



GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE ART MENTORSHIP FOR AFRICAN, BLACK, CARRIBEAN YOUTH

The land where the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is located holds a rich historical past. For thousands of years, it has served as Anishinaabe Territory for the Three Fires Confederacy, consisting of the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nations. The Sandwich, Ontario, community in Windsor is also the oldest continuous European settlement area in Ontario, with French settlers arriving in the late 1700s. And to many escaping the US slave trade through the Underground Railroad, Windsor-Detroit was a destination representing hope and freedom for themselves and for their offspring.

COMMEMORATIVE ART COMMISSION

To commemorate the area's role on the Underground Railroad and to recognize this important part of history, the project will include artwork in an accessible location at the Canadian Port of Entry. The commission is anticipated to be a free-standing work of art (sculpture) that will symbolize hope and freedom, and act as an expression of Canadian identity and history.

YOUTH MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

As part of the commission, a mentorship is available for an artist identifying as a member of the African, Black or Caribbean diaspora, between the ages of 18-35, with experience in any artistic medium, residing in Windsor-Essex. The successful candidate will work closely with the seasoned public artist to learn the creative process that goes into commissioning and installing a large public artwork. The successful candidate will receive a paid honorarium.

This includes:

Meeting #1 (virtual): Introductory meeting with artist.

Meeting #2 (in-person): Learning session with artist.

Meeting #3 (virtual): Session with Karen Mills, public art consultant Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority. Karen will address public art processes.

Meeting #4 (in-person): At the fabrication facility with artist in Barrie, Ontario (travel expenses will be covered): Review of fabricator's shop drawing to review how the artist's drawings are translated into drawings used to provide instructions to fabricators.

Meeting #5 (in-person): With the artist and fabricator at the Canadian Port of Entry in Windsor, Ontario during installation of artwork.

Meeting #6 (virtual): Wrap-up meeting with the artist. The mentee will prepare a report or summary of activities undertaken and lessons learned during the mentorship or submit an artwork instead of a written report.

All activities will take place between February - September 2024.

ABOUT THE ARTIST/MENTOR

Based in Toronto, Canada, Jordan Sook is a contemporary artist whose mixed media creations have been showcased in several exhibitions across the country. Sook's portfolio encompasses a range of mediums, including acrylic paintings, sculptures, and installations that reinterpret themes from popular culture. Through his use of color, scale, and form, Sook imbues his works with a youthful and playful quality, inviting viewers to perceive the world through a subjective and innocent lens, evoking a sense of joyful optimism akin to childhood memories.

Since commencing his artistic journey in 2016, he has presented work within notable exhibitions and spaces such as Union Station in Toronto (2021), Vancouver Convention Centre in Vancouver (2020), and MacLaren Art Centre in Barrie (2017). Sook's latest installations include "Harvest" (2021), held at the Toronto Media Arts Centre and later presented at the East North-East Film Festival in Newburg, New York. As well, "The Irrefutable Truth of Our Existence" (2022), a moving art installation that brings itself directly into the heart of the community by immersing riders inside of a Toronto Transit Commission train car. In September, Jordan exhibited his most recent sculpture "Natural Selection" for the AGO annual fundraiser. Sook has recently been awarded the Emerging Artist/Designer award for his piece "Things I find Unimaginable" for the 2023 DesignTO festival.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project between Windsor, ON and Detroit, MI will help move goods and people more efficiently at this important trade gateway. Managed by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and working in collaboration with the State of Michigan, the project is being delivered through a public-private partnership (P3) which will see Bridging North America design, build, finance, operate and maintain the bridge. This art commission is part of a larger effort to incorporate Public Art and other forms of cultural and historical recognition into the project, based on continued community engagement.

TO APPLY:

Please send a one-page letter of expression, a resume outlining your art experience and 4-6 digital images of your artwork to info@wdbridge.com no later than February 2, 2024. Your package should confirm the following information: identification as a member of the African, Black and Caribbean diaspora; between the ages of 18-35; current resident of Windsor-Essex.

For more information, please contact info@wdbridge.com

FIND OUT MORE



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