

Halifax Regional Municipality
Request for Proposals: Public Art
Halifax Common Aquatics Facility
Deadline for Submission of Proposal: September 19, 2022
Project Budget: \$170,000 CDN (exclusive of net HST)

The Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is seeking public art proposals to be integrated within the Halifax Common Aquatics Pavilion Project.

This is an opportunity for a qualified artist or creative team working collaboratively to design, fabricate and install public art for specified locations within the Halifax Common Aquatics Pavilion Project. Applicants responding to this opportunity may propose artwork for one or more of these sites. Submitted proposals do not need to respond to all of the indicated sites. The artist(s) budget for all expenses related to this project is a maximum of \$170,000.00 CDN. This budget includes any and all aspects related to the design, fabrication and installation of the artwork commissioned through this process.

An artist or artist team and their conceptual design will be selected by a peer jury process through a single-stage competition process, for an integrated artwork, commissioned and installed in relation to the Project. The artist or artist team will work in collaboration with the broader project team, comprised of the Design and Construction consultants and HRM project staff.

BACKGROUND:

We would like to acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The Halifax Regional Municipality acknowledges the Peace & Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory between the British Crown and the Mi'kmaq from 1752 to 1769 and recognizes that we are all Treaty People and have rights and responsibilities as Mi'kmaq and settlers alike. The Halifax Common, traditionally known as Kuowaqe'jk, is located in the Mi'kmaq District of Sipekne'katik.

The Halifax Common

The Halifax Common is an area of the city that is characterized by ample open space and important public institutions. The geographic area includes all the streets and lands from Cunard Street south to South Street, and from Robie Street east to North Park Street and South Park Street. Most of the open space is owned by the Municipality, and includes an historic cemetery, Victorian public garden, and parks with a variety of active, outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Some of the public institutions within the Halifax Common include the Victoria General and Halifax Infirmary hospitals, IWK Health Centre, Dalhousie University, Citadel High School, and the NS Museum of Natural History.

The Halifax Common as a defined entity came soon after Halifax was settled in 1749 as land was surveyed and reserved outside the perimeter of the original settlement. The Halifax Common was granted by King George III of England and formally recorded in 1763, "...containing the whole two hundred and thirty-five acres for a common for the use of the inhabitants of the Town of Halifax forever." The Halifax Common continues to be a central

gathering place in the heart of the Municipality and is a prime location to enhance the understanding and celebration of all histories within HRM.

Halifax Common Master Plan

The Municipality has recently approved the Halifax Common Master Plan as a guiding document for decisions relating to open space and public uses on the Halifax Common. The Master Plan considers open space across the entire Halifax Common district with policy directions and actions. It also includes design and programming guidance for the municipally owned open space lands. The Master Plan was approved in principle by Regional Council in February 2022. The Halifax Common Aquatic Facility is the first project of the Master Plan to be implemented.

The sections of the Master Plan that are most relevant or of interest to the public art call include:

- Vision, Goals and Guiding Principles – Chapter 3 describes the aspirations and values captured during the development of the Master Plan. These are the fundamental directions about the nature and intention for the Halifax Common.
- Section 4.4 Cultural Heritage – This section of the Master Plan provides policy directions for the cultural and natural heritage aspects of the Halifax Common, and includes directions for public art.

“Public art enlivens the public realm and can attract people to the Halifax Common. Artworks that are located within the Halifax Common should echo the narratives and perspectives of the area and the people of Halifax in general. Priority should be given to public art that reflects and embraces the cultural diversity and considers the geography and history of the Halifax Common.”

- Section 5.1 North and Central Common – This section sets out design and programming guidance for parkland improvements for the North Common and Central Common. The new Aquatic Facility is located on the Central Common.
- Appendix C: Archaeological Resources Impact Assessment – This background report provides a detailed historic background study of the Halifax Common.

