

2026 SNOW SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUM





Festival du Voyageur

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2026 SNOW SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUM

Dear friends!

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, to participate in our **Snow Sculpture Symposium (February 10-15, 2026)** for the 57th edition of the Festival du Voyageur. This year, Western Canada's largest winter festival will be taking place from February 13–22, 2026.

For over 50 years, the Festival du Voyageur Snow Sculpture Symposium has given artists from around the world an opportunity to express themselves through this medium in a spirit of mutual support and cooperation. This year, we are thrilled to welcome back the international community to our snow playground. Please note that this is not a competition or contest.

We invite international teams to submit proposals to participate in the symposium. Should you be interested, we request teams to send us a proposed project including a rendered image, description, and team members' information by **Friday, October 10, 2025**. Confirmation letters will be sent to the selected teams at the latest by **Friday, October 24, 2025**. Your application may be submitted either by email, mail or in person.

Please send us an image of your proposed project as well as a resume for your team members (one resume per team) indicating past snow sculpting experiences. Teams will be limited to 4 people. Please note that the snow blocks provided will be 3m x 3.7m x 3.7m (10'x12'x12').

We will be able to provide some financial assistance to help with transportation to Winnipeg. Local transportation, meals and lodging will also be provided (for the duration of the Symposium only). Sculptors will be lodged (1 hotel room per team for a maximum of 5 nights) at the Fairmont Winnipeg located in downtown Winnipeg just a short distance from the Symposium site.

Registration form and information about Festival du Voyageur can be found below. Should you require any additional information, feel free to contact us at (204) 237-7692 and/or by email: **sculptures@heho.ca**

We're excited to welcome you in 2026, and to our international friends, we are excited to see you again!

Ainza Bellefeuille
Director of Operations
Festival du Voyageur Inc.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Date and Location of the Symposium

The Snow Sculpture Symposium will take place **February 10 to 15, 2026** in Whittier Park in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada during Festival du Voyageur, Western Canada's largest winter festival.

Symposium Theme

Through the Frosted Window – explore the magic of transformation, where snowy surfaces reveal hidden worlds and new perspectives

Selection Criteria

The Symposium is open to all those who have previous experience in snow sculpting and/or sculpture. The teams will be selected according to the following criteria:

- The originality and visual interest of the chosen subject
- The utilization of the snow block provided.
- The physical and artistic qualities of the proposed sculpture
- Team members' experience in sculpture
- Previous experience in ephemeral materials

Registration Method

There are no registration fees. Each team must complete the following:

- A registration form completed with all the pertinent information
- A precise, rendered drawing of the sculpture or a clear rendered image of a maquette, and a description of the concept. (Photos of a scale model will also serve the purpose)
- Photos of previous sculptures (snow or other medium) created by the members of the team (please include dimensions of the artwork)
- A description of the experience of the team members

The registration form must be completed and received by the Festival du Voyageur inc. office by **Friday, October 10, 2025**.

Number of Participants per Team

We recommend that each team have a minimum of two (2) members represented by a captain and sculptors. We sometimes have additional volunteers available for teams who need assistance, please let us know in your application if you require volunteers.

Block Dimensions

The dimensions of each block are 3m x 3.7m x 3.7m (10'x12'x12'). All sides of the block should be sculpted, as visitors will have access to all sides of the sculpture. All blocks are formed with natural "Manitoba" snow.

Equipment and Services Provided by Festival du Voyageur

The sculptors must provide most of their sculpting tools. The Festival du Voyageur will provide a heated rest shelter, toilets on site and a basic toolkit for each team. We will also make available ladders, scaffolding, shovels and other snow moving equipment (mechanical will be limited).



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Electric and mechanical tools are prohibited. Sculptors should bring their own finishing tools. Water and snow are the only materials allowed in the construction of the sculpture. Ice will be permitted but not provided. No other support materials will be permitted.

Clothing

Winter clothing will not be provided by the organization. All sculptors are responsible for adequate winter clothing for the conditions including outerwear (jackets and pants) boots, warm socks, mitts and toques.

Insurance and Work Safety

Each participant must ensure they have proper medical insurance before arriving at the event in question and will be required to submit proof of insurance before the start date, to the coordination team. The Festival du Voyageur inc. will not be held responsible for healthcare claims, theft or losses or damages incurred during the event. Each participant is responsible for their own safety as well as the safety of the other participants and the public. A short safety meeting as well as a signed waiver will be required from each participant. The festival reserves the right to remove any sculpture that they determine to be a safety hazard, and sculptors are responsible for the safe design of their sculpture.

