Port of Portland

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS

NATIVE CREATIVE ART INSTALLATION

Solicitation Number 2026-12830

11/10/26

STAGE 1: STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS DUE: Not later than 11:59 PM, December 13, 2026

STAGE 2: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DUE: Early 2027

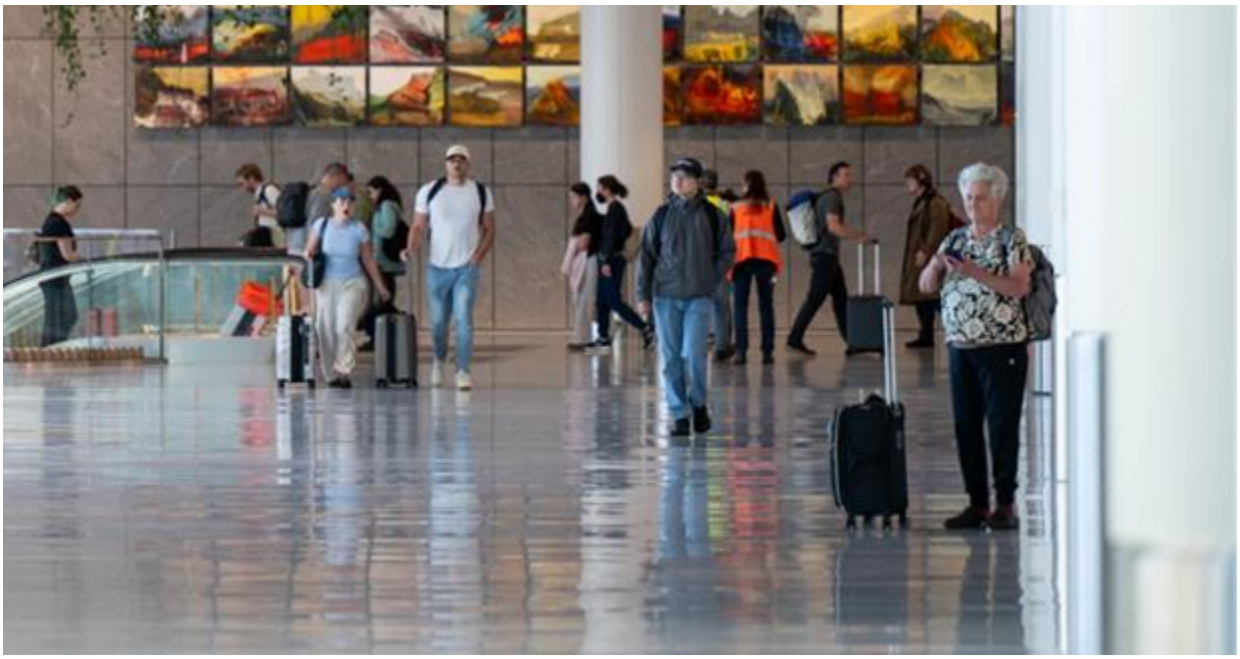
Pre-Proposal Meeting:

A virtual pre-proposal conference will be held for this solicitation at 12 PM, December 1, 2026.

Native Creative Art Installation – Call for Creators

Issued by: Port of Portland.

