



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF LAW

# CALL TO INDIGENOUS ARTISTS

Indigenous Art Project – Bennett Jones Lecture Theatre

August 23, 2021

[law.ucalgary.ca](http://law.ucalgary.ca)

# Introduction

## Territorial Acknowledgements

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The University of Calgary is situated on land adjacent to where the Bow River meets the Elbow River, and the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is "Moh'kins'tsis", which we now call the City of Calgary. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

## The Path to Reconciliation

The University of Calgary's path to reconciliation is guided by the Indigenous Strategy. *In a good way* is a concept used by many Indigenous peoples to recognize work that is conducted in authentic and meaningful ways, with intention and sincerity, through reciprocal and respectful relationships. It is a demonstration of working with clear purpose and with high levels of integrity, moral strength and communal spirit. The Faculty of Law recognizes its responsibility to foster change within its own Faculty and the greater University community. Our mandate includes not only developing responses to the *ii'taa'poh'to'p* strategy and the TRC Calls to Action, but more broadly, the support of our current Indigenous law students and the recruitment of future Indigenous law students.

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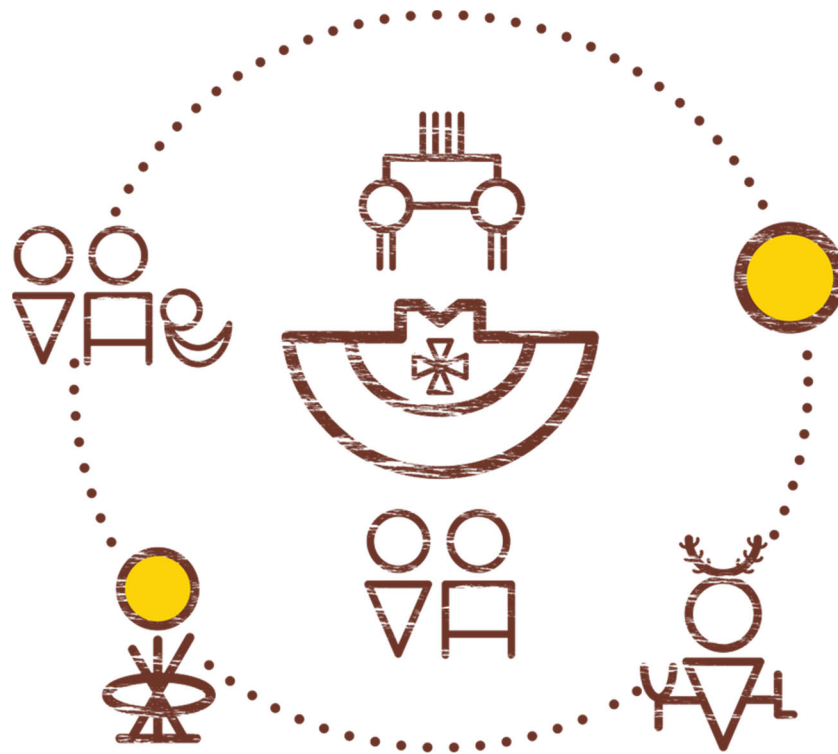
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# Context

The Faculty of Law is located on the University of Calgary's main campus in the city's northwest. Through innovations in student experience and legal education the Faculty of Law has become a model for law schools across the country.

In response to the TRC Calls to Action and the University of Calgary's Indigenous Strategy, the Faculty of Law, in partnership and consultation with the Indigenous Law Students' Association, would like to engage an artist to create a new art project that will have permanent residency within the Faculty of Law. The piece will honour Indigenous law, culture, spirituality, or reconciliation. The piece will be something our Indigenous students can recognize as a reflection of themselves, the generations who came before them, and the future generations to come.

The Faculty of Law recognizes that creating space for Indigenous inclusion is an important responsibility in the University's journey to reconciliation. The Faculty hopes that this project will not only allow our community to acknowledge, recognize, learn, and reflect about Indigenous peoples and their cultures, but encourage it *in a good way*. We hope the piece will not only resonate with our Indigenous students, but with our non-Indigenous law students, faculty members, staff, and visitors.



## Indigenous centered art at the Faculty of Law



In 1994, *Lest We Forget* found a permanent home on the University of Calgary campus. The piece by Calgary artist Teresa Posyniak remembers and protests violence against women through language, motifs of nature and ominous images of deterioration and disappearance. The sculpture, which is close to a storey high but with a broken-off top that suggests its reach could be much higher, sits in the airy main foyer of the Law Building. The location was deliberately chosen to encourage members of the legal profession to be mindful of feminist social justice and legislative inadequacies in the protection of women.

