



HUB PROJECT

Princess Street sidewalk sculpture project



The enclosed information is intended to serve as a resource to help assist the shortlisted artists in their creation of their proposal, and to provide information that may assist in the selection of materials, fabrication and installation methods.

There will be an opportunity for the shortlisted proponents to attend a site visit and information session in Kingston. This site visit will include an opportunity to ask City of Kingston staff questions about the site itself, technical and engineering related questions.

A Project Context

In the summer of 2018, the City of Kingston launched The Hub Project as a targeted public engagement initiative intended to connect neighbourhoods through art by making a series of creative improvements to the intersection of Princess and Division Streets in downtown Kingston, a nexus where multiple neighbourhoods meet. This project was prompted, in part, by a funding opportunity made available through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Main Street Revitalization Initiative and it also aligns with Kingston's Downtown Action Plan, approved in 2004, that identified the intersection at Princess and Division Streets as a gateway to downtown Kingston.

Kingston worked with the Crazy Dames (now Process) as urban planning consultants to facilitate a series of public engagement sessions that sought input and ideas regarding themes as well as types of public art that could be integrated into the intersection. The City engaged with over 350 local community members and stakeholders to determine themes and types of public art to the intersection of Princess and Division Streets.

A summary of the recommendations from the public engagement can be found online through the City of Kingston website: The Hub Project: What We Heard. The Princess Street Sidewalk Public Art Project is part of Phase I of The Hub Project's that seeks to incorporate public art interventions in the public realm (at-grade and community driven) to respond to the desire for community gathering spaces and interactions.



B Site and Risk Considerations

The art work will be installed across four re-purposed flag pole footings. Please refer to the attached document for specs on the footing and poles, for reference. The footings are currently installed, and have protective bollards in place.

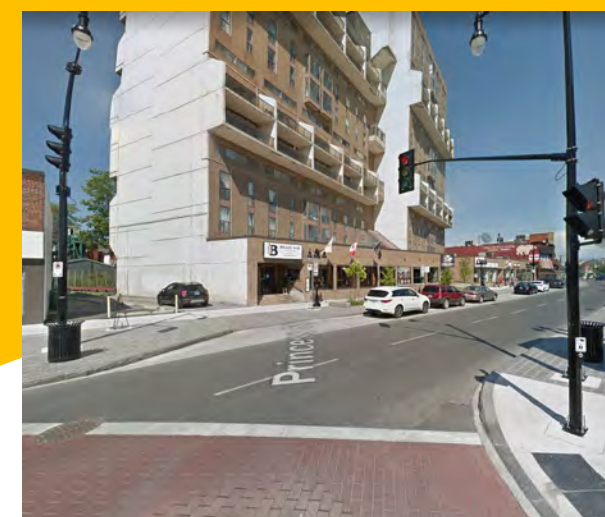
The artwork may be three-dimensional and be either a singular work or a multi-piece installation that leverages the four footings that run along the sidewalk. The footing locations run along Princess Street to Division Street and are embedded in the sidewalk. They are adjacent to store windows, urban garden beds, parking meters and bike racks. This intersection has heavy pedestrian, cycle and car traffic. Please consider road and sidewalk traffic and flow, as well as traffic signal and road visibility.

The proposed work should take into consideration the energy of the site and the action of the surrounding intersection when selecting materials and finishes. Anti-graffiti measures are encouraged, as well as materials that can withstand scuffs and bangs.

The shortlisted proposals will be reviewed by the Interdepartmental Public Art Working Group with the above considerations in mind. Artists will have the opportunity receive feedback, ask and answer questions and incorporate any desired changes into their work before submitting the final proposal.



Birdseye of locations



Streetview of locations

C The Artwork Site and Considerations

The area of Princess and Division Streets encompasses a unique character and eclectic landscape that embraces diversity, history and an active nightlife culture. The area, commonly known as “The Hub” draws students in year after year. The strip, which runs a short distance from the intersection of Princess and Division Streets mixes the commercial and residential and is home to a collection of clubs, pubs, live music venues, record stores, restaurants and a grocery store as well as Princess Towers, a concrete and brick residential structure built in the 1970s in the Brutalist architectural style.

