Destination Stratford
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lights On Stratford announces the 7th Annual Winter Festival theme "CANADA: NORTHERN LIGHTS" showcasing artists from across the country**
*Stratford's international lights festival will focus this year's programming on Canadian art with a national Call to Artists for light art installation proposals*

**Stratford, Ontario, April 15, 2026** – Now entering its 7th year, the multi award-winning Lights On Stratford annual winter festival hosted by Destination Stratford will once again transform Stratford's heritage downtown and park system with luminous art and interactive light installations in the darkest and coldest part of the year.

The Lights On Stratford 2026/27 theme is ***CANADA: NORTHERN LIGHTS***, announcing an exciting season dedicated to showcasing Canadian artists, voices, and perspectives while continuing to celebrate the festival's international spirit.

"*We're currently living in a period of global instability and uncertainty, and yet the resilience, creativity and pride that Canada exemplifies is truly inspiring. Our aim this winter is to highlight Canada's unique spirit through innovative light art installations by Canadian artists,*" said Zac Gribble, Executive Director, Destination Stratford and Festival Director, Lights On Stratford. "*Canada's light art scene continues to rapidly evolve and Lights On Stratford is proud to actively help it grow further and faster with this year's theme.*"

Lights On Stratford is formally inviting Canadian artists, studios, and creative teams to submit proposals for interactive light-based artworks to be presented as part of the 2026/27 festival. The call to Canadian artists includes the following Request For Proposals (RFPs):

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- **MAIN FESTIVAL LOCATIONS – Market Square & Tom Patterson Island.** Selected Canadian works will be installed in Market Square and Tom Patterson Island, forming the core of the festival's public experience. These highly visible locations act as primary gathering spaces and anchor points within the festival trail. Festival organizers are seeking immersive, interactive, and story-driven installations that encourage shared experiences and invite audiences to actively engage with the work.
- **COMMUNITY ARTIST SPOTLIGHT.** Designed to highlight local Stratford-based talent and provide an accessible platform for creative expression within the festival, organizers are seeking small-scale, light-based installations that offer moments of discovery, play, and storytelling. Selected works will be presented indoors as part of the festival experience, with a focus on engaging audiences in an intimate and imaginative way.

"*We're thrilled to launch our Call to Artists for this coming winter season of Lights On Stratford 2026/27. Our seventh season will focus on Canadian artists, tapping into the incredible creativity that exists across the country. It's a privilege to bring those voices together in Stratford and create a shared experience that celebrates Canadian storytelling through light,"* said Kaileigh Krysztofiak, General Manager, Lights On Stratford. "*We're especially excited to collaborate with artists from across Canada and to help create a platform for growth and connection within this medium.*"

The Call to Artists RFPs for Market Square, Tom Patterson Island and Community Artist Spotlight are open until May 29th, 2026. Visit lightsonstratford.ca for more details, upcoming announcements, as well as sponsorship opportunities.

Prepare to be mesmerized this winter when interactive displays will light up nightly Thursday through Sunday from 5-10pm. The 7th annual Lights On Stratford is free to the public and set to launch on December 18th, 2026 until January 10th, 2027 (with a potential extension to January 17th).

Lights On Stratford is made possible through the support of its partners and the generosity of its community sponsors.

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For more information, please email hello@visitstratford.ca.