

Call to Artists: Request for Proposals (RFP)

Project: Illuminite Light Festival
Proposal Deadline: September 23, 2024

Background:

The Downtown Yonge BIA is a non-profit, member-based organization, representing some \$7.2 billion of commercial property and close to 2000 businesses in the Yonge-Dundas neighbourhood. Downtown Yonge is home to top tourist destinations, landmark public and private spaces and a range of retail options, along with a vibrant residential population, many social agencies and Toronto Metropolitan University.

Downtown Yonge BIA advocates and works to create an economically vibrant, safe and healthy community. The services include on-street cleaning and outreach; organizing festivals and events; and providing streetscape and parks improvements.

For more information: downtownyonge.com

Project:

We are currently in the process of planning the second edition of Illuminite Light Festival in February 2025, and we are looking for artist(s) and/or a collective to provide large scale light installations that will include interactivity, sculptures, and projections.

The goal of the project is to light up and animate public spaces within the neighbourhood as darkness sets in. The theme: We are all connected – Gather and connect here.

The festival will run from February 15 to March 2, 2025.

We are inviting established and emerging artists and/or collective based in the Greater Toronto Area to submit proposals. Not all elements need to be original. It could be an existing piece that can be adapted to a new location.

Project Requirements:

Sites Context

Downtown Yonge BIA is bounded by Alexander/Grosvenor streets to the north and Richmond Street to the south; Bay Street to the west and Church/Victoria/Shuter Streets to the east. Click [here](#) for the map.

Illuminite is happening at different locations within these boundaries. In particular,

- Trinity Square Park –This location has seasonal lighting on the trees surrounding the Labyrinth. The clock tower is also lit and colours could be set to a particular colour, but there’s no animation. The Church of the Holy Trinity is a key architectural and historical site.
- College Park –Surrounded by tall buildings, there is wind tunneling in the park. The walking trail also turns into a skating trail. There are some seasonal light displays in the area.
- McGill Granby and Sheard Parkette – this location has trees with light strings.

See Appendix A for photos of the sites noted above.

All the sites are open to the public 24/7 and may be subject to potential vandalism, a risk that should be considered when making the proposal submission.

Technical Requirements

- All installations must be weatherproof, they can stand snow, ice, rain and freezing temperature.
- Ensure that the materials and methods of assembly and installation are low maintenance, durable, high quality and meet current health and safety standards.
- Engineering and construction drawings are not required at this stage. However, should be included in the cost as this could be required prior to fabrication/installation.
- Light sculptures and on-the-ground installations should be easily anchored without staking or bolting directly to the ground. Provisions for repairs should be included
- No bolting on existing building and/or park structures.
- As winter includes gloomy dark days, the installation should have photocells to activate lights whenever it gets darker.
- Piece(s) should require standard 15 amps or less.
- Piece(s) should be politically neutral.
- Artist(s) should be available to do repairs/maintenance.

Budget

The total budget for the project is \$137,000 + HST.

This includes all expenses to produce, install and remove the project; such as but not limited to: Artist(s)/Collective fees, preparation and submission of drawings and renderings, coordination and technical consultations including engineering approval should it be required, site visits, installation and removal, maintenance plan and any additional cost that the selected party may incur to deliver the project.

The budget includes the Proponent(s)’ expenses to include Downtown Yonge BIA insurance requirements (\$5M general commercial and liability insurance).

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Below is the suggested breakdown of budget per location.

	Location	Budget	Notes
1	Trinity Square Park	\$ 50,000.00	Avoid installations that will have structures built on the ground and accessible to the general public.
2	Trinity Square Park	\$ 12,000.00	This is for lighting the Church of the Holy Trinity. Initial conversations with them is to light the stained glass windows from the inside of the Church. Preference is to procure and donate the equipment to them after the project.
3	College Park	\$ 40,000.00	Two installations at College Park required. At least one must be led by an indigenous artist.
4		\$ 20,000.00	Preference for College Park are installations that are on the ground that people can interact with.
5	McGill-Granby Parkette	\$ 15,000.00	Initial conversation here is to utilize the trees for interactive installation. Such as using pulse photo plethysmography.