Princess Towers, which has a significant presence in the area due to its size and architecture, was initially conceived and developed by Queen’s University students as an alternative, communal living residence with the motto “where the ‘they’ is ‘you’ and the rules are your own”, and symbolically named “Elrond College” after the half-elven character in J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. The Elrond College project was daring and ambitious, but short lived. Today, Princess Towers still provides student housing but is privately owned.

The permanent public artwork to be commissioned will consider and respond to the area’s counterculture history, engage in a discourse with Princess Towers and reflect the energy of the dynamic social scene for which “The Hub” is known.

The artwork should be conceptually and visually innovative and challenge the viewer to engage with it and have the power to inspire residents and visitors for years to come. The artwork is also expected to respond creatively to the input received as part of the public consultation that was done in connection to The Hub Project.

The artwork will be located on an extended sidewalk within the right of way on the north side of Princess Street, Kingston’s main downtown street. The sidewalk was upgraded in 2018 with interlocking pavers and garden beds and features four (4) footings that were engineered to support a broad range of elements, including columns, poles, pedestals, platforms and anchors for public art projects but can be modified or removed if needed.

The artwork may be three-dimensional and be either a singular work or a multi-piece installation that leverages the four footings that run along the sidewalk. For this project, the City of Kingston welcomes proposals from artists and artist teams working in different materials and that may include light-based and/or digital technologies.

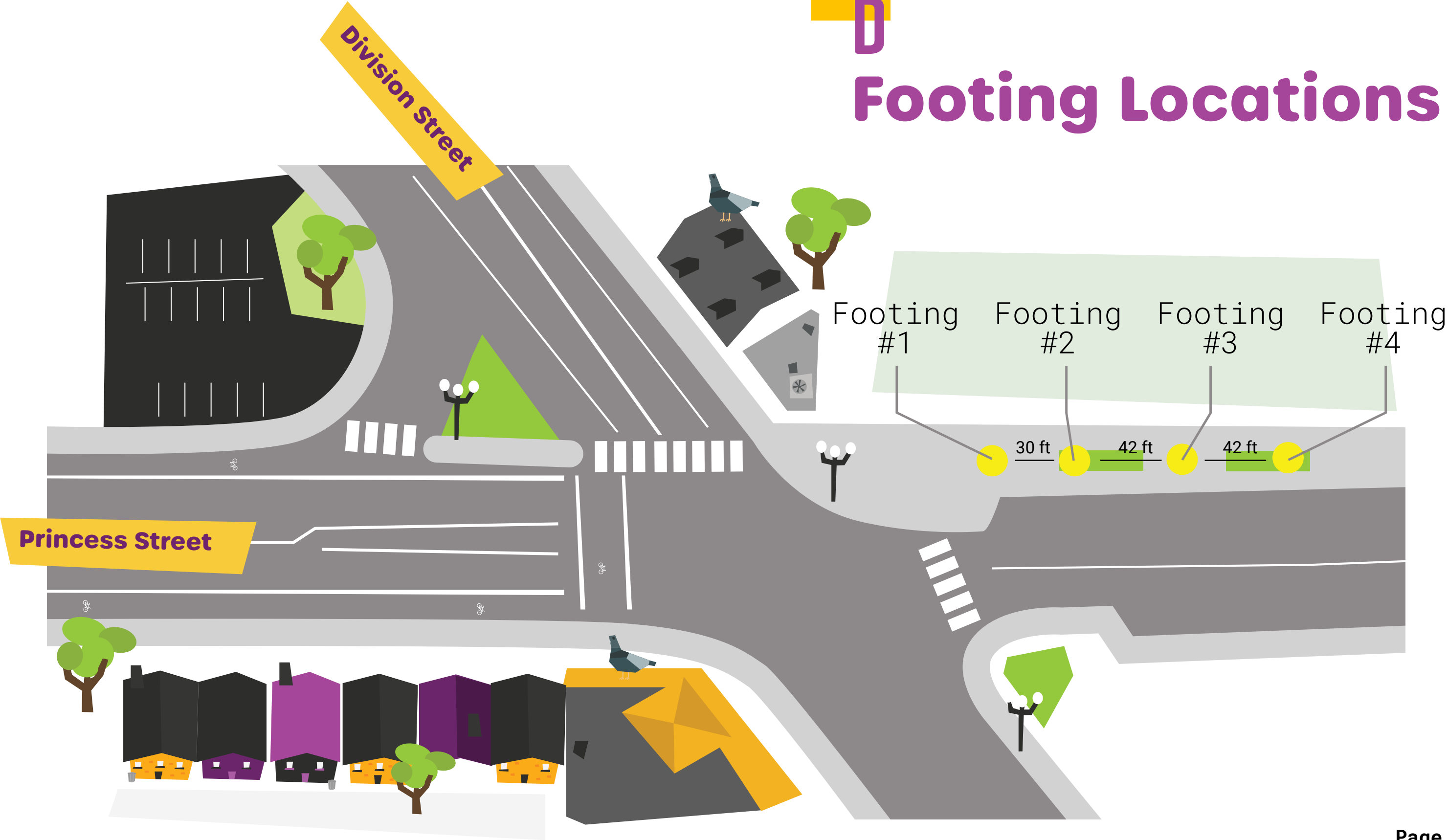
Artists who are shortlisted for this competition will be asked to submit proposals that adapt to these considerations: geographic location and architecture; an area in Kingston that is primarily known as the core hub for nightlife that is utilized by students; close proximity to Princess Towers, a notable architectural building in Kingston; gateway to downtown Kingston; a nexus that connects three different neighbourhoods in Kingston including Sydenham, Williamsville and King’s Town; and durability and safety.



