

**Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 20, 2015**

North East Transit Garage finalists announced

Edmonton - Six finalists for the North East Transit Garage (NETG)* public art call have been selected from amongst more than 140 applications. The artists are: Cecil Balmond, Thorsten Goldberg, Jacek Jarnuszkiewicz, Ned Kahn, Albert Paley, and realities:united. The public is invited to visit <http://svy.mk/1MDgk3X> until September 2nd to learn more about the artists and provide feedback on their short proposals.

In April, the Edmonton Arts Council issued a Request for Qualifications on behalf of the City of Edmonton, inviting artists to propose a signature artwork for the NETG. Responding to the stated project goal – to “create a highly visible contemporary exterior artwork that will define and respond to aspects of the site and facility contexts” – many of the artist proposals work with architectural elements, and integrate designs into the building’s form. The six finalists, chosen by a committee composed of community members, artists and project team representatives, are internationally acclaimed artists with extensive public art portfolios.

“We are excited by this enthusiastic response and the high calibre of the artists who applied to create artworks for our city,” says Paul Moulton, EAC Executive Director. “We hope that Edmontonians take advantage of this unique opportunity to explore the artwork proposals, learn more about these six world-renowned artists, and provide feedback on the concepts.”

The total commission is \$1 million for an artwork to be installed adjacent to the future NETG*. The call was issued in accordance with Edmonton’s *Percent for Art to Encourage and Provide Art in Public Areas* policy, which stipulates that one percent of qualifying construction costs be used to acquire artworks for publicly accessible municipal projects.

The NETG public art commission is the largest such commission in Edmonton to date (note that a significant portion of the budget will go to materials, fabrication, installation costs, professional fees, insurances, travel, as well as to local construction trades).

Due to the complexity and scope of this artwork, committee members, in making a final decision, will consider many factors including site and project suitability, budget, scheduling, feasibility, design excellence, and engineering, in addition to public feedback.

- 30 -

The Edmonton Arts Council is a not-for-profit organization that supports and promotes the arts community in Edmonton. The EAC works to increase the profile and involvement of arts and culture in all aspects of our community life.

For more information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Jenna Turner, Communications Director
Edmonton Arts Council
780.424.2787 ext 224
jturner@edmontonarts.ca

**For more information about the North East Transit Garage, visit edmonton.ca/transportation/ets/future-transit.aspx*