

Important Information

This document provides the general guidelines and background information for applying to the Independent Projects Program of Nuit Blanche Toronto 2018. Please read these guidelines carefully. Applications that do not follow the criteria of the guidelines will not be accepted.

The submission deadline is **Monday, February 5, 2018** at 11:59 p.m. EST if sending via email or 4 p.m. EST if delivering in person to the City Cultural Events Office (6th Floor West Tower, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2).

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2018 Independent Projects Application Guidelines

General Information and Event History

Nuit Blanche Toronto in its current framework was originally conceived in Paris, France in 2002, to bring contemporary art to large and diverse audiences in public spaces. In 2006, the City of Paris producers of the founding Nuit Blanche invited the City of Toronto to join an assembly of more than six founding European cities producing similar art and cultural events. Toronto was the first North American city to model itself based on the City of Paris Nuit Blanche and has inspired similar celebrations. The Toronto event is produced by the City of Toronto.

Nuit Blanche Toronto 2018 is the event's 13th edition, and will be held overnight in Toronto from Saturday, September 29 to Sunday, September 30, 2018 (sunset to sunrise). The arts community will come together to offer both uninitiated and devoted art lovers an accessible and exciting night of contemporary art. This is an opportunity to celebrate and showcase Toronto's arts community and the City's commitment to contemporary art, bringing this experience to both Torontonians and out-of-town visitors.

Nuit Blanche Toronto is a free, 12-hour contemporary art event that has a mandate to connect contemporary art to the broadest possible publics and create opportunities for the audience to explore and engage with contemporary art in public space.

City spaces and neighbourhoods are transformed into a temporary living museum of exhibitions populated by compelling artworks. Unusual or forbidden spaces become sites of contemporary art and facilitate a night of discovery and rediscovery. The everyday is suspended as the City's landscape is transformed to welcome a variety of artistic experiences. Cultural institutions, museums, galleries and artist-run centres open their doors and offer free access to meaningful artistic and curatorial engagement for the broadest public.

2018 Independent Projects Application Guidelines

Project Categories

There are three ways participate to in Nuit Blanche Toronto: as an Exhibition Project, Open Call Project, or Independent Project.

Exhibition Projects:

Approximately 20 projects are chosen by curators for inclusion in the commissioned exhibitions as part of their proposal to the City of Toronto. This is done in consultation with the City of Toronto. These artworks are commissioned or remounted specifically for Nuit Blanche Toronto to complement the theme of the curator's vision.

Open Call Projects:

As many as four projects are selected and presented through an open call process for the 2018 edition of Nuit Blanche Toronto. These are called Open Call Projects. They are selected by the curators and funded/produced by the City of Toronto. The concept proposals and realized artworks must respond to the curatorial theme of the eligible exhibition area.

Independent Projects:

Toronto artists, museums, galleries, cultural and educational institutions, neighbourhoods and BIAs are invited to submit proposals for the Independent Projects Program. Independent Projects are self-produced, self-funded, and considered partners of the event. All Independent Projects must meet Nuit Blanche Toronto criteria, but there is no limit to the number that are accepted in any given year, and no restrictions on where they can be located within the City of Toronto.

Applying to Nuit Blanche Toronto

Applications for Exhibition Projects are not accepted.

Artists may apply as both an Independent Project and an Open Call Project (with the same project OR with a different project).

Separate applications must be submitted for each category. Open Call Project and Independent Project applications are reviewed by a different selection process which will not be influenced by each other. However, only one project from each artist can be accepted. If a project is chosen as an Open Call Project, it will be removed from consideration as an Independent Project upon confirmation with the artist.

Open Call Project applicants will be notified of the results of their application by **February 2, 2018**, allowing time to apply as an Independent Project should their Open Call Project application be unsuccessful.