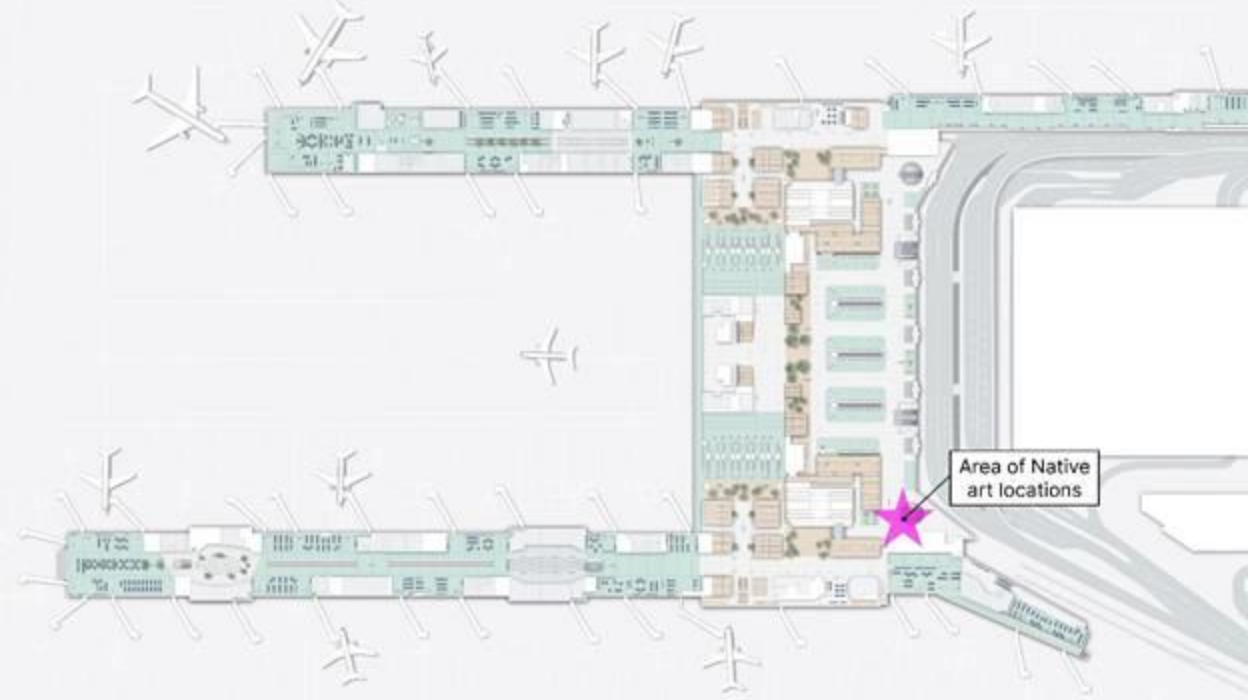
Total Project Budget for Three Sites: up to $375,000, with up to $125,000 per display site. Three display sites within 3,000 square feet at Portland International Airport (PDX)

