

Nuit Blanche Toronto

Independent Project and Open Call Programs

Q&A

ELIGIBILITY

Question: Can an emerging artist be selected for the Open Call program?

Emerging can be defined in many ways. We understand artists who are established in one field may wish to try branching out into another medium or field of creation. We would like to know why you believe you can successfully present the project you're proposing for Nuit Blanche and welcome applications from artists with varying levels of professional practice.

Question: Is prior presentation experience an asset or required?

Prior presentation experience in the public realm is not a requirement, but it's an asset. We are going to look at your past artistic experience working in the scale and scope you're proposing.

Question: Is this open to curators and programmers?

Yes, but you will need to describe all the work/artists you are going to include in the project. The application would need to describe what we can anticipate the project will look like with the artists you are curating. Challenging as part of the Open Call program, since there are curators already siting work within their exhibition area. Budget also won't increase even if you're bringing in more artists.

Question: Can you apply to both the Independent Project and Open Call program?

Yes! You can definitely apply to both programs and we encourage you do so if you're confident you can present in either program stream. Please keep in mind the City of Toronto fee/funding is different for either program, so your project will need to reflect that in your budget and proposal. We will also only accept the project into one program.

Question: Are artists that are not in the City eligible for the Independent Project program?

As long as one of the lead artists are a Toronto-based artist.

BUDGETING

Question: What costs are factored into the budget? Is there a budget template?

Below is an image of what you will find in the application.

Expenses (fill in any/all that apply)	
	Amount (\$)
Artist Fees	
Curatorial Fees	
Materials / Production	
Permits / Venue Rental Fees	
Equipment Rental	
Administrative Costs	
Project Infrastructure (ex. barricades; stanchions; wayfinding devices)	
Paid Staff: Performers/Facilitators	
Staffing: Installation/AV Technicians	
Staffing: Security / Crowd Management	
Installation/AV Technicians	
Transportation	

Would travel costs & transportation of any parts of the work come under the production costs?

Yes, you will need to capture any transportation costs related to moving materials or the project piece in the \$15,000 budget.

Question: So, expenses cannot exceed \$15k? So for open call we cannot seek alternative funding besides what Nuit Blanche provides?

No, you can definitely seek additional funding for both program streams. However, propose your project within the \$15,000 budget and very briefly describe how you can add to it with additional funding. It's always easier to scale up a project if you receive more money than scale down.

Question: Which grants are linked to Nuit Blanche?

We encourage you to speak to a granting officer at one of the following granting bodies to see what's available: [TAC](#), [OAC](#), [CAC](#). Don't limit yourself to just these public sources, look at private sources as well. Remember, Arts councils are there to support artists; reach out to the granting bodies who can discuss where your project may be eligible for funding.

Budgeting notes:

- As an Open Call, some things outside of the \$15,000.00 that city covers are permit fees and security costs because they're covered in the overall exhibition costs.
- If you're looking for payment guidelines for performers you can check out CARFAC, CADAC, and similar organizations for going rates and best practices.

- The City of Toronto only covers General Liability Insurance, not insurance for the project itself.
- The Budget breakdown is a guideline, not locked in stone. As an Open Call project the City of Toronto may move things around to make the budget work within the \$15,000.00. As an Independent Project, please capture the budget to the best of your abilities so you're not short of significant funding when the time comes to create the project.

LOCATION SITING/VENUES

Question: What's the venue matching process with the IP program?

We will discuss this in greater detail during our Independent Project Orientation at the end of February. We will do our best to match you with venues who have volunteered to host IPs free of charge, however, options may be limited and a site is not guaranteed.

Question: Do we need to contact the preferred site before the application?

Connecting with a venue is always ideal; however, you can also present the venue as a best case scenario (Plan A) and explain why that space or a similar space is the ideal location for the project.

Question: how early can we start to set up if the site we've chosen is one of the Nuit Blanche road closure areas, like a sidewalk or in the middle of the road?

Depends on the project and City closure timelines. You will have a better idea closer to the festival, but as an Independent Project don't anticipate longer than the morning of the festival.

Location notes:

- Open Call applicants, keep in mind curators will be siting projects following selection.
- Extended artworks- Open Calls are eligible for an extension, so it's possible their work may be extended at the discretion of the artistic director and City team. Independent Projects are not eligible for an extended viewing unless arranged with their venue separately.

GENERAL

Question: Can we propose projects that require audience participation?

Absolutely. Engaging the audience is great and a major part of our mandate. We want people to engage with your project. Nuit is a great platform for a participatory project. Ask yourself: what is the invitation to the audience? Is it clear? Is it safe? Do they understand how they should engage in the piece?

Question: Who keeps the artwork at the end of the festival?

Artists keep the artwork. The City doesn't own the work.

Question: Can we submit work that has been previously created but not yet exhibited?

Yes!

Question: Can we submit work that has already been exhibited?

Yes, although we ask the work be reworked for Nuit Blanche and that it does not exhibit

elsewhere in the six months leading up to Nuit. Consider alterations to the piece which invite more participation or scaling up or down to work within the 12-hour festival format.

Question: on average how many artists apply for each stream per year and how many are selected?

We will select approximately 4-6 Open Call projects, and 30+ Independent Projects.

Question: For both OC & IP, does the project need to be a static/stationary installation or can it be moving [outdoors] through the city, through the crowds?

We're open to pieces that will move throughout the evening or connect to more than one location. Please be sure to describe how this will be managed and ensure it's been captured in your budget.

Question: What makes an application stand out?

Simplicity, clarity, why is it meaningful to you? What's the core of what you're hoping to achieve? Less is sometimes more. Visuals. Achievability. Accessibility. Nuit Blanche invites an audience from diverse backgrounds and all ages, we want to be able to see in a moment how the project relates to the theme and welcomes audiences.