



## Okanagan Rail Trail - xwít i? s'w'k'na?qin

Km 0 at k'ək'maplqs (the Northern Gateway)

### Call For Expressions of Interest from sqilx/syilx Artists

#### Background:

Okanagan Indian Band is a partner on the inter jurisdictional team (the Okanagan Rail Trail Committee) that is collaborating to develop and manage the Okanagan Rail Trail. Early work by this partnership developed trail branding including celebration of the sqilx/syilx culture and language as well as other elements.

At the north end of the trail, the Regional District of North Okanagan, Okanagan Indian Band, and Friends of Okanagan Rail Trail have been working together, and under the oversight of the Okanagan Rail Trail Committee since 2019 to plan and design a trail gateway to the Kalamalka section of the rail trail. The indigenous name for the gateway area is k'ək'maplqs (referring to the head of Kalamalka Lake). This trailhead provides an opportunity to welcome trail users and local residents to a new understandings of the sqilx/syilx culture and nature of this area.

The trailhead will include a welcome kiosk with maps and trail information, a plaza with shade sails and seating areas, native plant restoration, and interpretive signs. (See Appendix 1). The site will be used by walkers, cyclists, runners, recreational groups, school groups, families and tourists.

k'ək'maplqs area was used and occupied year round and for thousands of years prior to the arrival of European settlers. Plaza design was inspired by, and celebrates sqilx/syilx use as a summer fishing camp.

Interpretive signs will share an introduction to the sqilx/syilx, the language, and the historic and contemporary place on the land at k'ək'maplqs. Draft sign content is under review by OKIB and available upon request. The Greater Vernon Museum and Archives is a partner in the development of interpretive signs and associated online content.

A goal of the Okanagan Indian Band is to increase awareness, understanding and respect of sqilx/syilx history, culture and perspectives to help build bridges with local non-indigenous communities and to revive sqilx/syilx presence on ancestral homelands. One way to do this is through educational projects such as museums, cultural centres and interpretive signs. This Expression of Interest relates to the northern gateway to the popular Okanagan Rail Trail but might be used for future projects along the trail or in the local community.

## **The opportunity:**

The project team is seeking to establish a list of artists who could work independently or in collaboration with other artists to represent the site's indigenous themes and stories with a recreational trail user audience. An example of the photography and illustrations that might be required include: sqilx horse use, kikinee fishing, weir patterns, three gable tule mat long house, pit house inspired art, balsam root, bitterroot, Kalamalka Lake colours, descendants of the Kalamalka family and contemporary sqilx/syilx activities. Full funding for artwork is not yet secured and will depend on successful grant applications.

Professional artwork will complement and illustrate the themes developed for the site, and could be used in the following areas:

- Interpretive signs (this is the priority focus for funding applications):
  - Digital or hand created artwork: Realistic sketches for educational purposes (e.g. to illustrate fishing technology); Creative artwork to illustrate cultural aspects like ceremony, stories. (Size and resolution will need to be appropriate for large format printing)
  - Photography to illustrate contemporary OKIB Community activities relevant to the interpretive messaging. (Size and resolution appropriate for large format printing)
  - Short video clips (oral narrative, creative re-enactment, animation, etc.) to support interpretive messaging and accessed via a QR link on the signs.
  - Advice on overall sign design to best coordinate with commissioned artwork
- 3 D sculptural pieces to be installed on steel poles for shade sails
- Other sculptural pieces that could complement site themes (carving, welded/metal designs, etc.), be culturally appropriate, and durable such that ongoing maintenance is not required.

## **Scope of work and deliverables:**

- Artwork will require collaboration with the project team (OKIB, RDNO, FORT) to represent the educational themes and to connect with the target audience. Integration of ORT brand elements (e.g. colour palette) will be discussed with the artist.
- Subject to funding, interpretive sign illustration artwork should be developed during the period of July 2022-Nov 2022. Video and sculptural elements could proceed at a later date, subject to funding.
- The rights for this artwork will be determined, in discussion between the artist and project partners.
- This is an expression of interest, not a call for tenders or requests for offers and no contractual obligation shall arise upon a proponent's submission of an expression of interest.
- Proponents are solely responsible for their own expenses incurred in connection with this expression of interest, including preparing and submitting portfolios.

## Remuneration:

Project team representatives will work collaboratively with the successful candidate(s) to develop and refine the scope of work, timeline and conditions, and negotiate the cost of the work based on the mutually agreed scope of work.

## How to apply:

In keeping with the Okanagan Indian Band's aspirations for community development, and the project team's desire for authenticity, we are seeking artists from the Okanagan Nation.

To be included on the list of interested artists, please provide the following information:

- A brief summary of why you are interested in this project.
- Experience with similar projects, along with appropriate portfolio (links to websites are acceptable).
- Fee structure for similar work.
- Availability during the time period specified.

While a portfolio is requested with your submission, Okanagan Nation students looking to establish themselves as artists or illustrators are encouraged to apply.

Expression of interest packages should be submitted electronically in one (1) Adobe (PDF) file with Subject Km 0 Expression of Interest in the subject line to: Laurie Postill, President, Friends of Okanagan Rail Trail, email: [hello@okanaganrailtrail.ca](mailto:hello@okanaganrailtrail.ca)

**Closing time** : The closing time for Expressions of Interest is **4:00 pm, June 30, 2022**. **Note:** Late submissions may be considered with reasonable justification provided by the closing time above.

The successful candidate(s) will be invited to bid on the final contracts for artistic elements of the project, as project funding becomes available.