Princess Towers



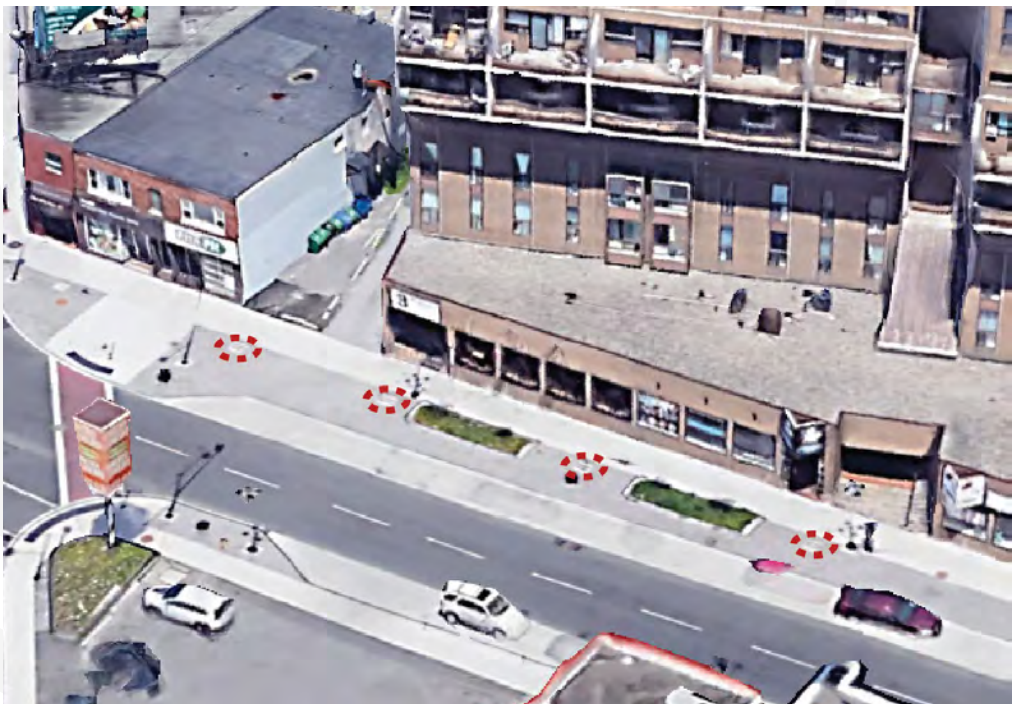
Footing Locations





Photograph of footings located along Princess Street

E Flag Footings

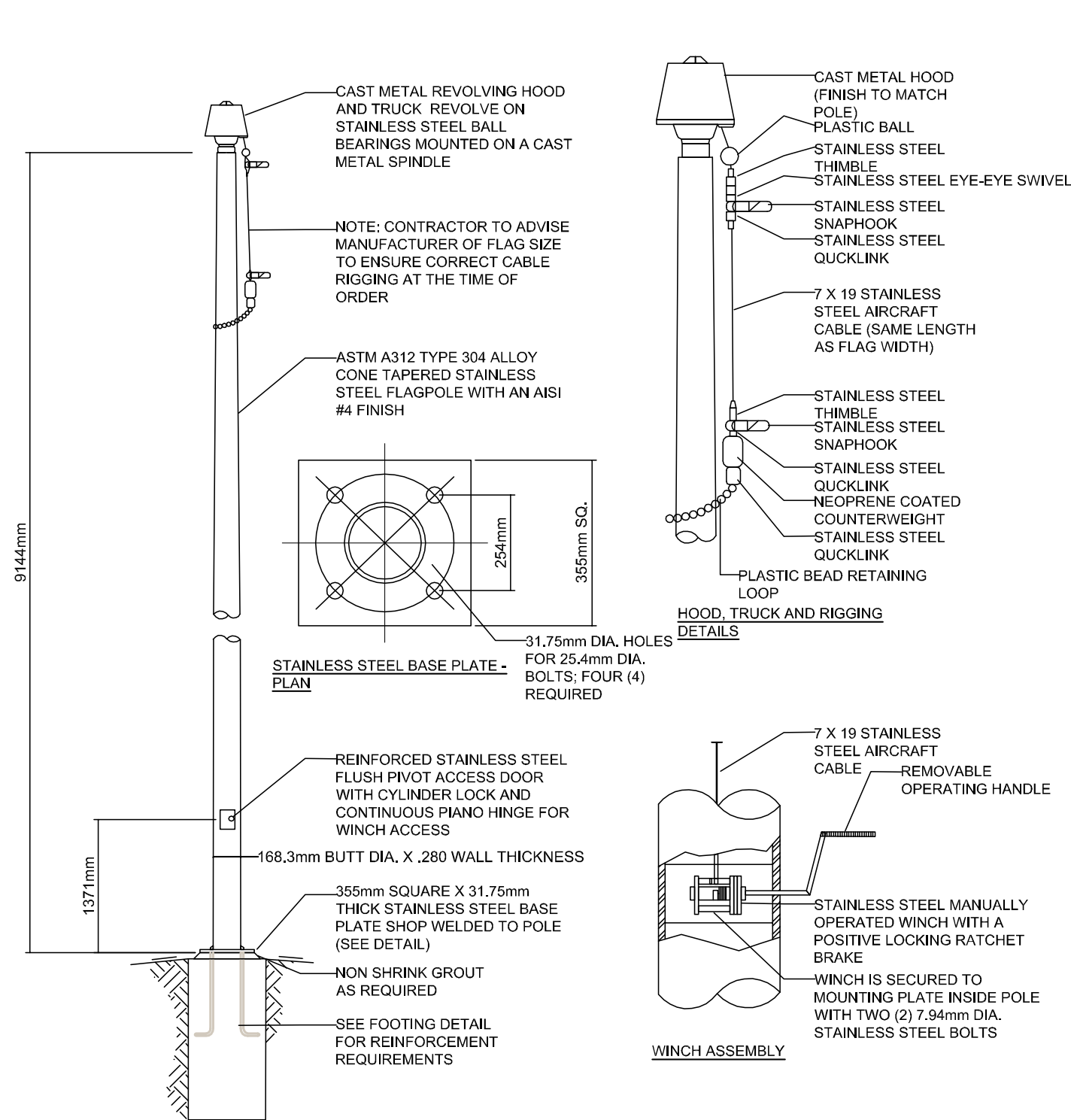


Birdseye view of footing locations along Princess Street

The selected artwork will be installed on re-purposed flagpole bases that were recently installed during the completion of the renovations to The Hub. Ensure your proposal can be installed using this existing base infrastructure. It is recommended that submissions include either a completed or planned engineer review of the proposed mounting structure.