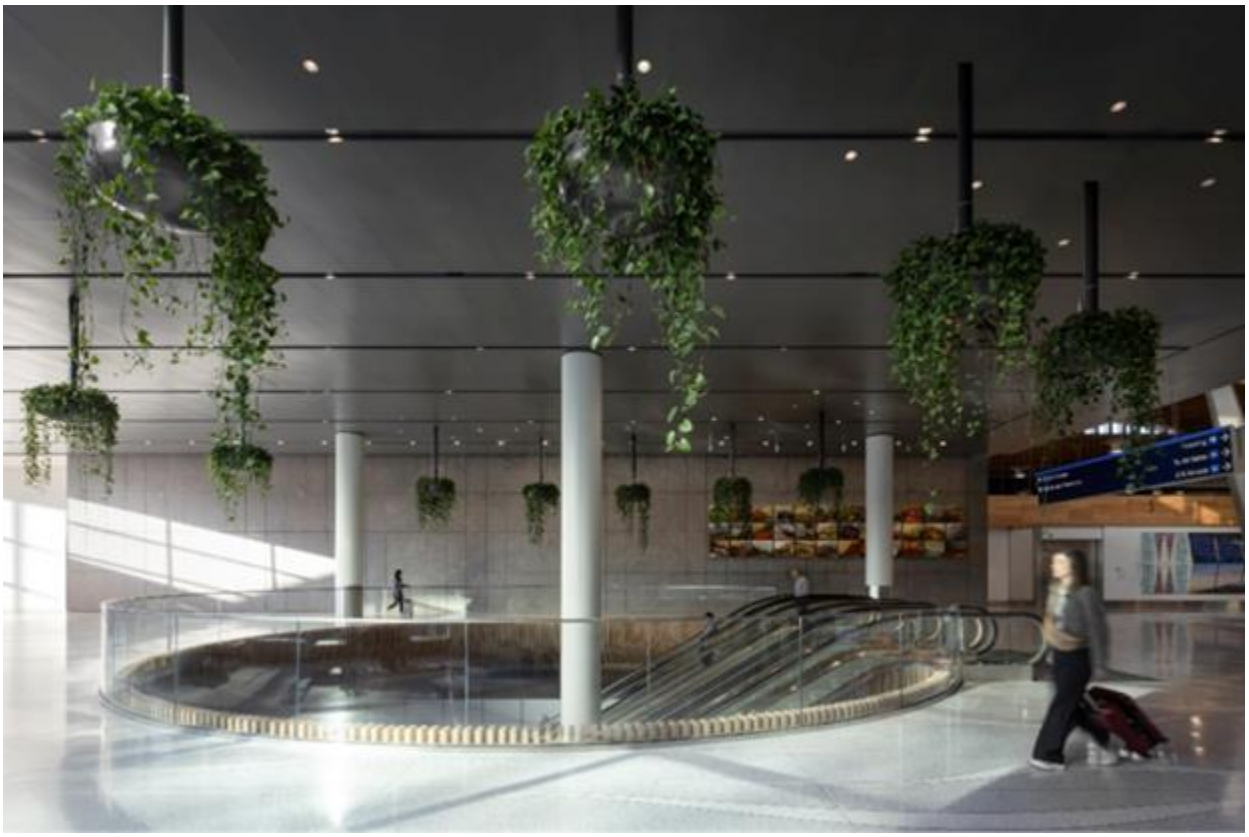


Native Creative Art Installation – Creator Opportunity

The Port of Portland invites creators to submit proposals for artistic displays at Portland International Airport (PDX). This initiative seeks to increase the visibility of the Lower Columbia River Basin's Native culture, history and perspectives in one of the region's most prominent public spaces.

The installations will be located on the south side of the PDX Ticket Lobby, along a busy corridor connecting the ticketing area, baggage claim, and TriMet platform. Surrounded by greenery, the space offers an opportunity to create a welcoming environment that encourages reflection and connection to place.


Area of Native
art locations



Opportunity Details

Approximately 3,000 square feet within the PDX Ticket Lobby has been designated for art displays across three installation sites. Multiple creators will be selected to create artistic works that reflect the project's creative vision and cultural themes.



Creative Vision

This opportunity seeks to highlight Native visibility, placekeeping, and cultural storytelling. Creators are invited to interpret themes such as land stewardship, history, first foods, cultural continuity, and Indigenous identity through innovative and meaningful creative expression.