For Out-of-Town Artists

A travel itinerary must be provided to the festival, including dates, flight times and flight numbers by Monday, December 1, 2025. If this is not possible you must contact the festival with a time this will be available.

Symposium Work Schedule

A work schedule will be created in order to maximize the hours spent creating the sculpture during the five (5) days of the symposium. However, we ask all sculptors to respect the times for all meals and the work schedule will remain flexible allowing all to complete their sculpture.

Renumeration and Expenses Covered by Festival du Voyageur inc.

Travel assistance will be offered based on the distance of travel to Winnipeg and as follows: \$200 CAD for a team traveling 500km or more, \$400 CAD for a team travelling 1000km or more and \$700 CAD for a team travelling 2000km or more.

Meals and lodging will be provided. Sculptors will be lodged in one (1) hotel room per team for a maximum of 5 nights at the Fairmont Winnipeg located in downtown Winnipeg just a short distance from the Symposium site. The Festival du Voyageur will not be responsible for personal expenses. The hotel will ask for a credit card once registered for such expenses.

While in Winnipeg, local transportation goes to and from the venue. Local transport between the airport, hotel and Whittier Park will be provided and coordinated later prior to arrival.



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REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out the registration form with all the information, descriptions, drawings and send them all by **Friday, October 10, 2025**. Any registration form deemed incomplete may risk not being selected for the 2026 Snow Sculpture Symposium.

Please note: all the names of the participants must be identical to the names on their passports.

TEAM CAPTAIN FROM: _____

Name:	Date of Birth:
Mailing Address:	
City:	Postal Code:
Country:	
Telephone (home):	Telephone (work):
Email:	
Spoken Language(s):	
Correspondence Language: English	French
Allergies and Special Diet:	

SECOND MEMBER

Name:	Date of Birth:
Mailing Address:	
City:	Postal Code:
Country:	
Telephone (home):	Telephone (work):
E-mail:	
Spoken Language(s):	
Correspondence Language: English	French
Allergies and Special Diet:	



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THIRD MEMBER

Name:	Date of Birth:
Mailing Address:	
City:	Postal Code:
Country:	
Telephone (home):	Telephone (work):
E-mail:	
Spoken Language(s):	
Correspondence Language: English	French
Allergies and Special Diet:	

FOURTH MEMBER

Name:	Date of Birth:
Mailing Address:	
City:	Postal Code:
Country:	
Telephone (home):	Telephone (work):
E-mail:	
Spoken Language(s):	
Correspondence Language: English	French
Allergies and Special Diet:	

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PREVIOUS SCULPTING EXPERIENCE (INCLUDING SNOW)

Please include the biographies of the team members' experience and a portfolio (photos, articles, etc.) of previously realized sculptures.

TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF YOUR TEAMS SCULPTURE

Please title your sculpture and write a brief description and justification of your proposal. We reserve the right to modify the title and text for spacing reasons.

Title:

Description:



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DRAWINGS OF YOUR SCULPTURE

Please submit drawings of several angles of your sculpture including; front view, back view and $\frac{3}{4}$ view. Please remember the dimensions of the blocs are 3m x 3.7m x 3.7m (10'x12'x12') and all blocs are constructed **horizontally** and not vertically.

**Important dates and information are on the following page.*



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IMPORTANT DATES

- Application deadline: **Friday, October 10, 2025**
- Confirmation with participating teams' deadline: **Friday, October 24, 2025**
- Arrivals in Winnipeg: **Tuesday, February 10, 2026**
- Snow Sculpting Symposium: **February 10-15, 2026**
- Departures from Winnipeg: **Sunday, February 15, 2026**
- Festival du Voyageur: **February 13–22, 2026**

Please send your completed registration form with portfolios and drawings to the following addresses:

**Festival du Voyageur inc.
233 Provencher Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2H 0G4 CANADA
Attention: Ainza Bellefeuille**

You may also send your documents by email to **sculptures@heho.ca**

We thank you for your submissions to our Snow Sculpture Symposium. Please note only the selected teams will receive a letter of confirmation. Good luck and hope to see you soon!

Merci and HÉHO,

Ainza Bellefeuille
Director of Operations
Festival du Voyageur inc.



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