



Position Title: Black And Free Commissioned Artist (3 positions available)

Application Deadline: May 22, 2024 at 11:59pm EST

Commission Duration: June 3, 2024 – September 23, 2024

Primary Purpose:

1. Create a new, original work of art on the topic of blackness and freedom in any form including (but not limited to) sculpture, crotchet, performance, visual art, illustrations, music, digital art, costume design, architecture, photography, or theatre. The artist retains full ownership of the new artwork.
2. Present the new artwork in-person and be interviewed in front of an in-person and online audience at the Black And Free: New Art event from 10:30am-2:30pm on Sept. 15 or Sept. 22, 2024 held at THEMUSEUM (10 King Street West Kitchener, ON, N2G 1A3). This event will be live streamed, recorded and shared online.
3. Provide permission for images of the completed art and events to be considered for publication in a book and/or art catalogue about the project published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press in the future.

Compensation: \$3000 CAD commission fee to create a new artistic work on the topic of blackness and freedom and attend one in-person Black And Free: New Art event at THEMUSEUM (10 King Street West Kitchener, ON, N2G 1A3) from 10:30am-2:30pm on Sept. 15 or Sept. 22, 2024.

Compensation includes:

- All materials, design, fabrication, software, sub-contractors etc. needed to complete the artwork.
- In-person attendance at Black And Free: New Art event at THEMUSEUM on from 10:30am-2:30pm on Sept. 15 or Sept. 22, 2024.
- All costs associated with transporting the artist and artwork to and from the Black And Free: New Art event on presentation date
- Permission to include images of the finished artwork in a future book and/or exhibition catalogue without any additional fee.

Eligibility:

- Applicant must attest that they identify as a Black artist and reside in Ontario, Canada.
- All ages and stages of artistic practice are welcome to apply. No formal artistic training required. If you are interested but are unfamiliar with submitting an application package



like this, we encourage you to email blackandfree@uwaterloo.ca with your questions and/or reach out to a family member, friend or someone in your community to assist you.

Payment Schedule: Invoice for \$1,500 CAD to be submitted by artist on submission of first draft and \$1,500 CAD after attendance at the Black And Free: New Art event on Sept. 15 or Sept. 22, 2024. Payment processing takes 4-6 weeks from invoice submission.

Commissioned by: Dr. Naila Keleta-Mae, Black And Free Principal Investigator and Associate Professor, Department of Communication Arts, University of Waterloo in partnership with THEMUSEUM and with funding from an Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence Grant from the Ontario Ministry of Universities and Colleges.

Ineligibility: Anyone who has worked with Black And Free or has been employed to work on a Black And Free project is ineligible.

Application Submission: Please email your application to blackandfree@uwaterloo.ca and use the subject line "Commissioned Artist Application". If you have any application or workplace accommodation needs, please include them in your email. If selected, the artist's application materials will be used for promotional purposes online and in print. If you have any questions, please contact blackandfree@uwaterloo.ca

Application Materials:

Please note, all materials must be sent as separate attachments (do not combine it all into one pdf):

1. Headshot: high resolution 300 dpi.
2. Biography: 100 words, include where you reside in Ontario and your pronouns.
3. Project Vision: 150 words, precise and clear description of the art work you plan to create and how it relates to the topic of blackness and freedom. Please include the specifics of your proposed project, for example dimensions of canvas, number of performers, length of video etc.
4. Resume: maximum 2 pages. This can include artistic and non-art-related experience. Include legal name, mailing address for communication and payment, email address, and phone number.
5. Portfolio: maximum 5 examples of previous art works as they relate to the proposed art work.

Commission Timeline:

July 8, 2024 - Draft Artwork

- submit a 100-word progress update



- submit 4 related images or short recordings that show the progress of the work and that can also be shared on social media.

Sept. 9, 2024 – Final Artwork

- Deliver final artwork to THEMUSEUM
- Submit final project vision (150 words. Include any ways the piece evolved)
- Submit 4 new images or recordings, sketches, and/or scripts of completed artwork
 - Please note, the final project vision and images will be used to create PowerPoint presentations that will accompany artists when they are featured at the in-person event in September.

Sept. 15 or Sept. 22, 2024 – In-Person Event

- Attend, in-person, the Black And Free: New Art event at THEMUSEUM from 10:30am-2:30pm and be interviewed by a member of the Black And Free team.

About Black And Free: Black And Free brings together artists, students and public and private sector partners. The project examines, through research, scholarship and art, what Black expressive culture teaches us about blackness and freedom in the 21st century. Black And Free is a multi-year artistic and academic experience for engaged, curious and casual members of the public. Started by Dr. Naila Keleta-Mae in 2017, Black And Free deepens, enlivens and expresses themes of blackness and freedom, projecting expansive visions of what that could be.

About THEMUSEUM: THEMUSEUM in Kitchener is a partner with Black And Free through collaborating on the presentation of public programming events that include new artistic works commissioned by the project and the project's research findings. THEMUSEUM's support includes space, staff support, and publicity for public programming. The collaboration allows THEMUSEUM to fulfill their "responsibility to consult, advocate, engage, and collaborate with communities to help build a diverse and socially inclusive world" in a period of institutional expansion.

Research Component: Due to the research status of the Black and Free project, once hired, all commissioned artists will be invited by a research assistant to be interviewed as part of the project's research study. Commissioned artists are not required to agree to be interviewed as part of the project's research study. Please note, this interview is separate from the one that will be conducted as part of the Black And Free: New Art events at THEMUSEUM.