



Bringing
Contemporary
Art to the
Public Space

CAFKA.23 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL ARTISTS IN THE WATERLOO REGION

Submission Deadline: February 12, 2023

EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL
WATERLOO REGION ARTISTS

Independent
Projects



CAFKA is seeking submissions from Region of Waterloo Artists for its biennial exhibition of contemporary public art taking place in from June 3rd until July 22nd, 2023 in Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2021, CAFKA - Contemporary Art Forum Kitchener + Area is an artist-run, charitable organization that produces a biennial exhibition of contemporary art projects in the public spaces of the Region of Waterloo. As Ontario's longest-running public art forum, CAFKA has supported a diverse spectrum of local, national and international artists in the presentation and dissemination of ground-breaking, contemporary, interactive and interventionist public artworks to audiences through biennial programming, annual exhibitions and special projects. As a pillar within Kitchener-Waterloo, CAFKA's free biennial program in unexpected public spaces expands contemporary art experiences outside gallery environments and positions them as critical and integral parts of community life—accessible to everyone. Through the biennial, lectures, tours, workshops and related special projects, CAFKA develops

opportunities for people in the community and beyond to learn and come together around contemporary art in public space.

This year's biennial theme, *Stay with me...* is a declarative, yet vulnerable and tender gesture that beckons us to pause, reflect and come together—not only around the discourses, ruptures and speculative possibilities in the works presented—but also with each other. How might we honour tradition, disruption, and difference, while collectively forging ahead? The recent past has brought into sharp relief the uncertainty and tenuous nature of our shared existence—collective vulnerabilities, ruptures that divide, and yearning for belonging. *Stay with me...* cultivates reciprocity for the individual and collective—offering public platforms with, and without words, while advocating for acts of care, accountability and learning/unlearning with one another. Continuing conversations from the previous biennial, artists and collaborators are guided by lexicon generated from themes in their work guiding program development.

This program is intended to support independent art projects by Waterloo Region artists for inclusion in CAFKA's upcoming biennial exhibition *Stay with me* this summer. Artists are asked to submit work responding to, or engaging with, the biennial theme above. Selected artists will be paid an exhibition fee/ micro grant of \$2,000.00. Please note that this fee is comprehensive and does not support additional fabrication costs, so proposed artworks should be completed or near completion. CAFKA will assist with siting selected installations throughout the Waterloo Region in accessible public spaces. Selected artists will receive curatorial support and mentorship in the mounting of these works within a professional exhibition context.

Please note: CAFKA's Biennial takes place in the public realm in primarily outdoor spaces and is comprised of temporary works of "public art". Indoor spaces are exceptionally limited and therefore outdoor installations are highly encouraged. Proposed projects should take into consideration public safety and intervention (i.e. unsupervised "touch"), outdoor environmental conditions such as wind and rain as well as the potential for vandalism. As the exhibition takes place in the public sphere, artworks cannot be insured by the organization.

As the only artist-run visual arts organization serving Waterloo Region, CAFKA is committed to being a catalyst that supports the growth of individual artistic practices in the region through community building, professional development opportunities, mentorship, and exhibition/ dissemination opportunities accompanied by professional CARFAC fees.

CAFKA welcomes submissions from artists of all backgrounds (including but not limited to): Indigenous, Black, people of colour, LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals, people with disabilities, and members of equity-seeking communities. Please advise us of any accommodations needed to ensure you can access and complete the submissions process.

Submission Guidelines:

Please email submissions to cafka@cafka.org with the subject line "[Your Name] CAFKA.23 Submission" no later than February 12, 2023. Successful applicants are expected to be notified late February to mid March.

In a single PDF, please include your name; contact information (address, email, phone); and links (website, etc.); artist CV; artist bio (150 words max); artist statement (250 words max); a letter of intent outlining your proposed work, how it responds to or engages with the exhibition

theme above, ideal location(s), how it would be installed, feasibility, and anything else you think the jury should know; plus up to 10 images of the proposed work or mock-ups.

Artists must reside within Waterloo Region. We request submissions via PDF with accompanying jpegs in a single email. Please size your images accordingly (do not exceed 1gb each). Video works may be linked to an appropriate platform such as YouTube or Vimeo.

We thank all applicants, but due to the number of submissions, only those selected by the jury will be contacted.

We would prefer to receive applications electronically. Should you require accommodation at any time throughout the submissions process, or should you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Adlington, Program Coordinator: programming@cafka.org

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