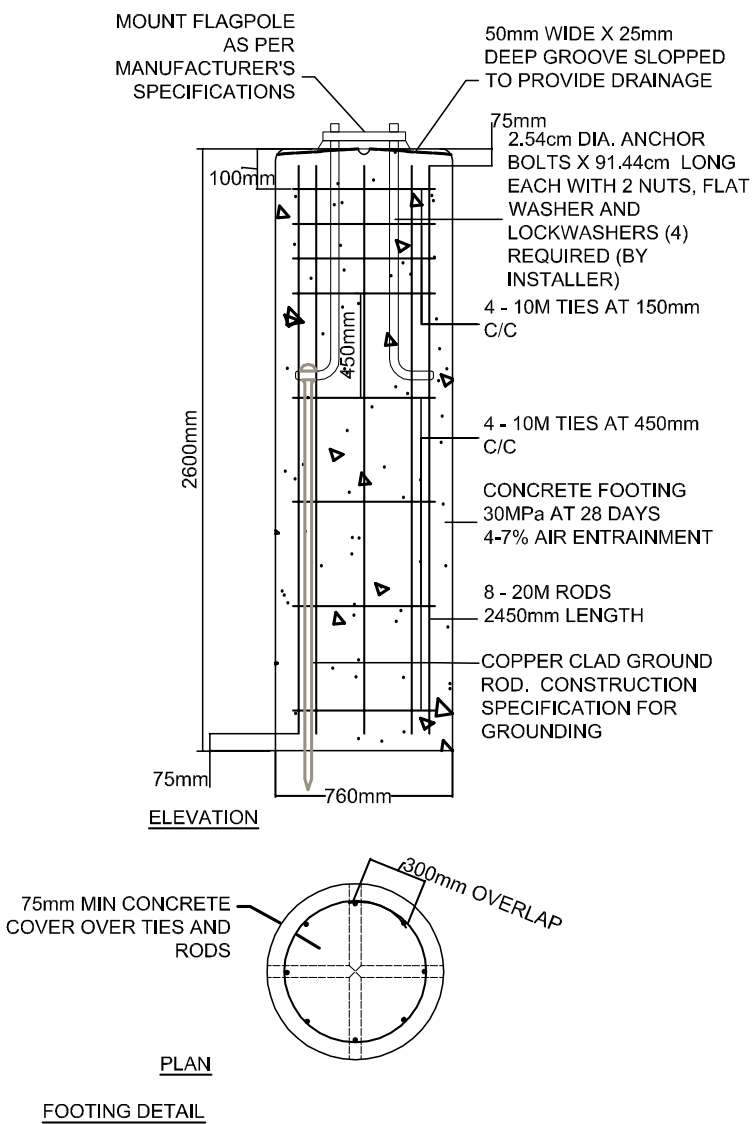


Design, Fabrication and Installation Considerations



DETAIL: TYPICAL STAINLESS STEEL TAPERED FLAG POLE

N.T.S.



DETAIL: FLAGPOLE FOOTING

N.T.S.

- NOTES**
1. INSTALL FLAGPOLE PER MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS.
 2. CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE SHOP DRAWINGS FOR FLAGPOLE BASE PLATE MOUNTING AND FOOTING STAMPED BY A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER OF ONTARIO FOR APPROVAL.
 3. CA TO APPROVE FINAL LOCATION OF FLAGPOLES PRIOR TO PERMANENT INSTALLATION



More Info

For more information on the history of Princess Towers, please visit the following links:

Queen’s Journal:

www.queensjournal.ca/story/2018-10-18/history/how-a-1960s-queens-student-utopia-fell-from-grace/

Queen’s University Encyclopedia:

www.queensu.ca/encyclopedia/p/princess-towers

Contact:

Taylor Norris, Public Art Coordinator

TNorris@CityofKingston.ca