It is important that all applicants review and understand the vision, goals and pillars of the Master Plan to help inform their conceptual designs and integration in the space and connection to the users. All documentation, including the Halifax Common Master Plan, guiding principles, cultural landscapes, maps and schematic plans and a record of past engagements and consultations can be found through the following link: [Halifax common master plan | Halifax](#)

STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION and ACCESSIBILITY

The Halifax Common Aquatics Pavilion Public Art Project will be administered in accordance with the core values embedded in the Municipality's Diversity and Inclusion Framework, which states:

The Halifax Regional Municipality values diversity and inclusion in all that we do, think and pursue. Diversity is more than race, ability, sexual orientation, language, gender or any other

descriptive category. Diversity means understanding and utilizing different views, ideas, life experiences, skills and knowledge. By recognizing diversity as a core value, we are laying the foundation for a municipality that aspires to accurately represent the communities we serve.

The goals of the Framework are reflected in the goals of this process, which include the development of:

- **Inclusive public service:** To ensure inclusive and equitable access to and benefit of, municipal services, programs and facilities;
- **Equitable employment:** To attract and retain a skilled workforce that reflects the diverse residents of the municipality; and
- **Meaningful partnerships:** To develop positive and respectful internal and external partnerships that contribute to inclusive decision making.

The Accessibility Strategy builds upon the Diversity & Inclusion Framework and Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act to outline 30 action items for improving accessibility and representation for individuals with disabilities. The action items are to be implemented over a 10-year period to align with the provincial Accessibility Act. These goals represent a call to action and recognition of the need to create a municipality accessible to all, regardless of physical, mental, or financial ability.

[Diversity and Inclusion Framework | Halifax](#)
[Accessibility Strategy Halifax | Halifax](#)

PUBLIC ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Halifax Common Aquatics Facility and surrounding area will be a programmed, highly animated active and passive recreation space with many people of all ages expected to use the facilities and the adjacent public spaces. Submissions should anticipate a high level of interactivity with the proposed artworks and should be designed to be appropriate for a high-activity, accessible environment with diverse user groups, including children and youth of all ages.

Works may be in any media as long as the essential durability and future maintenance requirements are met. Due to construction timelines and site constraints, water features and/or multi-media features that require upgraded electric, conduits installation or plumbing will not be considered.

The project budget includes all artist fees, engagement (if requested), required fabrication, installation, engineering drawings, construction of bases, installation and all other project costs necessary to complete the project.



Existing Site- Project Scope area

The 'key directions' of the Halifax Common Aquatics Facility Project are to:

- Redevelop the outdoor aquatic area, replacing the old facilities with a new outdoor swimming pool, splash pad, change facilities a multi-purpose room and public washrooms;
- Replace the playground with a nature play area that is inclusive of all abilities and incorporates more vegetation and seating areas; and
- Improve the park setting with more trees and vegetation planting, seating areas and public art.



generally indicates project area



Current layout from the Design and Construction drawings

Key features of the revitalized space

The new pool will feature a sloped, beach-style entry, as well as a barrier free lift to allow safe access for users of all abilities. The six-foot deep end will contain roped-off swimming lanes for lap swimmers and aquatic climbing walls. The pool will have the capacity for 450 bathers and the total area of the water surface will be 13,500-square feet. An exterior water plaza, and spray features will provide additional entertainment for users of all ages.

The pool change room building will contain universal (gender neutral) change rooms and washrooms. The washroom facilities will be accessible to all visitors to the Common. Large overhangs on the facility building will provide shade and shelter for pool users, summer camp groups and park patrons.

The splash pad will be replaced with a new water plaza that features interactive inground fountain sprays with lighting and sequencing that will provide a multi-sensory and interactive play experience for people of all ages. The water plaza will be surrounded with new park development with tables, seating, and benches under a grove of shade trees.

The existing Pavilion will be replaced with a new building with two sections connected by a breezeway. It will be constructed to be net-zero ready with solar panels on the roof and natural ventilation in the summer.

The Pavilion will operate year-round and will have a community space that can be booked for a range of events such as live concerts for youth, community celebrations, or recreation programming. There will be public washrooms open to all park users, a kitchenette, and a community room with a capacity of up to 100 people. The community room will include a portable stage and doors that open out into the park, allowing events to be held indoors or outdoors.

The new playground area will be an accessible, inclusive playground with natural play features and plantings. It will include shade structures, benches, and seating surrounded by new trees.

Landscaping will feature natural boulders, grasses, and vegetation reminiscent of Nova Scotia's coastal environments.

