

CALL FOR PUBLIC SPACE FELLOWS THE BENTWAY 2023 PUBLIC SPACE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS RELEASED	October 11, 2022
OPEN INFORMATION SESSION	October 25, 2022
APPLICATION DEADLINE	November 3, 2022
INTERVIEW DATES	November 24, 25, & 28, 2022
FELLOWSHIP DATES	January 16, 2023 – May 31, 2023 (21.6 weeks)

PUBLIC SPACE FELLOWSHIP

The Bentway's Public Space Fellowship seeks to address sector-wide gaps and ensure that burgeoning talent, lived experience, and a diversity of expertise help shape a more sustainable city for all. Acknowledging the limitations and shortcomings of existing processes, The Bentway seeks to provide a paid professional development opportunity that provides resources, support, and a platform for learning, generative exchange, and capacity-building.

Fellows will act across disciplines and engage in unique collaborations with urban space practitioners, creatives, and organizational partners to support new initiatives and ongoing research. They will also inform The Bentway's growth plans, commitments, and actions to deliver on its mission and core values.

2023 PUBLIC SPACE FELLOWSHIP FOCUS – PUBLIC SPACE, PUBLIC ART, & SUSTAINABILITY

Working alongside The Bentway team, and a diverse group of season partners, the 2023 Public Space Fellowship will explore the intersection of sustainability and public space design, management, and programming.

There is an urgent need to adopt a broader ecological view of our cities and engage communities in sustainable stewardship of our shared spaces. Expanded ecological worldviews can lead to newfound knowledge of place – an embodied interconnectedness – long understood by indigenous communities who have adapted to changing conditions over thousands of years. Using our public spaces, public art and public programming as a vessel of change, we are able to embed urban resilience into the complex forms and cultures of the city.

The Bentway has demonstrated how experimentation and new hybrid design thinking can transform the experience of overlooked and under-utilized spaces within the fabric of a city. This includes innovative approaches to landscape, wastewater, vegetation, light and air quality, and materiality that constitute a new texture and performance for urban public space. Over the next year, we will expand on this experimentation and evaluate The Bentway's current operational and design practices as well as our models for commissioning and delivering artwork and programming in the public realm. This evaluation will uncover new ecological approaches and ways of working and lead to new sustainable commitments.

Fellows will engage directly with, and support The Bentway's efforts to address the following questions:

How can we apply sustainable thinking and practice to our work as a public space organization? What would happen if we modified our approach to design, operation and programming in favour of integration, circularity, and social resiliency? What mechanisms, tools, policy frameworks, and funding models are needed to ensure a renewed commitment to sustainable public art practice?

CALL FOR PUBLIC SPACE FELLOWS

The Bentway seeks two (2) emerging professionals for the 2023 Public Space Fellowship Program. Fellows will work collaboratively as part of The Bentway team from January 16, 2023 – June 16, 2023, on a full-time basis. In their role as Fellow, they will engage in professional development opportunities 1) conduct independent research; 2) inform and learn from the Bentway's sustainability initiative, and 3) help shape public-facing programming related to the development of a public art and sustainability toolkit (more details below).

Reporting to the Planning & Design and Programming teams, the Fellow's tasks will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Independent Research Project - 20%

- Identify a research inquiry related to the intersection of public space, public art, and sustainability, with support and mentorship from Bentway team
- Synthesize research, insights and/or recommendations in a format of the Fellows' choosing

2. Support Bentway's Sustainability Audit – 40%

- Provide research support and contribute to development of an organization-specific audit of current practices, including design, operations and public art production

3. Planning for Public Art and Sustainability Toolkit – 40%

- Identify and engage with local and national institutional partners
- Lead the development of public presentations & workshops as part of The Bentway's 2023 Spring/Summer season of programming
- Support early planning for the development of a toolkit for sustainable practice in the production of public art

Prospective Fellows should demonstrate keen interest in public space (its design, operations, development, programming, artistic opportunities, and guiding policies) and be able to infuse their own expertise and enthusiasm into the process. Applicants are invited to outline additional and/or alternate tasks they wish to explore during the fellowship that complement the lines of inquiry noted above.

FELLOWSHIP BENEFITS

Hands-on Experience

The Public Space fellowship offers unique opportunities for direct engagement in public space and with public space practitioners through site work and over digital platforms. Fellows will benefit from exposure to the day-to-day realities of public space operations and programming. Please note that COVID-19 developments may change the nature of work on site and in The Bentway office leading to a greater reliance on digital communication and coordination.

Cross-Sector Learning

Fellows will have the opportunity to work closely with creative partners, peer organizations, community stakeholders and multiple City divisions during the duration of the fellowship. They will gain a firsthand look at how public and private entities and individuals actively work to shape the public realm.

