

# Public Sculpture Drives Climate Change Adaption

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Arch of Time, Land Art Generator artwork by Riccardo Mariano.  
COURTESY Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI)

Imagine yourself at the foot of a massive work of public art installed in north end Halifax, marveling at its scale and futuristic design. Now imagine this extraordinary landmark has the engineering capacity to generate clean energy. What use do you envision for this renewable power? Coastal erosion or sea level rise mitigation? Servicing dwelling solutions for our unhoused neighbours? This reality may be closer than you think.

Enter the newly formed Society for Art, Land and Tide, or SALT. The local SALT organization is developing an exciting collaboration with the Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGi), a global brand that promotes sustainable energy solutions through design competitions, resulting in concepts for public monuments to the abundant possibilities of a future beyond fossil fuel extraction.

LAGi's American co-founders, Robert Ferry and Elizabeth Monoian, have hosted open-call design competitions for innovative works that marry public art and energy-producing infrastructure at sites around the world since 2009: United Arab Emirates, New York City, Copenhagen, Melbourne, Abu Dhabi, Manheim and Fly Ranch at the Burning Man site in Nevada. LAGi's exceptional work has resulted in over 1,500 designs from teams in 80 countries. Several winning designs have been constructed on site; other project concepts have been widely exhibited virtually.

The Arch of Time, the Berlin-based architect Riccardo Mariano's LAGi prize-winning concept, is a permanent solar photovoltaic sculpture and time-measuring device that will offer public park-goers in Houston, Texas a magical light display running each hour within a shaded outdoor space. Additionally, this artwork aims to generate 400,000 kWh of solar energy each year, which is earmarked to power an entire underserved neighbourhood. Construction is currently underway.

## TAKE ACTION

To learn more about the Society for Art, Land and Tide (SALT) and the Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI), visit their websites at [artlandtide.com](http://artlandtide.com) and [landartgenerator.org](http://landartgenerator.org).

SALT is proposing the *LAGi Halifax (Kjipuktuk) 2026* project, an international design competition for public art and sustainable engineering infrastructure concepts designed for a specific site in the north end of Halifax. A first for Canada, this ambitious project's goal is to engage the site partner in a meaningful consultation process towards the creation of a design brief, then open the competition up to the world's best designers. Each design team will be asked to bring together the disciplines of public art, urban planning, creative placemaking, renewable energy and environmental justice.

SALT will actively encourage the engagement of local design teams; local and international judges will choose the final prize winner from a small group of semi-finalists. Any team can win, but the chosen LAGi design must directly benefit the Halifax site and wider community according to the design brief.

SALT's goal in hosting a LAGi project in Halifax is to galvanize the local public to consider placemaking, art and creative design practice as key factors in renewable energy infrastructure. Another priority of the project is to facilitate pathways to address the historical lack of diversity in local environmental and design sectors.

Ultimately, through *LAGi Halifax (Kjipuktuk) 2026*, SALT aims to forge an indelible connection between public art and the sustainable energy infrastructure that our city - and our world - need now.

**Lisa** (she/her) is a co-founder and director of SALT, the Society for Art, Land and Tide.