All documentation and plans for the Aquatic Facility can be found through the following link:
[Halifax Common Aquatics Facility | Halifax](#)

PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY AREAS (within proposed building program)

Based on the assessment of the proposed building program for the Common Aquatics Pavilion, staff and project contractors have identified **four opportunity areas** within the project scope for the accommodation of public art.



Conceptual drawings from Halifax Common Master Plan (superseded by Design and Construction drawing)

1. The pool fencing - the pool deck is required to be separated from the surrounding park and is an element that faces both Cogswell St and Bell Rd, as well as the new 'Grove' public outdoor area. It is in many areas integrated into the landscape, but there are many portions that are prominent and visible. The fence is required to have gates for public and operations access, as indicated in the plan, and is required to be 6' or 1.8m high, and cannot be climbable. The fence must meet all building code requirements and must be integrated into the overall construction timeframe in order to be in place when site is open to public.

2. The diagonal walk - the new connector between Cogswell St and Bell Rd runs between the new playground area and existing skate park to the north and the building to the south. There is a major public node created at the breezeway entrance to the facility. There will be a potential new public transit stop located on Bell Road, near the new park entrance created by this walk, and wayfinding for this new aquatic 'precinct' will be incorporated into the design.
3. The grove - a new public social space that contains outdoor space for both small and large assembly. The grove will be heavily planted with deciduous trees, providing shade and a sense of enclosure. Casual seating in the form of fixed benches and bistro-style tables and chairs will be found throughout the grove. A mix of hard and landscaped surfaces will provide a tapestry of textures and pathways.
4. Historic Freshwater Brook alignment – Freshwater Brook and the Egg Pond were once part of the natural water courses that historically ran through the Halifax Common. Aquatic recreation on the Central Common began in the early 20th century when Egg Pond was used for punting boats. The brook is now undergrounded in pipes that traverse through the site, and the Egg Pond has been converted into the skate park. (Not identified in image above.)

Applicants responding to this opportunity may propose artwork for one or more of these sites. Submitted proposals do not need to respond to all of the indicated sites.

The new building has been designed as a 'park building' that places the built form within the Commons, where it can best support a myriad of park activities, both structured and unstructured. The primary entrances to both the all-year Pavilion and the seasonal Pool Change Room buildings are through a breezeway that is at the crossroads of pedestrian and multi use trails that create new connections through the Commons from Cogswell St. and Bell Road. This centralized entrance brings day and nighttime activity to the heart of the Commons. The building footprint has been minimized to preserve precious park space, and built form is integrated with the design of the surrounding landscape to support and provide amenity to a variety of flexible and accessible outdoor gathering and social spaces.

The landscape design inverts the found condition of the site - a lawn surrounded by trees - and provides a rich, textured and varied landscape, in order to create both intimate and collective outdoor spaces that act as transitional zones between the park and its urban surroundings. A 'Grove' is created south of the building with abundant trees and seating. The splash pad is the centrepiece of this space and has been reimagined as a series of illuminated water jets with variable flow patterns; engaging to the young and old alike. The landscape design is integral to the experience of the pool, with a shaded wood decked lounging area and a grassy slope for basking in the sun both integrated into the pool deck.

The integrated architecture and landscape design points to a new direction of use for the Commons - increasing the density and variety of outdoor space and creating more opportunities for active and passive leisure. As the city fabric of Halifax becomes progressively denser this design also creates opportunities for those who may not have regular access out of the city to have the experience of being at the beach or in a natural landscape.

General constraints

Proposed artworks must:

- Be fully contained within the horizontal boundaries of the installation areas defined on the site plans;
- Be fully integrated into site/s and the construction process/planning be durable;
- be appropriate in form and content for broad public consumption;
- present no risk of injury (e.g. no sharp points);
- avoid confined and hidden spaces;
- not be flammable;
- not present a tripping hazard (be at least 900 mm high);
- discourage climbing;
- be vandal resistant and treatable with standard graffiti-removal applications, easily maintained and cleaned; and
- not create excessive noise and/or light trespass into surrounding buildings.

Coordination with Overall Project Delivery

Tender NRFP 21-164 Halifax Commons Aquatic Project was issued May 14, 2021 with the intention of identifying a proponent to deliver design services, the production of construction documents and construction services and contract administration for the overall project. The contract to deliver the project was formally awarded by Regional Council on November 8, 2021. Award NRFP 21-164 – Halifax Commons Aquatic Project, was awarded to the highest scoring proponent meeting specifications, Marco Construction Limited, at a cost of \$18,134,293 (net HST included). Pool and splashpad completion is July 2023 and total project completion is June 2024.