Event Schedule

Design and Fabrication	October 2024 to January 2025
Electrical Requirements specified	November 15, 2024
Installation	Early February 2025
Removal	Early March 2025

Submission Instructions

RFP Schedule

Issue Request for Proposal	September 3, 2025
Site Walk - not a requirement but an opportunity to walk the neighbourhood with DYBIA Staff	September 12 at 10AM Meet at Trinity Square Park, Bay Street entrance: https://maps.app.goo.gl/GuArTE59PTizxSUR6
Deadline for All Questions	September 13, 2025
<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>September 23, 2025 at 4:00PM</u>
Artist Selection	September 30, 2025

Proponents should submit by email to: RStubbs@downtownyonge.com with subject line: Illuminite 2025 and the name of the Artist(s) and/or Collective.

Please limit the size of your email to 10MB. If the file is larger, confirm on a separate email if we have received the submission.

Proposal Requirements

1. Artist statement (2 page maximum per installation): a written description of the piece the artist(s) wishes to explore in this project. Describe how the public will interact with the piece and aligns with the theme.
2. Up to 8 digital images of the proposed artwork including: artist renderings, details of applicable concept sketches, any applicable 3D visualizations, and any other related images. The suggested piece may be a piece that is already complete and have been on display.
3. Artist's CV. For artist teams, please provide CV for each team member.
4. Proposed budget breakdown and schedule.
5. Up to 5 images of past work(s): highlight relevant experience on projects similar to or directly related to this project and proposed theme.
6. Two (2) References: Contact name, title, organization and contact information.

