

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – COMMISSIONED WORK

PROFESSIONAL INDIGENOUS ARTISTS

1. PROJECT CONTEXT

The Musée d'art contemporain des Laurentides - MAC LAU and the Manitou/MAC LAU Committee, with the support of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and its *Soutien aux initiatives de commémoration* program, are launching a call for submissions from **First Nations, Inuit, and Métis artists** for a work commissioned as part of a commemorative project around **Manitou Community College in La Macaza (1973-76)**, which would celebrate its 50th anniversary in September 2026.

Since 2023, MAC LAU and the committee composed of Manitou College former students and employees have been working together to highlight the cultural, political, and educational legacy of Manitou Community College through the [Effet Manitou initiative](#). Activities include collecting archives and testimonials, intergenerational meetings with Manitou elders, and collaborations with Kiuna College, Manitou's spiritual and educational heir.

The project for which the commission is being awarded is structured around three activities: 1) a meeting between Manitou former students and employees, 2) a public visit to La Macaza in the presence of Manitou elders, and 3) the creation of a commemorative work by a professional Indigenous artist.

2. PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION

We wish to support the creation of an original commemorative work that reflects the history, spirit, and impact of Manitou Community College, a leading institution for Indigenous self-determination in Quebec. The positive effects this institution has had on those who attended it are palpable, and we wish to ensure its continued influence through this commemorative project. This work has the potential to serve as:

- a living record of the College's legacy;
- a medium for mediating and transmitting its history;
- a bridge between generations, communities, and audiences;
- an artistic reference within the framework of the commemoration program.

The call is open to Indigenous artists of all disciplines and media whose approach is in line with the project's objectives: memory, self-determination, transmission, and political and cultural engagement.

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3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

- be a professional artist;
- identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit or Métis);
- be permanent residents of Canada;
- practice their art primarily in Canada;
- present a personal, unique artistic approach that is recognized by their peers and/or Indigenous communities;
- demonstrate an ability to create a work that incorporates historical, political, and community issues;
- be able to deliver a completed work by mid-August 2026.

4. BUDGET AND SUPPORT OFFERED

- **\$3,000** paid to the artist as a fee for the creation of the work;
- **\$1,200** production budget;
- per diem and accommodation (depending on the needs of the project).

Additional support:

- public unveiling at La Macaza;
- support from the MAC LAU team and the Manitou/MAC LAU Committee;
- access to archives and testimonials related to the Manitou Community College collected at MAC LAU, as well as meetings with people involved in this history;
- possibility of acquisition of the work by MAC LAU (according to the criteria of the *Collection Management Policy*, section 8.3).

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- the artistic quality and originality of the approach;
- the relevance of the concept in relation to the commemorative objectives;
- the technical feasibility and coherence of the project;
- the realism of the proposed budget and timeline;
- the artist's experience and the relevance of their background;
- the benefits for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities and for contemporary art.

The selection committee will be composed of one member of the Manitou/MAC LAU Committee, one member of the MAC LAU Acquisition Committee, and two MAC LAU employees.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Interested parties must submit a file including:

- a recent resume (max. 3 pages);
- a biography and artistic statement;
- a description of the proposed project, including intentions, conceptual approaches, and links to the commemoration, as well as certain technical parameters under consideration;
- a maximum of 10 images or short videos of works or installations.

In the spirit of hospitality, we remain flexible regarding the format of submissions.

7. SUBMISSION DETAILS

Applications must be sent by email to:

Karina Newcombe

Project Manager and Collections Manager
knewcombe@maclau.ca

*Subject line: Artwork commission – Manitou
Community College*

Deadline for submission: April 19, 2026

Large files can be sent via WeTransfer.

Only one proposal will be selected. **All applicants will be notified of the decision during the week of April 27.**

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Acquisition policy – Commissioned works

The potential acquisition of the work will be carried out in accordance with the MAC LAU *Collection Management Policy*, section Commissioned Works (see attached document). The key principles are evaluation by the Acquisition Committee after production; the possibility of refusal if the work no longer corresponds to the Museum's objectives or mission; acquisition by donation and/or purchase according to the terms and conditions set out.

9. CONTACT PERSON

For any questions or additional information:

Gabrielle Larocque

Head of Art and Communities – MAC LAU
glarocque@maclau.ca
450.432.7171 #103

**COMMEMORATIVE
WORK – MANITOU
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE IN LA
MACAZA: AN ACT FOR
THE FUTURE**

Our Collection Management Policy is unfortunately not available in English at the moment. We apologize for the inconvenience. For any questions, please contact us.

Extrait de la Politique de gestion des collections, MAC LAU, p. 19

Œuvre de commande

Mode d'acquisition qui consiste à faire une demande de production originale à un ou une artiste. Les commandes faites par le MAC LAU peuvent prendre deux formes principales : une première dans laquelle le musée pourrait fournir des contraintes matérielles à l'artiste et une seconde où le musée proposerait plutôt des contraintes conceptuelles à l'artiste. Dans tous les cas, l'œuvre de commande vise à encourager l'artiste dans sa production en vue d'une acquisition.

Vu sa nature, ce type d'acquisition nécessite un encadrement différent des acquisitions faites par don ou achat. Le processus est le suivant :

- Si le montant du contrat de production excède la limite de 5000\$, le comité d'acquisition présente sa proposition de commande au conseil d'administration pour approbation.
- Le MAC LAU soumet une demande auprès de l'artiste visé, qui est rémunéré pour la phase de production de l'œuvre.
- Après la phase de production, l'œuvre est présentée au comité d'acquisition et son évaluation se fait comme n'importe quelle œuvre offerte en don ou à l'achat.
- Si l'œuvre est acceptée, elle entre dans la collection par don, ou/et par achat, et son prix d'acquisition est négocié en fonction du tarif déjà rémunéré pour la production.

Le musée se réserve le droit de refuser une œuvre après la phase de production si celle-ci ne correspond plus à ce qui était discuté ou si l'œuvre ne cadre plus avec la mission, le champ de collectionnement ou les axes de développement de la collection du musée. Si le Musée n'a pas ou plus la capacité financière pour procéder à l'acquisition de la commande, l'acquisition peut être refusée.