

Beaver Hills Biosphere | Visual Arts Laureate | Position Description

Background

Located 20 minutes east of Edmonton and situated within Treaty 6, the Beaver Hills region is a distinct geographic area that is biologically diverse, historically important and culturally rich.

The Beaver Hills was designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2016, one of only two in Alberta and eighteen across Canada. This significant designation is a direct reflection of both the ecological and cultural importance of the area, and the commitment of people working together for a sustainable region, through shared initiatives and collaborative action.

The Position

To reinforce the importance of identifying, acknowledging and keeping alive the culture of the Beaver Hills, the Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association (BHBRA) will appoint a Visual Arts Laureate, who will serve as an ambassador, raising awareness and appreciation for the visual arts and culture of the region and the artists who live and work here. The visual arts include art forms such as photography, painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, video, filmmaking, design, crafts and architecture.

During their term, the Visual Arts Laureate will provide the community-at-large with greater exposure to and appreciate for the visual arts, with a particular focus on the natural landscapes, diverse wildlife, special places, people, culture and history that is so important to the character of the Beaver Hills.

Qualifications and Experience

Visual artists of all disciplines are encouraged to apply. To qualify, applicants must be a resident of the greater Edmonton area, with preference given to those who live and/or work in the biosphere region.

The person selected to serve as Visual Arts Laureate will have:

- Strong background and experience in the visual arts
- A demonstrated commitment to promoting awareness of the visual arts
- Experience engaging with a variety of stakeholders including First Nations and Métis communities, various levels of government, NGOs, academia and the community at large

Terms

The Beaver Hills Biosphere Visual Arts Laureate is expected to:

- Commit to a one-year term as laureate
- Promote public awareness of the Beaver Hills Biosphere's natural and cultural history, and the artists who live and work here, through the visual arts
- Support the development of relevant content for the BHB's and partner's social media and multi-media story-telling efforts
- Represent the creative community and engage with the public through educational programs, events and presentations; at this time virtually through webinars, as required and as guided by current public health restrictions
- Contribute to the biosphere's multi-media library
- Complete a public art project for the biosphere that reflects/represents the themes associated with the biosphere mandate

- Work closely with BHBRA staff and to develop an annual work plan to guide theirs and future Visual Arts Laureates' activities
- Attend BHBRA Board meetings as requested during their term to engage with partners and provide updates their efforts

Honorarium

The Visual Arts Laureate is a volunteer position, however, in recognition of their contribution of knowledge, skills and lived experience, an annual honorarium of \$5000 will be provided.