Eligibility

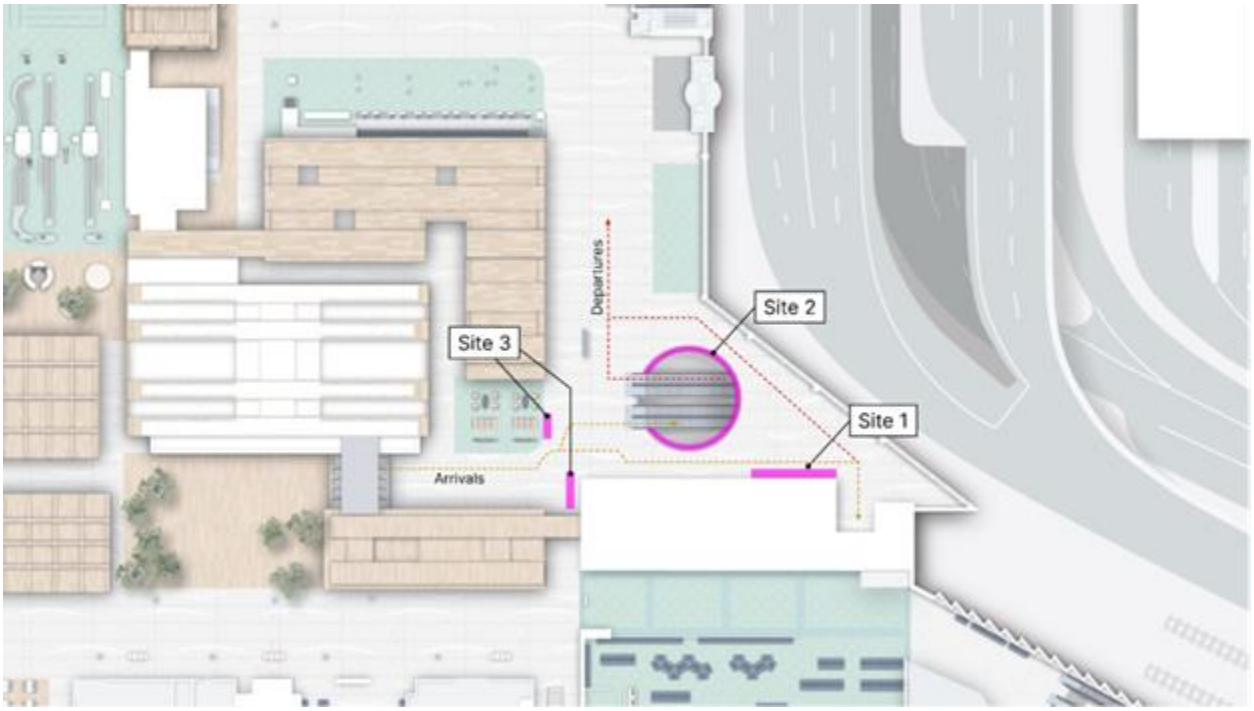
Creators may submit up to two proposals, either individually or as part of a collaborative team. Only one individual proposal is permitted per creator; creators submitting a second proposal must do so as part of a collaborative team. Creators may also participate in two separate team proposals. Each submission must be distinct and clearly scoped.

Creators currently under contract with the Port of Portland for temporary works are eligible to apply.

We welcome proposals from all creators, including:

- Artists with ancestral, cultural, or geographic ties to the Lower Columbia River Basin
- Creators with strong connection to or identification with the Lower Columbia River Basin region and its history.
- Experienced and emerging creators, including those new to public installations or large-scale commissions
- Lower Columbia River Basin creator collectives or collaborative teams, including those that support mentorship between emerging and established creators

This eligibility structure is designed to support a wide range of creator voices and pathways into public creative art display. Creators at all career stages are encouraged to apply, including those pursuing their first large-scale public art commission.



Installation Sites

Three sites have been identified for art installations, with two proposal tiers available for individual creators and collaborative teams. Applicants should select the site or tier that best aligns with their proposed work.

Tier A – Single Locations

Individuals or collaborative teams may propose creations at a single site, allowing creators to develop a creative vision that incorporates various styles and perspectives.

Site 1: A wall display measuring 12 feet 6 inches by 17 feet, offering space for large-scale visual storytelling.

