists have also been asked to develop a community engagement plan that outlines how your involvement as a tenant will contribute to not only their artistic process but fully shape and define the final artwork.

### **+ What if I can't make the artist presentations on October 7?**

We encourage you to attend the session of October 7th, though we understand this may not be possible for everyone. If you are unable to attend, we will be sharing an info package on October 8th, emailed to all tenants which provides an overview of the proposals and the engagement plan. Printed materials will also be provided.

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## + How will the final artist collective be selected?

Following the presentations, you will be given a survey to respond to. Your responses are important to the process! The feedback provided through the surveys will be collected and shared with the jury committee to help inform their final selection. The final artist collective will be chosen by the jury committee who will consider the full proposal, concept, community engagement plan and your feedback responses. Remember, the survey is open from **October 7, 2020 and closes October 19, 2020 at noon.**

## + How do I best respond to the survey?

Consider each of the proposals against each other and take your time. Your feedback is important and will be given to the jury, weighing into the final artist selection.

Some example of possible survey questions or items to consider include,

- Will the work presented resonate with you in 10 - 20 years from now?
- How is the work representative of the former Villaways and new Leslie Nymark community?
- Do you feel the work responds well to the proposed site?
- Does the proposal offer positive and meaningful opportunities for the Leslie Nymark community to become engaged in the art process?

## + What if I don't like any of the proposals?

We want to veer away from quick reactions, "I like" or "I don't like." It is possible that when you consider each of the proposals there will be things you like and don't like about each. What we want to focus on is the impact on the site and the community, the longevity of the work and the approach that the artists have put forth (does the proposal include, respond to and reflect the community).

## + When will we find out who was selected?

This date is subject to change but we are working towards a public announcement of the selected artist during the week of November 16, 2020.

## + I have questions related to the Public Art process and the proposals. Who do I connect with?

We encourage you to reach out to Praneti Kulkarni, Placemaking Coordinator with The STEPS Initiative at [praneti@stepsinitiative.com](mailto:praneti@stepsinitiative.com). We welcome you to share initial questions for the artists with us prior to the presentation of October 7th. There will be time following each proposal presentation to ask questions and the chat function through Zoom will be live for you to ask questions during the presentations.