Evaluation

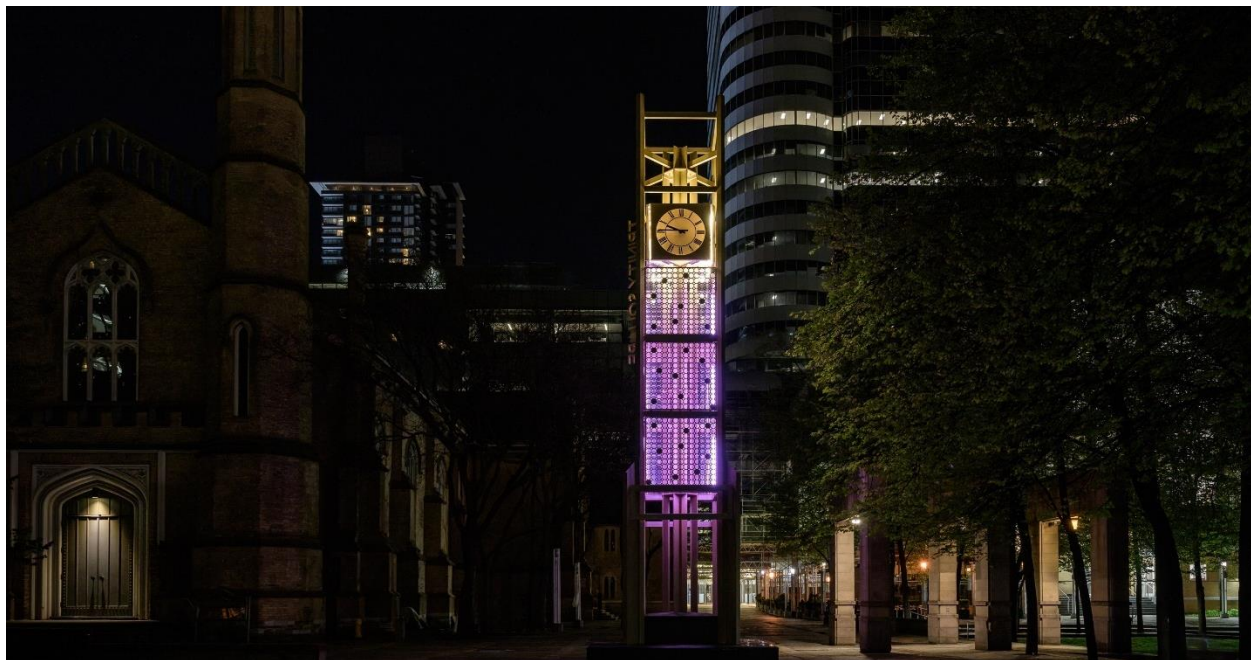
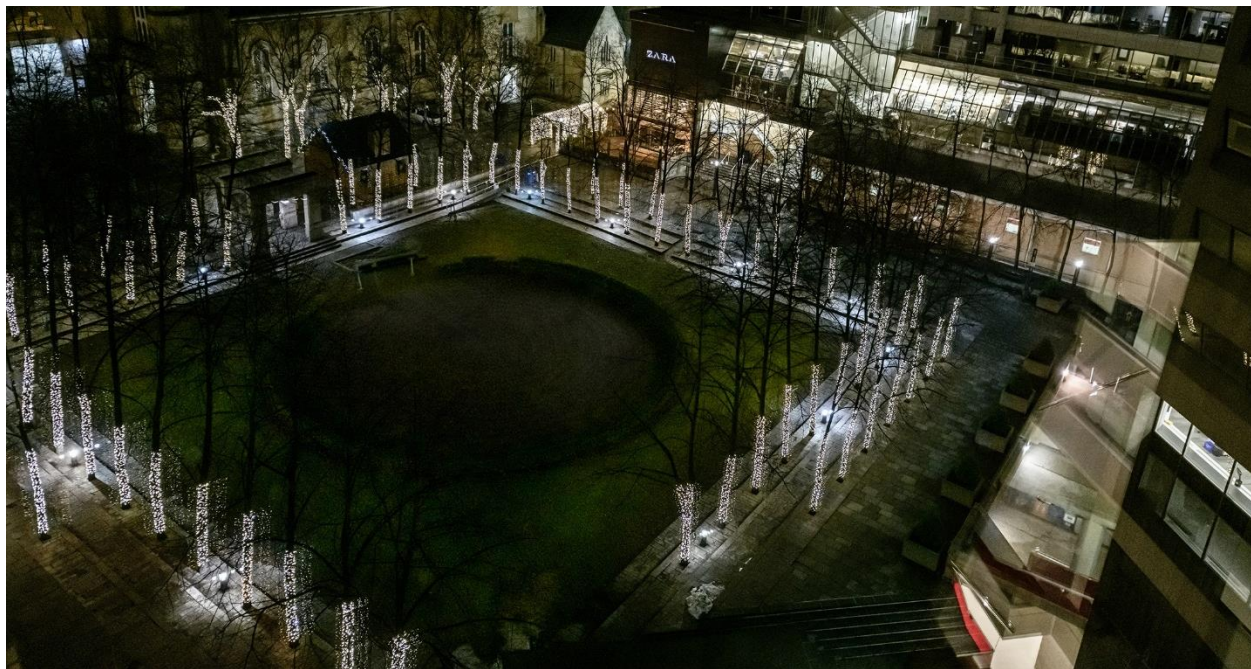
Prior to evaluating the proposals, Downtown Yonge BIA will review each submission to determine if it fulfills all the submission requirements. It is in the sole discretion of Downtown Yonge BIA without any liability, cost or penalty to disqualify a proposal that does not comply with all the requirements.

Submissions will be evaluated based on artist(s) statements, proposed works, budget breakdown, previous works.

Please consider the following –

- We will look favourably on interactive projects.
- Works that incorporates the theme into the project and thoughtful approach to how the public can (re)connect with the space and to other people.
- Safety, durability and sustainability of the piece(s).
- Maintenance Requirements.
- Artists' qualifications and experience based on past work, CV and references.

Appendix A
Trinity Square Park



Photos by Steven Neiman

College Park



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Granby/Sheard Parkette