In addition to the names of the 14 women killed at L'École Polytechnique in 1989, the sculpture includes the names of Aboriginal women and sex trade workers who were the victims of gender-based violence. The piece serves to honour all victims, but also to draw attention to the inadequacies of the legal system which is supposed to protect all Canadians, and the reason why its placement in the Faculty of Law is so meaningful.

*The Rain Man*, by Dale Auger, hangs at the top of the central stairwell and can be seen from the atria on the third and fourth floors.

A Sakaw Cree from the Bigstone Cree Nation in northern Alberta, Dale Auger was a prolific visual artist, storyteller, playwright and comedian. His vividly coloured acrylics have captured the complexities of Indigenous history, as well as the intricate links between Indigenous spirituality and the natural laws of the land.



# Project Description

Interested artists will develop a concept proposal for the project that honours Indigenous law. The project artwork has a **maximum size of 28" x 30" unframed**. The project will be framed by the Faculty of Law after the artist has completed the work and it will be unveiled in September.

## Location

Located on the second floor of Murray Fraser Hall, the Bennett Jones Lecture Theatre (MFH 2370) is a common space for law students. The theatre is used for many purposes including law classes, special guest lectures, and information sessions. The project artwork will be located on the front right wall of the theatre. The theatre is home to many portraits of significant figures of the legal profession.

This project artwork will be displayed next to a new portrait of Violet King Henry, the first Black woman lawyer in Canada and first Black person to graduate law in Alberta and be called to the Alberta Bar.



## Description

Interested artists will develop a concept proposal for the project that honours Indigenous law. The project may have reference to their own community or include elements symbolic to a particular story or culture. Artists may propose a project that highlights a specific/recognized individual or a particular group of people. The project may be tied to a specific concept, tradition, or teaching from the artists' Indigenous culture, or focus on themes or topics integral to reconciliation.

Artists should have strong ties to their home community and the City of Calgary. In addition to the art project being displayed, a write-up of the project and artist profile will be available through a media-release from the Faculty and on the Faculty of Law's website.

## Key Dates

Submission Deadline:

**4:00 pm MST on Tuesday September 7, 2021**

*Late submissions will not be considered*

Project Initiation:

**August-September 2021**

Project Completion

**September 2021**

*Dates are subject to change*

*The timeline is negotiable based on the availability of the artist*

## Budget

The artist receives an all-inclusive, maximum payment of **\$1600.00 CDN** (not including GST). The successful applicant is paid based on deliverables as per their Work contract.

This includes all costs associated with the creation and implementation of the project.



# How to Apply

## Submission Package

Eligible submissions will contain:

1. **Letter of Interest** (maximum of 750 words)
  - a. The artist's reason for interest in the project.
  - b. The artist's connection to their Indigenous community and culture.
  - c. The artist's community connection to the City of Calgary.
2. **Proof of Indigenous identity**
  - a. The selection committee recognizes that colonial structures have made proving identity difficult for many. The selection committee will accept a maximum 200 word letter written from a member of the artist's community in lieu of official documents. Please provide official documents if available.
    - i. Letters will be read by the committee **only** for the purposes of confirming identity. These letters will not contribute to the selection committee's evaluation of the artist's interest, proposal, or references.
3. **Proposal** (maximum of 500 words)
  - a. The artist's proposed concept for the project.
  - b. The proposal can be text, sketch/design templates, or a combination of both.
    - i. Each sketch/image/design template accounts for 250 words.
4. **Resume/Curriculum Vitae**
5. **Images (maximum of 5)**
  - a. Up to 5 images of previous work. One artwork per image.
  - b. Include an image list with brief description (100 words maximum per image) of the purpose of each work.
6. **Two references** who can speak to the artistic and community experiences of the artist. Contact information must be included but reference letters are not required. These references can be community or professional.

## How to Submit

1. Email [adshowal@ucalgary.ca](mailto:adshowal@ucalgary.ca) and attach all required documents in a single email.
2. Email subject line should include **Indigenous Art Proposal**.
3. Submissions are accepted in electronic form only.
4. Links to posted media will not be viewed – all content must be included in email.
5. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.



# Selection Process

All eligible submissions will be reviewed by a selection panel consisting of 1 Indigenous Faculty member and 2 Indigenous Law Student representatives. The selection panel will select an artist through a wholistic evaluation of their previous work, letter of interest, community connection, and their proposed concept.

*The selection panel has the right to not award any of the submissions with the project and the Faculty of Law reserves the right to cancel/reissue this opportunity at any time.*