

# Open call for UBC Indigenous student artists

Submission due date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 11:59 PM (PST)



## Land Acknowledgement

The University of British Columbia campuses are situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil- Waututh) Nations, as well as the territory of the Syilx Peoples.

## Project

The *Indigenous Symbols and Signifiers* project invites current Indigenous students enrolled in any program at UBC Vancouver or Okanagan to submit artwork that reflects their cultural stories. This opportunity is open to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who self-identify as Indigenous to UBC. Artists can create graphic designs, illustrations, paintings, carvings, photos (e.g. collages, photo conceptualism) and other creative works that explore the theme: **What symbols or places from your culture represent belonging?** Participants are encouraged to create artwork of personal or cultural significance, such as natural symbols, items, practices, or places important to their Indigenous heritage/s.

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of Indigenous faculty and/or staff, and chosen artists will finalize their work in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts Communications team. The completed artworks will be displayed on digital signage across UBC, with accompanying artist statements and informational content about their featured symbol or signifier.

*Last updated: December 18, 2024*

Artists are invited to interpret the thematic prompt: What symbols or places from your culture represent belonging?

The Faculty of Arts will commission a total of ten artworks. Artists will receive \$400 (CAD) for their work and can submit individual or collaborative pieces in various formats, including static images, illustrations, and the like.

Participants who submit their work are required to give their explicit consent for their finalized artworks to be displayed on UBC digital signage and other external-facing platforms from 2025-2027. The selected artists will maintain full ownership of their work. Article and social media content will further showcase the artists' stories and Indigenous heritage, ensuring broad engagement across the UBC community and beyond. The Faculty of Arts will not externally promote the artists' artwork beyond 2027 without the artists' renewed consent.

*Indigenous Symbols and Signifiers* is a new initiative organized by the Faculty of Arts in partnership with the First Nations House of Learning, and is funded by the Strategic Equity and Anti-Racism (StEAR) Enhancement Fund.

## What's involved

The Artwork and artist statement will be displayed on digital platforms across UBC Vancouver and Okanagan channels. This includes, but is not limited to: Faculty of Arts buildings, UBC Library branches, and more.

### Scope of work:

- The Artwork will reflect the project theme: What symbols or places from your culture represent belonging?
- Please keep in mind the Artwork will be scaled by the Arts Communications team for varying platforms and digital channels including:
  - Digital signage screens (2000x1125 pixels)
  - Social media: Instagram carousel (1200x1200 pixels), Instagram Stories (1080x1920 pixels)
  - Editorial feature image (2000x1125 pixels)
  - Newsletter images (650x365 pixels)

### Not in scope of work:

- Artwork created using Generative AI is not permitted for this initiative
- Physical art installations and murals are not in the Artist's scope of work
- Ongoing mentorship by adjudicators or Indigenous faculty will be out of scope within the context of this initiative

## Eligibility

This opportunity is open to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who self-identify as Indigenous to UBC. Students with all levels of artistic experience are welcome to apply, including emerging and established artists, as well as hobbyists. No prior experience with professional design or public art is necessary.

## How to apply

**To apply, please submit the following to [arts.communications@ubc.ca](mailto:arts.communications@ubc.ca) by 11:59 PM (PST) on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Submission formats include PDF, MS Word, or PPT files.**

1. Artwork proposal: Please provide a detailed description of your planned submission, ensuring it reflects your connection to the provided prompt. Your proposal must include:
  - Artwork description (150-300 words): Explain the concept behind your piece and how it relates to your cultural heritage. Discuss what symbols, items, or places are featured and their significance. What story do these components tell? What will viewers first notice?
  - Materials: Provide a high-level list of the materials you will use to create your artwork (e.g. paint, digital tools).
  - Creation plan: Explain how you plan to achieve the final result to give us a clear idea of what you're envisioning. Will it be a collage or solo subject feature? Will it remain as a static image or have motion?
2. Short bio (250 words): Describe your your affiliation with your First Nations/Métis/Inuit community and with the University of British Columbia.
3. Contact information including: Student ID, preferred name, and pronouns
4. Mood board and/or reference materials, which may include:
  - Links to your website or previous work
  - Collage of different images that shows the look and feel you're aiming to achieve

## Financial support for art materials

In addition to the honorarium of \$400 CAD, artists can request additional funds of up to \$100 CAD to alleviate the costs of art materials. Artists are welcome to develop artwork using traditional materials such as wood, paint, thread, and the like.

Itemized receipt/s of purchases are required to receive up to \$100 CAD reimbursement.

## Selection Committee

The selection committee for this initiative will consist of Indigenous faculty and staff members from the University of British Columbia. The committee will review the submissions and select up to ten finalists. **The finalists will be notified and invited to begin their Artwork development on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.**

## Key dates

The shortlisted artists must be able to complete the project during the timeline below:

Due Date	Description
Wednesday, January 8, 2025	Open: Call for student artists
Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 11:59 PM (PST)	Close: Call for student artists
Tuesday, February 11, 2025	<b>Selected artists are notified</b>
Thursday, February 13, 2025	Artists are expected to confirm their participation on this day prior to starting on their artwork  If there's no response by 4:30 PM (PST), the offer will be given to another artist
February 17 - March 16, 2025  <i>*Reading break is from February 17 to 21.</i>	<b>Create artwork and share your story</b>  Optional drop-in sessions will be offered every Friday for artists to meet with an Arts Comms designer
Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 11:59 PM (PST)	<b>Final artwork must be submitted</b>
March 24 - 28, 2025	Students and Arts Comms will meet for photo taking with their artwork and film for social media videos
Early May	<b>Initiative launch</b>