

Mentorship Opportunity: Call for Expressions of Interest

Public Art Mosaic Mentorship

The City of Lethbridge Public Art Program is seeking a Lethbridge and area artist, with experience in community-based art, for an exciting mentorship opportunity. Artists are invited to submit an Expression of Interest for this opportunity in response to this call.

Background

The City of Lethbridge has recently contracted ceramic artist Susan Day from London, Ontario to complete a handmade tile mosaic mural on the Legacy Park picnic shelter located in Legacy Park on the north side of Lethbridge. As part of this project, Susan will also mentor a local emerging artist. The paid mentorship will provide an artist with an introduction to the mosaic process and provide them with skills to work independently on future projects.

Susan will be installing an innovative and inventive mosaic mural entitled "The New Nature" (see proposal photos below.) The mosaic will be comprised of thousands of handmade tiles as well as mirrored tile pieces, creating a compelling and engaging entrance to Legacy Park.



Susan Day Biography

Susan Day is a visual artist whose work is predominately constructed of ceramic. Susan's works have been included in various important national and international exhibits including the Body and Society at the Embassy Cultural House in 1988; Revisited at the DIA Art Foundation in New York City, the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, Montana; the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta; and La Chambre Blanche in Quebec City. Susan received her early art education at Beal Art in London, Ontario. Following that she studied at Sheridan College School of Craft and Design in Lorne Park, Ontario, ARTsake in Toronto, Ontario, the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) in Halifax, Nova Scotia as well as a residency at the Banff Centre.

Susan has been the recipient of numerous Canada Council and Ontario Arts Council grants as well as being represented in many private and public art collections. In recent years Susan has turned her studio practice to creating impactful large scale public art both wholly self-created and community engaged. Susan's work explores her interest in both the human body and the natural world by manipulating traditional clay working methods to create stunning mosaic surfaces inspiring reflection and interaction from passersby.

Mentorship Details

Lead artist Susan Day has crafted an engaging and informative mentorship, best described in her own words:

"I consider the opportunity to provide an emerging artist the tools and direction necessary to create their best work while being able to support themselves financially a core component of the LEGACY PARK project. I will be able to teach both the social skills of community engagement and collaboration, and the hard skills of large-scale ceramic installation. The mentee and I would be able to have extended conversations about the practical realities of the art world. I am a firm believer in the necessity of conversation and direct human interaction being necessary to convey ideas which can help an emerging artist to see their upcoming path more clearly. In addition to supporting the mentee in establishing and working toward their existing goals, I will expect them to take an active part in the production and installation of the Legacy Park public art project. This project will serve to both give this person an idea of the reality of a large-scale commission, as well as give them valuable experience that they can put on their resume to gain credibility when applying for projects on their own.-This would happen through video chat, and in person."

Mentee requirements include:

- Availability beginning May 16, 2022 and ending August 26, 2022.
- Twice weekly Zoom meetings to discuss goals and evaluate progress.
- One fourteen-day session at Susan Day Studio in London, Ontario. Dates to be determined by Susan and successful mentee. The session will include field trips to Toronto and the Detroit.
- Independent remotely supervised in studio work. Access to Casa Studios to be provided.
- Participation in reflection and other personal growth activities including but are not limited to developing a research file of inspiration, sketching, and participating in professional development opportunities.
- Completion of personal mosaic project.
- Participation in the installation of Susan Day's mosaic mural scheduled for August 4-26, 2022.

Eligibility

- Lethbridge or Lethbridge-area artist.
- Available for the term of the mentorship outlined above.
- Able to travel within Canada and across into the US to Detroit.
- Physically capable of lifting 30 lbs. and capable of extended periods of physically active work.
- Vaccinated against COVID-19.

Stipend and Supports

- \$13,500 stipend paid in installments.
- Technology stipend to help facilitate virtual communication between mentor and mentee.
- One-year studio membership to Casa.
- Clay and tool stipend and firing expenses for work at Casa.
- Steel-toed safety boot allowance.
- Travel allowance for one round-trip Ontario trips including flights, accommodations, meals.

Expression of Interest

To express interest in this mentorship opportunity, please submit the following materials:

- A letter indicating the artist's interest in community art as well as an indication of artistic qualifications (i.e.: art training, previous experience with community-based public art projects.) The letter should address the mentorship details, provide an indication of how mentorship will impact artist practice and confirm the artist's alignment with all mentorship requirements.
- An Artist's CV, if available.
- Five images demonstrating excellence of past work relevant to community based public art projects. Please provide high resolution labelled images.

Evaluation and Selection

Applications will be assessed by an ad hoc selection committee comprised of community artists, community members with interest in and experience with the arts, and members of the City's Public Art Committee. Assessment will be based upon strength of the Expression of Interest, artist's alignment with the project, strength of personal goals. Up to five artists will be shortlisted and invited to participate in individual virtual interviews to inform final selection.

Submission Details

Applications should be submitted electronically to publicart@artslethbridge.org. Please indicate "Public Art Mosaic Mentorship EOI" in the subject line. Only electronic submissions will be accepted and all documents must be sent in PDF format as **one combined, attached document**.

Deadline for submissions is **April 22, 2022**.

Questions may be emailed to: publicart@artslethbridge.org.