Per the terms of NRFP 21-164 Halifax Commons Aquatic Project the responsibilities of the construction contractor with respect to the delivery of the public art are as follows:

HRM has a public art policy which requires the installation of public art at this facility. The Owner will commission an artist to produce the artwork. The proponent will need to coordinate the installation of the artwork at the site of Work. If the construction contractor provides any utilities to the artist such as electrical, water, cranes, etc, the Contract will be amended through the Change Order Process.

The Halifax Regional Municipality will coordinate the artist(s) selected through this process with the overall project with the aim of integrating the artwork within the greater project delivery scope and schedule.

Estimated Process Schedule and Timeline

July 2022	Request for Proposals is issued
September 19, 2022	Request for Proposals closes
October 2022	Meeting of the Selection Panel
November 2022 – February 2023	Artist Selection; Detailed design phase; project development
March 2023	Design review, comment and refinement
April 2023	Design approval
May 2023- February 2024	Production Phase

ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

This process will select an artist or an artist team with the understanding that the selected individual or group will be required to work collaboratively with Municipal staff to successfully fabricate and install an artwork in the areas specified. The conceptual proposal submitted through this process will be critical in establishing the intent of the artist or team. However, applicants should understand that certain details of the selected artwork may require modification in collaboration with relevant members of the project team (including HRM staff and contracted professionals engaged in the greater Common Aquatics Pavilion Project) in relation to the developing aspects of the overall project.

This is a single-stage process. A peer selection panel will recommend the artist/artist team through an open call process. Once the selection panel has recommended a proposal and an award has been issued, the successful artist/team will be asked to prepare detailed concept designs based on the preliminary proposals.

- A selection panel comprised principally of local artists and art professionals will review the applicants' materials. Representatives from the design team will serve as advisors to the panel.
- The selection panel reserves the right to request additional information from any of the applicants to inform their decision.
- In larger scale public art projects, HRM retains the right to request a more fully developed conceptual and/or fabrication plan with specific details on fabrication, engineering requirements, materials and renderings. Through the initial peer jury review and in the case where a more developed conceptual proposal is required to complete the public art selection, candidates will be notified by HRM. A contract fee of up to \$3000.00 will be negotiated with artist or artists selected through the peer jury evaluation to provide the enhanced conceptual proposal, which will be due back to HRM within a reasonable timeframe specified by HRM.
- The panel will retain the right to make no recommendation from the submitted applications.
- The ownership of design ideas submitted with this application remain with the artist until a selection has been made and a contract signed. Once a contract has been awarded and the artwork installed, the selected artwork will be owned by the Halifax Regional Municipality, and images of the work may be used in publicity for the Halifax Regional Municipality. Copyright of the work and all intellectual property shall remain with the artist.

Per the processes outlined in HRM's Public Art Policy, proposals will be evaluated through peer assessment. The review process will be informed by a technical review of the proposals by HRM staff, where deemed necessary. The scoring matrix below describes how proposals will be assessed. It is important to note that only information provided through the application can be used in the selection process. Submission guidelines can be found in Appendix A. The Public Art Policy can be found here: Administrative Order 2020-001-OP, Respecting Public Art | Halifax.ca

Artistic Merit	• Overall quality of submitted past work;	35
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(Statement of interest, examples of past work, quality of proposal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional standing; • Artistic quality of submitted proposal; • Submitted proposal in relation to the design and function of the Facility as an active public space with broad and diverse community use; • Impactful and inclusive design that engages users and connects with the space. 	
Methodology and Approach (Proposal's suitability to the Halifax Common Aquatic Pavilion Project, and the centre's varied user groups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resonance of the artists professional practice to the architecture and design elements of the Project as reflected in submitted examples of past work and the conceptual proposal for the Project. 	35
Project Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant's ability to manage all aspects of this project; • Applicant's familiarity working with public agencies and on projects of a similar scale and scope; • Applicant's demonstrated ability to work to schedule and budget in a collaborative environment; • Applicant's demonstrated expertise in designing public art in an exterior and active recreation setting. 	20
Project Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated understanding of project management as it pertains specifically to the management of project costs, and the perceived ability of the artist to complete the project within the allotted \$170,000 and specified timeframe. 	10