## Contact:

Those wishing to learn more about this opportunity are invited to contact:

- Ruby Alexis, Okanagan Indian Band [ruby.alexis@okanagan.org](mailto:ruby.alexis@okanagan.org) or
- Debbie Clarke, volunteer, Friends of Okanagan Rail Trail [debbielclarke@shaw.ca](mailto:debbielclarke@shaw.ca) or
- Michelle Jefferson, Director, Friends of Okanagan Rail Trail [mjefferson@telus.net](mailto:mjefferson@telus.net)



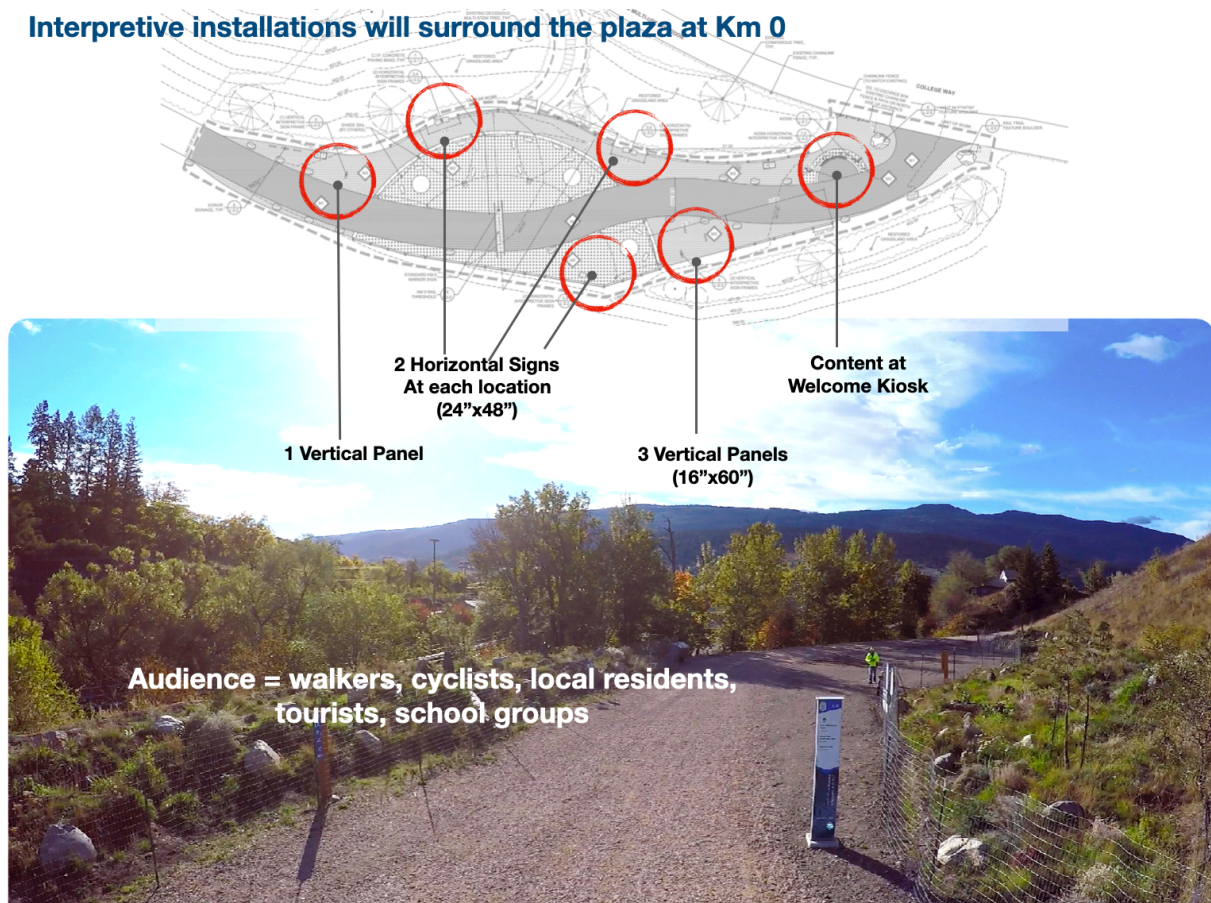


## Artistic Priorities:

### 1. Interpretive Sign Illustration

- Note: some illustrations will come from existing sources

## Interpretive installations will surround the plaza at Km 0



## Interpretive Sign Locations and Themes:

### A. Three 2 sided vertical panels: (front/back):

- First People and Language of this Land/k'ək'mapłqs sqilx<sup>w</sup>-syilx Homelands from Time Immemorial
- Settlers Arrive/sqilx<sup>w</sup>- syilx Culture Endures
- k'ək'mapłqs becomes Coldstream/sqilx<sup>w</sup>-syilx Voices Return

### B. Three sets of Horizontal Panels around Plaza (2 each):

- k'ək'mapłqs: A place for fishing and feasting/Loss of the Fishery
- k'ək'mapłqs: A place for gathering/A place for grazing
- k'ək'mapłqs: Gifts of the Seasons/A place for stewardship

### C. One vertical panel to summarize themes and how to visit interpretive site

## 2. Shade Sail Poles

- Similar to structures below but poles will be angled and brown, and sails will be sand coloured
- Sculptural art pieces could reflect the indigenous design inspiration



## 3. Site Sculptural Elements

- Beyond the plaza there are locations suitable for sculptural elements to support the design and story themes of the site, including grassy hillsides and hilltop locations