Capacity-Building

Fellows will be invited to attend education and engagement opportunities aimed at sharing individual perspectives, building connections, and furthering collective knowledge of the unique health and safety and equity issues faced by a diversity of communities. These opportunities may take the form of roundtable discussions, working groups, information sessions, and more.

Professional Development

The Public Space Fellowship will lead to new learnings and relationships that will help the Fellow further their career objectives. The Bentway will assist Fellows in their future endeavors by facilitating new connections, sharing information about professional opportunities and new developments in the field, as well as offering continued mentorship.

Stipend

\$17,700 (\$820/week over 21.6-week fellowship period)

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must reside in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area and have a strong interest in working in public space, with demonstrated interest in equitable and inclusive place-making, public art, environmental and material sciences, sustainability, ecology, conservation, social sciences, or other related fields.

We recognize and value a wide range of experiences and expertise, both traditional and applied. Applicants are not required to have professional degrees in the above-mentioned categories. We encourage applications from individuals who are undertaking relevant community initiatives to engage in city-building processes of critical importance in maintaining or regaining the strength and resilience of cities.

The Bentway is committed to fostering a positive and supportive creative environment that promotes equity and diversity and will prioritize applications from persons with disabilities, Indigenous and racialized persons, women, and LGBTQ2S+ people. Priority will be given to BIPOC candidates, and other historically marginalized individuals who have valuable professional and/or lived experience in equitable public space development, programming and research.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Prospective applicants are invited to participate in an online information session with The Bentway team to learn more about the Public Space Fellowship Program. The session will take place on **October 26, 2022, from 12:30-2:00pm** hosted by The Bentway team via webinar.

We invite any prospective applicants to enroll for the session by following the link below

>>[REGISTER FOR THE INFORMATION SESSION HERE](#)<<

HOW TO APPLY

Complete applications must be received by no later than **11:59 pm on November 3, 2022** to be considered. Applications may be submitted at: <https://thebentway.applytojobs.ca/fellowship/16912>

Application Package Components:

- CV (PDF format, no more than 3 pages)
- Letter of Intent (no more than 2 pages), which addresses the following:
 1. How have your past experiences equipped you to explore this topic?
 2. What research areas are you interested in exploring?
 3. How do you think you would benefit from the Public Space Fellowship program?
- 1 letter of support from someone who is familiar with your experience and skills

SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals will be evaluated by The Bentway team, as well as external reviewers from Bentway partner organizations or peer projects. Successful candidates will be contacted in early November 2022 to arrange interviews. Accommodations will be made for any candidates who are unable to attend an online interview, either through a phone-based interview or by means of an in person, physically distanced interview.

Candidates who are not part of the interview shortlist will be notified no later than **November 23, 2022**. In an effort to support all applicants' ongoing professional development, The Bentway team will conduct a follow-up session **December 13, 2023** providing feedback on the application, interview and review process. The session will also highlight opportunities for continued engagement with the organization, including professional development events, trainings, as well as volunteer opportunities related to ongoing programming and operations.

PLEASE NOTE:

- All submissions are considered confidential
- The submission of an application does not guarantee selection
- The deadline for submissions is **11:59 pm on Thursday November 3, 2022**
- Successful applicants will be contacted in early November 2022 to arrange interviews on the following dates: November 24, 25, & 28, 2022 (no follow-up calls please)
- Should you require further clarification, have any questions, or require accessibility accommodation please email hello@thebentway.ca

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the land we are on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Tkaronto, “the place in the water where the trees are standing”, is now home to many diverse Indigenous people. We recognize them as the past, present and future caretakers of this land. We would like to pay our respects to all who have gathered and will continue to gather in this place. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work together to care for The Bentway lands and act as stewards of the space.

ABOUT THE BENTWAY

The Bentway works to ignite the urban imagination, using the city as site, subject, and canvas.

Anchored under Toronto’s Gardiner Expressway and guiding its complex future, The Bentway is a growing public space, and much more. The Bentway is a new type of civic organization: an independent charity and a not-for-profit, powered by vital partnerships with the City of Toronto, residents, supporters, artists, creatives, city-builders, and dreamers. The Bentway is a catalyst rooted in experimentation, demonstration, and regeneration; leading a creative movement to re-imagine the opportunities of urban spaces.

Phase 1 of The Bentway – under the Gardiner from Strachan Ave to Fort York Blvd – opened in 2018 and is already a vital public space, backyard park, cultural platform, connector for the western Waterfront corridor and a demonstration of what is possible.

Visit thebentway.ca for details about The Bentway’s programming and activities; and follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).