APPENDIX A: SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Email all documentation as one (1) PDF document in portrait format, not to exceed a file size of 5 MB to: artgrants@halifax.ca

1. COVER PAGE – Please provide accurate contact information for the applicant, including mailing address, email address and phone numbers for the project lead (if submitting as a team), website information (where applicable), as well as the names of all collaborating parties.
2. ARTIST CV- Please include a brief bio and a resume outlining the professional experience of the applicant (not to exceed 2 pages). If submitting as a group, please include a resume for the project lead (maximum 2 pages), and brief bios for each of the participating members (1 page).
3. STATEMENT OF INTEREST – 500 words (or less) that explain why the artist/team is interested in this opportunity and how their practice relates to this project and the posted selection criteria.

4. WRITTEN PROJECT DESCRIPTION- 700 words (or less) that describe the project, including relevant project methodology.
5. VISUAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION*- A preliminary and well-developed visual rendering (or visuals) to inform approach to the site or sites as indicated. Concept drawings/renderings to inform the intent and direction of the proposed work. The visual description must clearly illustrate the scale, siting, integration and design of the artwork/s within the identified project areas.
6. PORTFOLIO OF PAST PROJECTS** - Digital image work samples – Applicants must submit a **minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 samples of past work** that best illustrate their qualifications for this project. Submit each image on a separate page, portrait format, and include title of work, artist(s), location, commissioning agency, date and budget. If submitting as a team, the team submits no more than 10 images.

** It is understood that the project descriptions received at this stage through this process will be PRELIMINARY and CONCEPTUAL in nature. Proposals should offer sufficient detail to express the concept and materials of the artwork and to offer the review team an understanding of how the proposed artwork will operate within the specific site(s) and in relation to the surrounding area. The selected concept will be further developed post-award in consultation with municipal staff and members of the project team.*

***applicants' examples of past work need not be of public art projects of a similar scope and scale but should exhibit relevance in certain critical aspects to the nature of this opportunity.*

Examples of past work need not reflect public realm projects of a similar scale (e.g. equal or greater budgets). Any past experience that reflects the applicant's capacity to lead the management of this project will be considered.

Applicants are not required to submit a detailed budget at this stage as the proposals are understood to be conceptual in nature; HOWEVER, proposals must include a scope and scale, methodology and a general understanding that they must be completed within the stated budget of \$170,000.

Format Guidelines

1. All supporting documents must be complete and strictly adhere to these guidelines and submission requirements (above) or risk not being considered.
2. All submissions must be formatted to 8.5 x 11 inch pages, portrait format.
3. Submission files must be 5 MB or smaller.
4. If submitting as a team, the team should designate one representative as the project lead. Each team member must submit individual bios. (See Submission Requirements)
5. All documents must be sent by email to: artgrants@halifax.ca and must be received on or before **4pm local time SEPTEMBER 19, 2022**. Please use the subject line: PROPOSAL: Halifax Aquatics Pavilion Project - [NAME]

PLEASE NOTE: Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed.

Questions of a technical nature should be directed to:

Lindsay Cory, Public Art Community Developer, Culture and Events, Halifax Regional Municipality 902.456.8384 or via email at Lindsay.Cory@halifax.ca

Additional Information

- The selected artist will be required to show proof of WCB coverage and \$2,000,000 general liability insurance.
- Please be advised that the Halifax Regional Municipality and the selection panel are not obliged to accept any of the submissions and may reject all submissions. The Municipality reserves the right to reissue the Request for Proposals as required.
- All submissions to this RFP become the property of the Halifax Regional Municipality. All information provided under the submission is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (NS) and shall only be withheld from release if an exemption from release is permitted by the Act. The artist shall retain copyright in the concept proposal.
- Extensions to the submission deadline will not be granted under any circumstances. Submissions received after the deadline and those that are found to be incomplete will not be reviewed.

Appendix B: History and Context of the Halifax Common



Watercolour (1842) showing Freshwater Brook running through the Common, looking towards Spring Garden Road

The following sections have been excerpted from the Halifax Common Masterplan, Archaeological Resource Impact Study, based on their particular relevance to the scope of this project.