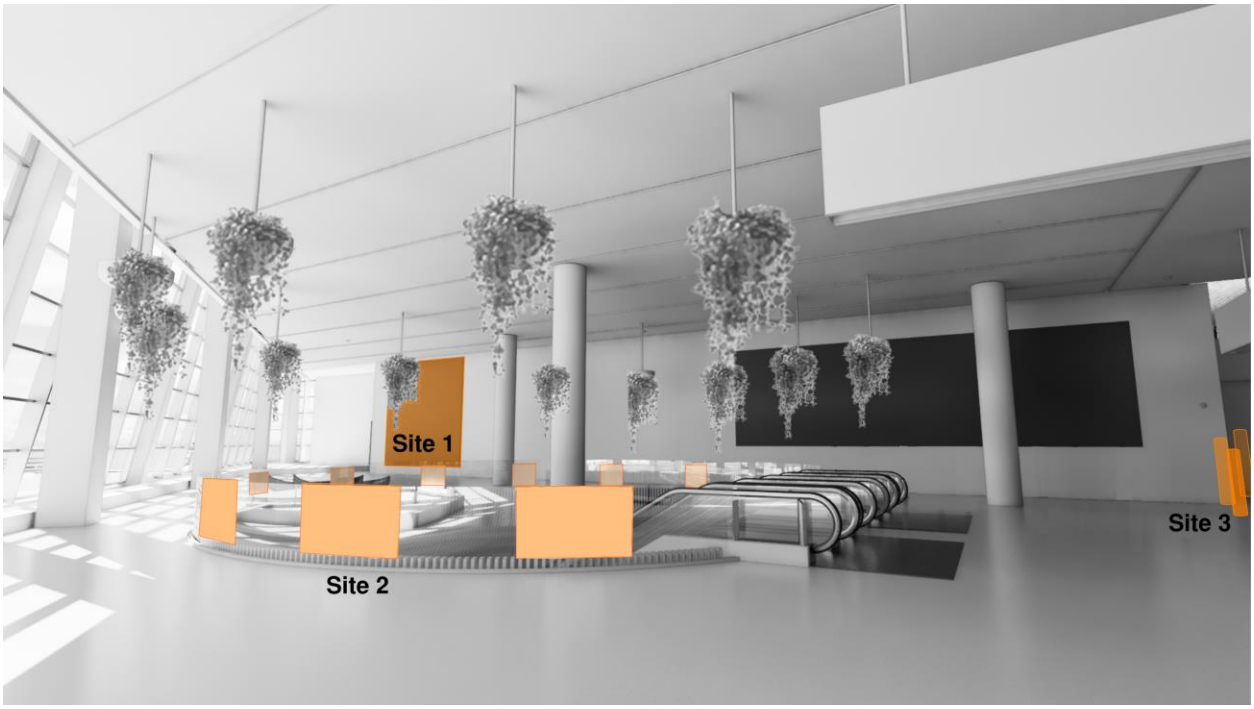
Site 2: A glass display composed of 25 panels, each measuring 5 feet by 3 feet 7 inches and a uniform weight less than 20 pounds per linear foot on each panel, offering opportunities for imagery and patterns experienced as travelers move through the space.

Site 3: Up to six sculpture locations, each approximately 20 inches in diameter and 5 feet tall, providing opportunities for three-dimensional work.

Tier B – Two Connected Sites

Collaborative teams may propose work spanning two connected sites, allowing creators to develop a shared creative vision that incorporates different styles and perspectives.

The accompanying images illustrate generally the proposed installation locations for the sites. Exact placement and layout will be coordinated with selected creators, including to best feature the works selected and meet operational and safety needs in the PDX terminal.



A view of the installation locations as seen by travelers as they enter the airport and the airline ticket counters.



A view of the locations as passengers arrive at PDX.

Key Themes and Cultural Anchors

Creators are encouraged to explore the following themes:

- **Cultural Authenticity and Representation**: Center Indigenous perspectives and personal experience; avoiding superficial imagery.
- **Placekeeping and Storytelling**: Recognize Tribal nation's connection to the Lower Columbia River Basin, first foods, canoe culture, and historical continuity.
- **Material Integrity**: Use authentic materials and traditional practices such as those used in carving, weaving, basketry, and regalia.
- **Contemporary Expression**: Showcase innovation and cultural evolution; avoid static or romanticized depictions.
- **Diverse Representation**: Reflect the diversity of Indigenous voices and relationships within the region.
- **Environmental Stewardship**: Consider durability, sustainability, recycled materials, and ecological awareness and align visually with the surrounding environment.

Qualifications and Selection Process

The application begins with a few questions about your creative practice, what inspires your work, and how your artistic interests connect to the project's themes. This is an opportunity to introduce yourself, share your perspective, and tell us about your work.

Following the initial review, a shortlist of creators will be invited to develop and submit more detailed proposals. This next stage provides an opportunity to refine creative ideas, explore materials, and consider how the artwork will engage travelers in the PDX Ticket Hall. Selected applicants will receive a stipend of $500 for Tier A proposals or $1,000 for Tier B proposals.

The full Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFQP), including application requirements and submission instructions, is available through the application portal.

An information session will be held at noon on December 1st, 2026, to provide an overview of the opportunity and answer questions.