

Oak Bay Seeks an Artist or Group of Artists to Paint a Piano

We are seeking an artist, artist collectives, or cultural organizations to paint an Arts Alive piano for the 2026 summer season.

What are the Arts Alive Painted Pianos

Oak Bay Parks, Recreation, and Culture's popular Arts Alive pianos are painted by local artists.

Past artists include Chris Paul, Gillian Redwood, Robert Amos, Jennifer McIntyre, Jim McFarland, Tanta DeStaffany Pennington, Jonathan Glead, Christine Gollner, Sherry Tompalski and Senior Art Students from St. Michael's University School.

Throughout the summer, pianos are set up in outdoor public spaces and are open for anyone to play between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. The pianos are located at Cattle Point, Turkey Head, Willows Beach, Loon Bay Park and Estevan Village.

This project was spearheaded between 2014-2020 by the former Oak Bay Arts Laureate Barbara Adams, whose vision and leadership contributed to making Oak Bay a destination for arts and culture.

<https://www.oakbay.ca/parks-recreation/programs-registration/painted-pianos>

How do I apply? What is the deadline?

To apply, artists or artist teams submit a letter of intent and portfolio or samples of previous work.

The 2026 application deadline is April 30.

Artist Compensation and Requirements

Successful artist or artist team will receive a \$500.00 stipend for their work. A reimbursement of up to \$500.00 is provided for supplies.

Pianos have been donated to the program. Each piano is slightly different in shape and size.

Key Dates:

April 30, 2026 – Deadline for expression of interest.

May 15, 2026 – Successful artist(s) notified.

May 30, 2026 – rough design/sketch submitted for approval.

June 1-27, 2026 – Painting / artwork application to the piano and bench.

June 28, 2026 – piano is moved to outdoor location.

July 2026 – an unveiling pop-up concert will be scheduled with the artist/artist team and local pianist.

Eligibility Criteria and Design Requirements

The choice of the concept and theme is at the artist's discretion. To be eligible, all painted piano designs must be non-divisive, non-denominational, family-friendly and uplifting to the community. The designs must respect intellectual property, trademark, product brand rights or symbols. Materials used must be resistant to weather (outdoor latex, acrylic, spray paint, UV varnish, etc.).

Please confirm that your design concept will fit these requirements.

Artist Name: _____ Artist Name: _____

Artist Collective: _____

Main Contact Email: _____

Main Contact Phone Number: _____

Letter of Intent attached.

Please attach a brief letter of intent. In the letter, please indicate why you are interested in painting a piano, what medium, method or surface treatment you intend to use and what theme or subject matter will guide your design.

Past artwork (please indicate/include)

Three samples of past artwork attached.

Link for website, Facebook or Instagram art portfolio _____

Do you/your artist team identify as:

emerging artist,

mid-career artist,

established artist,

For further information and to submit a letter of interest please contact:

Oak Bay Arts & Culture Programmer

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