

DESIGN COMPETITION

WELCOME TO NELSON SIGNS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



Competition overview: Welcome to Nelson. The City's welcome signs are one of a kind. While beloved by many, the quirky wooden signs have reached the end of their lifespan and need to be replaced. Through the Province of British Columbia's Tourism Dependent Communities Fund, the City has received funding to update the signs. Because the Welcome to Nelson signs are the first impression of the city for both residents and visitors, it is important that they reflect our community. This competition invites designers and artists to submit their concepts for the replacement Welcome to Nelson signs.

How does it work?

The Welcome to Nelson Sign Design Competition will take part in five phases as outlined below (see 'Submission Requirements' section below for details about each phase):

Phase 1: Conceptual Design

- Participants submit a conceptual design including artist's statement
- City staff will ensure compliance with Eligibility Requirements and Design Criteria
- Design Review Panel reviews designs
- Up to 10 designs are shortlisted by an arms-length City Design Review Panel and entered into Phase 2

Phase 2: Detailed Design and Cost Estimate

- Shortlisted designers are invited to submit detailed designs, including a list of materials, where they are sourced and estimated cost of construction (broken down by material, labor, engineering, etc.)
- Participants who submit a complete design package in this phase will receive a \$1,000 stipend
- City Design Review Panel reviews designs and scores against Design Criteria
- Up to 5 designs are shortlisted and entered into Phase 3

Phase 3: Community Vote

- The 5 designs shortlisted in Phase 2 will be opened to a community vote
- The Top 3 Designs will be awarded a cash prize:
 - **1st Place** **\$2,500**
 - **2nd Place** **\$1,500**
 - **3rd Place** **\$1,000**

Phase 4: Council Review & Approval

- The results of phase 3 will be presented to Council
- If approved by Council, the successful design will proceed to Phase 5

Phase 5: Request for Proposals for Construction

- The City will issue a Request for Proposals to implement the successful design, including final plans, sourcing of materials, fabrication and installation
- The Designer will be eligible to submit a Proposal to implement their design

Key Dates

Date	Goal
July 16 th , 2021	Official Launch of Competition
August 6 th , 2021	Deadline to submit questions
August 13 th , 2021	Deadline for first-round submissions <i>If a satisfactory number of submissions hasn't been achieved, the competition organiser reserves the right to re-open and extend 1st round.</i>
End of August	Design Review Panel evaluates and narrows down to top 10 for second round
September 10 th 2021	Invite successful candidates to second round and submit feedback to them; the Design Review Panel may direct questions to entrants continuing on to the second round
October 15 th 2021	Deadline for second round submissions
End of October 2021	Design Review Panel evaluates and narrows down to top 5 for a community vote
Early November 2021	Community vote on selected designs
Late November 2021	Results from the community vote are presented to Council. Council may (or not) choose the top design as per the community vote
December 2021	RFP to award construction of the signs

Eligibility:

The competition encourages participation from local residents, but is open to all residing in Canada

Submission Requirements – Phase 1:

If you're interested in participating, please contact Sebastien at sarcand@nelson.ca for the application documents. The deadline for Phase 1 submissions is August 13th, 2021.

Applicants are required to submit the following in a single PDF file:

1. A one-page artist's statement;
2. An artist's rendering of the design

Submission Requirements – Phase 2:

Short listed applicants will be contacted by September 10th 2021. The deadline for Phase 2 submissions is October 15th, 2021.

Applicants are required to submit the following in a single PDF file:

1. Detailed design drawings outlining the dimensions and materials to be used for the design
2. A list of required supplies and a detailed cost estimate for materials and labor.

Design constraints:

As these signs are located on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's right-of-way, the signs will need to consider the "clear zone" as identified in Chapter 600 of the BC Supplement to TAC:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/transportation-infrastructure/engineering-standards-and-guidelines/highway-design-and-survey/tac/tac-2019-supplement/bctac2019-chapter-0600.pdf>

Evaluation criteria:

Participants should review the engagement report completed via ThoughtExchange to gain a better understanding of what elements the community feels are important to consider in new welcome signs.

