



National Call to Black Canadian Artists – Mel Brown Project

Request for Proposals

THEMUSEUM in Kitchener, Ontario invites Black Canadian artists with experience designing and creating statues to submit their proposal for an exciting new project. The commissioned piece will be an outdoor public art life-size statue of musician Mel Brown to be completed and installed by the end of 2022.

The winning statue proposal will be selected through a selection committee.

About the Mel Brown Project

The Mel Brown Project is a tribute to a musical legend, guitarist Mel Brown.

A backing musician for artists including Bobby Bland, Johnny Otis, Etta James, and Bobby Darin, and a sideman for legends B.B. King, T-Bone Walker, and John Lee Hooker, Mel Brown was an accomplished musician in his own right, releasing 13 albums over three decades. Originally from Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Brown relocated to Kitchener, Ontario in the late 1980s to join a local music venue's house band. He played a vital role in Kitchener's live music scene for more than twenty years.

This project will honour Mel Brown's memory and raise awareness about his significance to local arts and culture with a specially commissioned public art piece – a statue to be completed in 2022 that will take on a significant permanent place in our cityscape.

Design Parameters

In order to ensure that Mel Brown's legacy is duly honoured, we expect the following parameters to be considered when developing your proposal:

- The commissioned piece should be a statue created in the likeness of Mel Brown
- Be suitable for permanent installation outdoors
- Be fabricated using high-quality, long-lasting materials that are highly resistant to theft, vandalism, weathering, and frequent audience interaction
- does not pose a risk to public safety

Please also note that safety, durability, low maintenance, vandalism resistance, and exposure to sun and inclement weather must be considered due to the nature of this project being a permanent outdoor installation.

Selection Process

1. Artists are asked to submit their resume and references, digital images of other work, an outline of their vision for the statue and full project budget (see Submission Criteria detailed below).
2. The selection committee will review proposals using the criteria listed below and a final artist selection will be made.

The following criteria will be used to score the proposals:

- Ability to complete the project within the project timeline and budget guidelines;
- Experience working on projects of similar type and scale;

- Imagination, innovation, and artistic merit based on documentation of the artist's previous work;
- Evidence of commitment to working in cooperation with community groups;
- Appropriateness of proposed artistic approach to the project and community profile;
- Understanding of project intent;
- Flexibility in response to changes in available resources;
- Good problem-solving abilities;
- Proven ability to meet deadlines;
- Demonstrated experience with project budgeting.

Submission Criteria

Your submission must contain the following:

- **Resume/ Curriculum Vitae:** maximum 3 pages
- **Digital Portfolio:** of previous work as it relates to this project, including title, year created, and short descriptors of your past works.
- **Project Vision:** maximum of 2 pages, outlining your vision for the statue, your general artistic approach, and your plan to tackle this project. ***Please pay close attention to the criteria listed above that will be used to score your proposal.***
- **Budget:** layout a breakdown of total project costs including artist fee/design, fabrication and installation.

How to Submit Your Proposal

Submissions are due by 11:59pm on **June 28 2022**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Please submit your proposal to:

Laurel McKellar

Senior Director, Curation, Exhibitions & Program Development

Laurel.McKellar@THEMUSEUM.ca

Please use the subject line ***"Mel Brown Project Submission"***

About THEMUSEUM

THEMUSEUM's vision is to awe, inspire, and enlighten and as such stages permanent and travelling exhibitions for both children and adults. Located in downtown Kitchener, THEMUSEUM is a charitable organization in an emerging field in Canada. THEMUSEUM offers a unique blend of art and technology at play and provides an opportunity for children and adults to learn in a fun, imaginative, non-traditional, creative environment. We encourage you to visit our website at www.THEMUSEUM.ca.