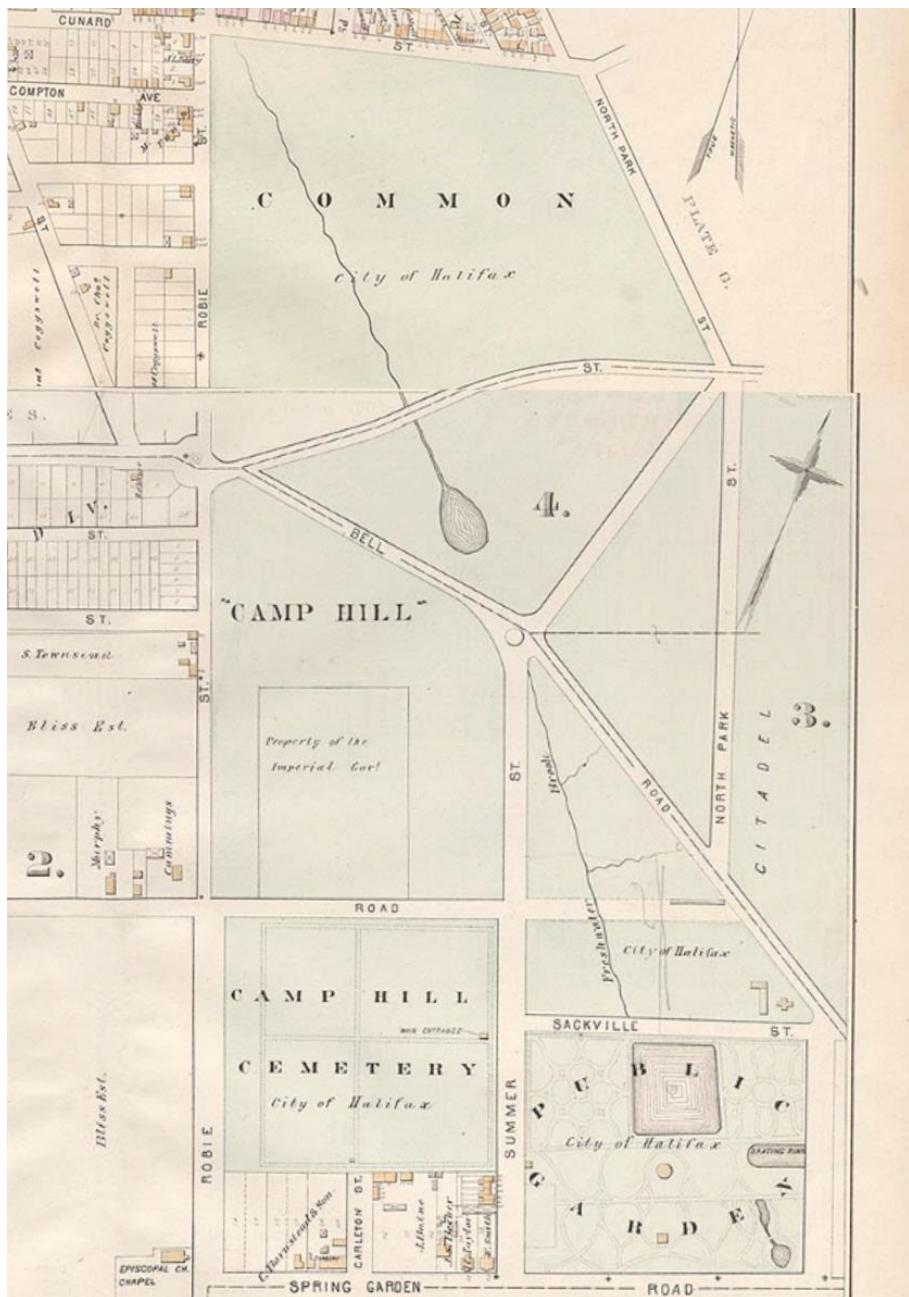
Nova Scotia has been home to the Mi'kmaq and their ancestors for at least 11,500 years. A legacy of experience built over millennia shaped cultural beliefs and practices, creating an intimate relationship between populations and the land itself. The complexity of this history, culturally and ecologically, is still being explored.