The designs will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. **Embrace the natural setting and local resources:** the design incorporates natural materials like wood and stone. The materials can be purchased locally and are harvested with sustainable practice
2. **Keep it rustic, creative, and quirky:** that's what Nelson is all about. The word used by many is "iconic". How do we replace something iconic?
3. **Speaks to Nelson's past, present and future:** Natural heritage, cultural heritage and built heritage
4. **Legible, clean, and simple:** the signs are easy to read when driving by.
5. **Locally designed:** the designer is connected to the City of Nelson

6. **Constructability and cost:** the design is deemed to be constructible by local workforce without overly complicated engineering, meets best practice in construction techniques and is cost effective.
7. **Maintenance and upkeep:** the sign is intended to be permanent and must be structurally sound, low-maintenance, suitable for long-term outdoor exposure, and vandal-resistant. Maintenance requirements and a minimum 10-year (?) warranty must be provided.

Review Process:

1. City staff will review all submissions for compliance with the design criteria outlined in the Call for Submissions
2. The Design Review Panel will score each design individually based on the criteria. The scoring will be weighted as follows:
 - a. Design = 40%
 - b. Materials = 20%
 - c. Cost-effectiveness = 20%
 - d. Local'ness = 20%
3. City staff will collect score sheet and the top designs will be determined based on the highest overall scores.
4. The top five submissions will be put to a public vote using an online voting platform.

Competition Rules

1. Deadline to submit for the first round: August 13th, 2021
2. Participation to the next rounds will be by invitation only.
3. Submissions shall be in PDF format and sent by email. Files should not exceed 20mb. If your files are too large to email, please contact the competition organizer. All file submissions will be acknowledged by the Organizer within 48 business hours (Monday to Friday). If you do not receive an acknowledgment of receipt, your submission may have been caught in a spam filter and you should contact the organizer.
4. By entering this competition, entrants declare that the designs in their submission have been developed solely for the purposes of this competition and represent no infringement on any existing copyright or patent.
5. Entrants must be based in Canada.
6. Group submissions are encouraged (artists | woodworkers | fabricators | carpenters, etc.)
7. Members of the Design Review Panel and their immediate family, employees, employers, or associates are ineligible to participate. Current employees of the City are also ineligible.
8. No member of the Design Review Panel may assist an entrant or act in any other capacity to advise or aid an entrant in the development or presentation of their submission. Entrants shall not communicate in any manner with any member of the Design Review Panel regarding this competition prior to the public announcement of the results.
9. Any submission that is received after the submission deadline, is incomplete, or violates any provisions of the Competition rules or Terms and Conditions, will be disqualified. Upon evidence of any infraction of the competition conditions, the entrant(s) shall be informed, in writing, of disqualification.

If design entries do not meet appropriate standards, City staff reserve the right to not award one or more prizes. If a satisfactory number of submissions have not been received, the competition organiser reserves the right to extend the contest. Winners will be announced as soon as possible.

Feedback will only be sent to the winners. Competitors will be expected to maintain confidentiality and must not release their designs for publication, or identify the name of the successful or unsuccessful designers to any third parties until after an official announcement has been made and/or anonymity lifted. The Competition Organisers reserve the right to publicise the Competition, any design submission, and the result in any way or medium they consider fit. Illustrations of any design - either separately, or together with other designs, with or without explanatory text written by the Organisers or by the entrant - may be used without cost. Once anonymity has been lifted, authors will be credited and recognised in all associated media and publicity.

Copyright rests with the author of the submitted design, until and unless a prize has been awarded. It is a condition of entry that winners will transfer ownership of the design and plans to the City of Nelson.

The deadline for questions is August 6th. Questions shall be submitted by email and answers will be posted online on the project page at www.nelson.ca/designcompetition. The competition organizer is:

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Design Review Panel Representation

Diversity in the Design Review Panel is key to ensuring these designs are reviewed from different lenses. The Design Review Panel should strive to have representatives from the following sector:

- Cultural
- Sustainability
- Design
- Tourism
- Heritage
- Business / Economic Development
- Community