

# Gritty to Pretty ‘Picnic Table’ Mural Opportunity

## Project Description

The Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC) is seeking artists to design creative mural artwork for the tabletops of picnic tables that will be installed in three Downtown parks. A total of **five (5) picnic tables** require original artwork, creating five individual mural opportunities for artists to apply. Each year, DHBC installs painted picnic tables — including wheelchair-accessible models — at eight (8) locations throughout Downtown Halifax to enhance public spaces and encourage community gathering. For the 2026 season, five new mural-designed picnic tables will be installed in mid-June at the following locations:

- **Peace and Friendship Park** (2 picnic tables) - <https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/parks-trails-gardens/parks-outdoor-spaces/peace-friendship-park>
- **Grafton Park** (2 picnic tables) - <https://hmhps.ca/sites/halifax-memorial-library-and-grafton-park>
- **Raymond Taavel Park** – (1 picnic table) - [https://www.thestar.com/halifax/how-a-halifax-park-came-to-be-renamed-for-raymond-taavel/article\\_052b2732-8721-5322-bdba-f691dc41cf49.html](https://www.thestar.com/halifax/how-a-halifax-park-came-to-be-renamed-for-raymond-taavel/article_052b2732-8721-5322-bdba-f691dc41cf49.html)

While artists may propose artwork based on a theme of their choosing, strong proposals will thoughtfully incorporate imagery and design elements that reflect the history, character, and community connections associated with each park. Artists are encouraged to work in their preferred style and medium to create visually engaging tabletop murals that contribute to the vibrancy of Downtown Halifax’s public spaces. The murals will be installed on picnic tables that will remain in place from mid-June through late October, providing a colourful seasonal public art experience for residents and visitors alike. Please note that this initiative is not intended to serve as an advertising platform for HRM Parks or nearby businesses. Rather, the picnic tables will function as pieces of public art—designed to communicate meaningful, uplifting, and/or thought-provoking messages that resonate with the broader community.

## Picnic Table Specifications



*Figure 1: Image showing the assembled 6' picnic table.*

Dimensions: 6' (l) x 28" (w) x 29" (h)

### Special Considerations:

- Artist(s) will be provided with a fully assembled and primed picnic table, along with access to a dedicated workspace within the Scotia Square loading bay.
- Artist(s) may choose to transport the picnic table to their own workspace. If this option is selected, the artist is responsible for coordinating all logistics and covering any transportation costs associated with moving the table from DHBC's Scotia Square storage location to their workspace, and subsequently delivering the completed table to the designated park.
- DHBC will supply an anti-graffiti protective coating. Artist(s) are responsible for properly applying the coating to the completed mural to help preserve and protect the artwork.

- Artist(s) working within the Scotia Square facility must comply with all applicable policies and regulations established by Crombie REIT for the building and workspace.

## Artist Background

Artists of all experience levels are encouraged to apply, including:

- **Emerging artists:** 0–1 years experience / 0–2 completed murals
- **Mid-career artists:** 2–5 years experience / 3–5 completed murals
- **Established artists:** 6+ years experience / 6+ completed murals

We welcome artists from all backgrounds to apply. In an effort to expand the representation and diversity of murals within Downtown Halifax, we specially encourage artists from diverse communities to apply for this mural opportunity. This includes but is not limited to African Nova Scotians and other racially visible persons, women, Indigenous/Aboriginal People, persons with disabilities and 2SLGBTQ+ persons.

## Timelines and Budget

- **Selected Artist Notification:** Week of May 18, 2026
- **Project Completion:** Week of June 15, 2026
- **Project Duration:** Approximately 4 weeks

Artists are welcome to work during Scotia Square work hours (i.e. Monday to Saturday, 9:30am to 6pm).

If artist(s) would like to work outside of these hours, please express this request in your application. The

Downtown Halifax Business Commission will provide up to **\$2,000 CAD** in funding for the selected

projects. Funding will be provided based on actual eligible expenditures and excludes HST.

## Application Process

To be considered for this mural opportunity, applicants are asked to submit a completed Gritty to Pretty Mural Grant application form. The form can be found on our website at <https://downtownhalifax.ca/2026-2027grittytopretty>. Additional documents that describe and support applicants do not need to obtain property owner approval as part of the application process. The deadline to apply for this mural opportunity is **Monday, April 13, 2026, at 11:59pm**.