



CALL TO ARTISTS: Request for Qualification

Visual Arts Mississauga's ArtReach: Artists in Our Neighbourhood

Submission deadline: **July 8, 2026**

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW ARTREACH: ARTISTS IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Visual Arts Mississauga (VAM) is expanding our popular community-based programs by launching an innovative arts education program that will connect local artists to students and community members across the Peel Region. The *ArtReach: Artists in Our Neighbourhood* program will provide high-quality, curriculum-aligned art learning experiences for students aged 4 – 14 that is inspired by the diverse stories and styles of local artists within our community. We are looking to collaborate with Black, Indigenous, and artists of colour from the Peel Region for this paid opportunity. These hands-on art projects will be co-developed with selected artists and VAM's Curriculum Developer to showcase each artist's contemporary practice, activate placemaking, and inspire youth to contribute creatively to their local communities.

2. ABOUT VISUAL ARTS MISSISSAUGA

Visual Arts Mississauga (VAM) is a not-for-profit community arts organization that has served Mississauga for over 47 years. As a leading centre for visual arts education, exhibitions, and outreach, VAM delivers accessible programming that fosters creativity, cultural participation, and lifelong learning. Each year, VAM delivers hundreds of workshops to over 2000 students from the Peel Region.

Our Community Impact:

VAM reaches thousands of residents annually through integrated programming:

- **Education:** 200+ courses annually for children, youth, and adults across visual arts disciplines; summer camps serving approximately 500 youth each year.
- **Exhibitions & Events:** 24 exhibitions annually plus large-scale community events like Art in the Park (3,000+ attendees) and World Art Day.
- **Outreach:** 150+ workshops annually, engaging over 2,000 students through school programs, murals, and community partnerships.

3. PROJECT DETAILS & QUALIFICATIONS

Project Structure:

In collaboration with VAM's Curriculum Developer, the selected artists will help define a curriculum-integrated art project that is inspired by their own work, methods or practice. Bridging the gap between professional artists and young learners, this project will be adapted for different ages and be designed to highlight the artist's expertise and unique voice. To provide context, each project will have a corresponding presentation featuring an Artist Spotlight Video. This video interview of the artist will highlight their artistic practice, creative process, and inspirations—strengthening each learner's understanding of both the artists and their artwork.

In addition, this program builds intentional partnerships with artists to amplify their voices and advance causes meaningful to their communities. A portion of every workshop booking (20%) will support an arts-related organization selected by the artist, with project presentations further driving awareness and local impact.

Benefits to Artists:

- **Artist Spotlight Video:** Artists will be featured in a short video highlighting their artistic practice, creative process, and inspirations.
- **Authentic Delivery:** The workshops will be delivered by trained VAM artist-instructors who will ensure consistent, high-quality learning experiences across schools and community settings.
- **Built-in Community Impact:** 20% of every workshop booking supports an arts-related cause selected by the artist.

Benefits to Students, Schools, and Community:

- **For students:** Exposure to real artists and authentic creative practices.
- **For Schools:** High-quality, curriculum-aligned arts programming.
- **For Community:** Direct reinvestment into arts initiatives and causes.

The newly developed art projects will be launched as part of VAM's [ArtReach For Schools](#) program for the 2026-27 school year. ArtReach offers engaging, curriculum-connected art workshops for JK to Grade 12, and is designed to enhance creative expression, problem-solving, and critical thinking in participants. Taught by professional artist educators, these hands-on field trip experiences introduce students to a variety of fine art techniques and



materials, fostering confidence and self-expression. The 1.5 - 2 hour workshops are taught in school classrooms, online, or at VAM's art studios within Riverwood Park. The new *ArtReach: Artists in Our Neighbourhood* projects will be a highlighted new offering for this year's ArtReach program.

Qualifications for Artist Applicants:

VAM is committed to amplifying diverse artistic voices from within our community. We are currently looking to collaborate with Black, Indigenous, and racialized (BIPOC) artists working or based within the Peel Region (Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon) for the *ArtReach: Artists in Our Neighbourhood*.

Applicants should be professional, working artists with either an established or emerging artistic practice and career. Their artistic portfolio will be of high caliber and showcase their unique and well-developed creative voice. Artists' whose work is connected to the themes of identity, community, place-based artmaking, environmentalism, language/literacy, or creative innovation will be prioritized.

4. SUBMISSIONS & QUERIES

Submissions:

Visual Arts Mississauga invites artists to submit to following:

- **Artist portfolio** of recent past work or projects relevant to the *ArtReach: Artists in Our Neighbourhood*. Maximum of 10 images and/or 5 minutes of time-based artwork. Should include artwork titles, mediums and years of completion. PDF format.
- **Artist statement** maximum 300 words. PDF format.
- **Artist bio** maximum 150 words. PDF format.
- **Artist CV**. PDF format.

Proposals should be submitted electronically by **July 8, 2026** to vamoutreach@visualartsmississauga.com with the subject line: "Artist Collaboration & Outreach Program - [your first and last name]."

Queries:

Any questions related to this program or the application process can be submitted to VAM via vamoutreach@visualartsmississauga.com or by phone at 905 – 277 – 4313. We aim

to make the application process as accessible as possible. Please contact VAM's Curriculum Developer with the above-provided email or phone number if you require any adaptations to the application process.

5. PROJECT TIMELINE

Date	Project Phase
July 8, 2026	Applicant submission deadline
July 9 - 10, 2026	Application review
July 10, 2026	Selection advised
July 11 – July 15, 2026	Planning meetings commence between artists and Curriculum Developer
July 13 – July 24, 2026	Filming of artist interviews, artwork projects finalized
July 24 – July 27, 2026	Confirmation of artists' approval of presentation slides, artist interviews videos, and art project demos
Fall 2026 – Spring 2027	<i>ArtReach: Artists in Our Neighbourhood</i> projects launched as part of VAM's ArtReach For Schools 2026-2027 program year.

Notification and Contracting:

- All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their proposals by July 8, 2026.
- VAM will issue the agreement document once the selection process has been completed.

6. USAGE

VAM will have the exclusive usage rights and intellectual property rights of the art project, lesson plans, presentation slides, and artist spotlight video content created for the purpose of the *ArtReach: Artists in Our Neighbourhood*. VAM may use any of these materials in its communication and promotion channels, for an unlimited duration. VAM does not own the rights to any artwork created by the artist, and the student art projects developed for the *ArtReach: Artists in Our Neighbourhood* will not directly copy any original artworks by the artist, but instead take inspiration from an agreed upon theme, method, or practice of the



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at RIVERWOOD



artist. The artist will be credited in all educational material created as part of the *ArtReach: Artists in Our Neighbourhood*.

7. COMPENSATION

The selected artists will receive CAD\$525 for their participation in the *ArtReach: Artists in Our Neighbourhood*. Selected artists will be required to collaborate with VAM's Curriculum Developer and provide the following materials:

- Meet with VAM's Curriculum Developer and collaborate to create two age-appropriate art projects based on the artist's practice, methods or materials (minimum two, 2-hour meetings).
- Participate in a short, introductory video interview conducted by VAM at the artist's studio space for the purpose of creating the artist spotlight video, which will then be edited by VAM and featured in all future class presentations (one recording session).
- Allow for photography of themselves and select artwork at their studio and provide relevant materials for promotion of the program.
- Provide feedback and/or approval of art project, sample art demos, overall lesson plans, artist spotlight video, and slides.
- Promote the program throughout their personal and professional network.