First Nations settlement on the Halifax peninsula may have been limited in the area now occupied by the downtown core, where the original topography was rocky and sloped. Other areas, such as the Halifax Common, were originally wetland and there is a tradition that Mi'kmaq hunted moose in these swampy areas. They also hunted ducks and fished in the watercourses available on the peninsula,²⁷ most of which have since disappeared through the development of the City of Halifax.²⁸ Where Citadel Hill meets the west side of Brunswick Street, historian Thomas Raddall reported that a "small stone adze of blueish slate" was found.

Specific reference to the Common lands also exists in the KMKNO's (Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn

Negotiation Office) research files and historic documents. Ruth Holmes Whitehead, former ethnologist at the Nova Scotia Museum, wrote that in the mid-18th century, the Mi'kmaq hunted beaver and duck at the Black Duck Pond (later known as the Egg Pond) on the Halifax Common. The Egg Pond is now the site of the skateboard park in the Central Common. In the winter of 1846-47, it is reported that the Tomah family overwintered at Camp Hill making baskets and quillwork.

The early cultural landscape of Halifax before the arrival of Europeans, and ever-expanding city development, was vastly different from what it is today. Encampments to seasonally fish trout and alewife would have lain at the mouths of streams that flowed into the harbour, and are now vanished under city streets. One such hidden watercourse, Freshwater Brook, flows beneath the North Common, through the Public Gardens and Victoria Park, down to the harbour near modern day Pleasant Street. Moose would have been hunted in the swamp that is now the Common, and wild duck would have been hunted in the boggy pools and lakes, of which only Griffin's Pond and the small pools in the Public Gardens survive. Much of the original Common grant would have been swampy and wet.



1878 map of the Common north of Spring Garden Road.

When the first British settlers arrived in 1749 and began building the town, what was to become the Common was a swampy wasteland situated outside the town proper. In 1760, the government laid out these lands for the perpetual use of the public and was intended to be open pasture. Though the Common underwent several changes and developments since that time, the land at the north end (what is now known as the North and Central Common) was reserved for the military and, with the exception of temporary barracks in the early 20th century, it was largely undeveloped until park improvements (including the aquatic facilities) were made and Queen Elizabeth High School was constructed in the latter half of the 20th century.

Much of the South Common north of Spring Garden Road was used as a public dumping ground up until the late 19th century while the area to the south of the road was slowly being developed, both privately and institutionally. Camp Hill remained largely under the purview of

the military until 1843 when the first public cemetery outside the old town's plot was established here. The remaining northern portion of Camp Hill was left largely open until the construction of the first hospital on the site in 1917. In the mid- 19th century, the Nova Scotia Horticultural gardens were laid out on what is now the Halifax Public Gardens.

Appendix C: History and Context of the Common Aquatic Site



Egg Pond, Halifax Central Common 1923

The particular area of the Halifax Common on which the current and planned aquatic facility sit was originally low-lying wetlands depicted as swampy, scrubby and poorly drained. The former Egg Pond was part of the original Freshwater Brook that ran from the northwest corner of the North Common through the Central Common to the large pond in the Public Gardens, then through Victoria Park down to the harbour near modern day Pleasant Street. Most of the brook has since been piped through the development of the City of Halifax with only Griffin's Pond and the small pools in the Public Gardens surviving today. In the late 19th Century the Egg Pond on the Central Common became a popular location for boating after the First World War. The pond's egg shape was defined by a stone retaining wall that was rebuilt three times pre-1897, c. 1898 and c. 1931. The pond activities were supported with two generations of a combination boathouse and canteen, the last one rebuilt in 1956. During this same time the Central Common was a popular children's play space with swing sets.

By the mid-20th Century, a public swimming pool and wading pool were built to the north of the Egg Pond. In 1968 the Central Common was improved with a new softball diamond, tennis courts and the Central Common Pavilion was built in preparation for the Canada Summer Games of 1969. By the 1990's the wading pool had been converted to a splash pad due to health concerns around stagnant water associated with shallow wading pools, and

the Egg Pond was no longer being fed with sufficient water and became a rundown concrete basin with a crumbling stone wall.



Halifax Central Common Pool, 1950s