

CALL TO ARTISTS – Artist Designed Mayor’s Innovation Awards Trophy

The City of Barrie invites proposals from local artists who work in the digital field or graphic designers based in the Barrie area to digitally design award trophies that will then be physically made by the Georgian College Makerspace for the 7th annual [Mayor’s Innovation Awards](#).

The Mayor’s Innovation Awards cultivates stories of strength, creativity and adaptation from across Barrie. These awards recognize businesses, individuals and organizations whose innovative approaches and sheer determination contribute to a resilient foundation for our city.

Local innovators are recognized in six award categories:

- Pivot Point
- Creative Collaboration
- Youth Innovator
- Research & Innovation Contribution
- Shift Disturber
- Municipal Innovation

Each year, a new artist or graphic designer will be contracted to design the award trophies, allowing the Mayor’s Innovation Awards to integrate and celebrate the arts community.

About the Georgian College Makerspace

[Georgian College’s Makerspace](#) provides an array of digital fabrication tools, electronics equipment and virtual reality technology in a communal area, where students, artists, researchers and other campus community members can freely tinker, design and prototype their ideas. This space allows for self-directed making, learning, exploring and sharing of ideas that drives continual discovery.

Artistic Considerations

This project will be a collaborative effort with another organization. The selected artist will be in charge of designing the trophy, within the limitations provided, and the Georgian College Makerspace will be in charge of fabricating the trophies with the finalized design provided.

We are seeking design submissions from a wide variety of artistic voices and welcome applications from all walks of life including all equity seeking groups. Artwork can be created in any medium but, if selected, must be provided as an Adobe Illustrator file or a Stl. File.

The designs should respond to the theme, ***Innovation in Barrie***, which will align with the award categories.

Innovation in Barrie flourishes at the intersection of art and business, with creative industries driving economic growth and cultural enrichment. Public art projects, like downtown murals and gallery spaces, enhance the city’s identity while supporting local artists and entrepreneurs. Businesses collaborate with creatives to integrate design, technology, and storytelling into a vibrant and evolving cultural landscape. This synergy fosters a dynamic economy where art and commerce fuel each other’s success.

Artwork must be suitable for public display (family and community friendly).

Past Example



Event Logo



Technical Considerations

- Maximum area of acrylic working with is 6 inches wide by 10 inches high by ¼ inch thick.
- Shape of the acrylic is up to the artist, however please incorporate a tamper that is ¼ inch deep and 3-4 inches wide at the base of your design for the piece of acrylic to be able to be inserted into a wooden base.
- Required to keep design to one colour. Exceptions can be made by glueing different pieces together i.e., you could have acrylic and wood working together for the design as long as you communicate how the 2 pieces will be attached together before mounting it the wooden base.
- Event logo should be incorporated into your design.
- Design will be etched into the acrylic, so please keep that in mind. Etching can be of logos, words, lines and shapes.
- Final design will either need to be submitted via an Adobe Illustrator file or a Stl. File.

Budget and Artist Fees

The selected artist or graphic designer will be compensated \$1,000 to digitally design the award trophy for the 7th annual Mayor's Innovation Awards. This provision is inclusive of the final design and artist fees.

Artist Selection Process

The selection process will be facilitated by the City of Barrie's Senior Business Innovation & Strategic Partnership Officer and the selection panel which will include a member from the Georgian College Makerspace and the City of Barrie's Public Art Coordinator.

The artist/ graphic designer will be recommended for commission based on the following criteria:

- Artistic merit, including quality of work, originality, and artistic excellence.
- Appropriateness of design in serving as a celebratory award trophy.
- Artist's demonstrated ability to meet the artwork goals and technical requirements within the timeline and budget.

Eligibility

This Call to Artists is open to emerging and professional artists and graphic designers residing in the Barrie area.

Submission Requirements

Please submit the following materials in a single PDF document (no larger than 20 MB) using this [FORM](#) with file name:

"Mayor's Innovation Awards Trophy Design 2025 (name of respondent).pdf"

1. Up to three images of the proposed trophy artwork: this should propose a concept, not a finished product, to show the selection committee your style and intention.
2. A written artist statement (1 page maximum) or recorded video (via online link) that contextualizes your artistic approach to the award trophies within the context of your artistic practice and the Barrie arts community.
3. Up to 3 examples of other relevant visual work.

Questions / Accessibility Concerns

The City of Barrie will answer questions on the application process and provide accommodations to applicants with disabilities. Please email invest@barrie.ca with questions and the nature of any accommodation(s) that you may require to ensure your equal participation.

Deadline for Submission

Received via this [FORM](#) no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, May 12, 2025. The City is not responsible for technical issues experienced by the artist.

Timeline

The table below sets out the milestones and dates for the Barrie Mayor's Innovation Awards. Dates are subject to change at the sole discretion of the City.

Milestone	Date
Competition announcement and circulation	Friday, April 4, 2025
Deadline for Submission of Design	Monday, May 12, 2025

Review of submissions and selection of artist/artist team	Week of May 26, 2025
Selected artist notified and agreement sent	Week of June 2, 2025
Updated trophy design submitted to City for feedback	Week of June 23, 2025
Final trophy design submitted to City	Week of July 7, 2025
Artist payment mailed out	Week of July 14, 2025
Mayor's Innovation Awards	Thursday November 27, 2025 6pm-9pm