2018 Independent Projects Application Guidelines

2018 Theme: *You are Here*

The new Toronto is a city of change. A city in progress. A city of endless personal, collective and cultural histories: of journeys and arrivals, of borders and crossings, of memory and history, of past and future, of centres and edges, of community and communities. This evolving and storied landscape continues to challenge our thinking of what Toronto is, provoking the following questions:

What does difference mean when we are all different, if there is no "other"? Can our differences bind us together even as they set us apart? How do we rethink concepts of minorities and majorities? As relationships of power and privilege shift, how do we redefine the status quo and reconsider what it means to be together?

At this moment in time, the artists and curators of Nuit Blanche 2018 invite you to join them to unfold, reinterpret, question, listen, disrupt and see through new eyes Toronto and our places in it.

You are here. Now.

Note for 2018 Applicants

All Independent Project applicants are encouraged to directly reference the 2018 theme, *You are Here*, in their project descriptions on the application form. The City of Toronto and the Nuit Blanche Toronto Artistic Advisory Committee will actively adjudicate all applications through the lens of this vision.

2018 Independent Projects Application Guidelines

The Selection and Notification Process

All Independent Project applicants will receive an e-mail confirming receipt of their application within two working days. If you submit an application and do not receive this e-mail, your application has **not** been received and you must follow up with our office, contacting:

Umbereen Inayet
Programming Supervisor, City Cultural Events, City of Toronto
ips@toronto.ca

All applications for the Independent Project Program are reviewed first for eligibility by the City of Toronto.

The City of Toronto will then submit eligible projects for adjudication by the IP Selection committee comprised of members of the Nuit Blanche Toronto Advisory as well as representatives of city's contemporary visual arts community. The IP Selection Committee membership will include past participants of the IP program.

The IP Selection Committee will choose projects for inclusion in the program, based on the *Areas of Assessment* outlined on page seven of this document.

Once the IP Selection Committee has chosen a complement of projects, these will then be reviewed by the various units working within the City of Toronto, for any potential issues, program conflicts or production concerns.

Once the review has been completed, accepted projects will receive a notification from the City of Toronto, notifying artists/producers of their acceptance into the program.

Projects that have been accepted, contingent on the resolution of minor factors will be notified of this contingent acceptance and will be engaged to resolve these factors.

Projects that have not been accepted will be notified formally by email. Given the large number of applications received each year, staff capacity for feedback on unsuccessful applications may be limited.

All applicants will be notified of the results by email by 5:00 p.m. EST on March 5, 2018, approximately four weeks after the application deadline of **February 5, 2018**.

2018 Independent Projects Application Guidelines

Eligibility Requirements

Nuit Blanche Toronto encourages artists, museums, galleries, cultural and educational institutions, neighbourhoods, and BIAs across the City of Toronto to partner with the event and present projects that transform the city overnight through contemporary art.

All proposed projects from potential partners must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered for inclusion in the program:

1. **Be able to stay open all night:** All projects must be open for the entire 12 hour period (from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.). Projects that close early undermine the "all-night" mandate of the event and will not be eligible to participate in future events. All Applications will be reviewed closely to assess whether they will stay open from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.
2. **Be free:** All projects must be free of charge to the public. Cover charge and entry fees to project premises are not permitted.
3. **Be self-funded:** All projects must be solely funded by the producing artist or organization and their partners.
4. **Fall within the geographic area:** All projects must be located within the city of Toronto.

*New this year, Nuit Blanche introduces, Nuit Neighbourhood, with Scarborough being added to the geographic area with a focus on the Scarborough Civic Centre (SCC) as the main exhibition area location. Applications will be accepted city-wide including outside of the (SCC).

5. **Take place in a venue that is accessible:** Venues limited to patrons over the age of 19 are NOT acceptable, as projects must be open to all ages. If possible, venues should be AODA compliant.

If a proposed project meets this eligibility criteria, it will then be assessed for inclusion in the Independent Projects program by the City of Toronto and the Nuit Blanche Toronto Artistic Advisory Committee.

2018 Independent Projects Application Guidelines

Areas of Assessment

The City of Toronto and the Artistic Advisory Committee will base their selections on the following Areas of Assessment:

- 1. Contemporary Art:** Nuit Blanche Toronto is unique because it is driven by artists and contemporary visual art. While artists' concepts can be executed in any medium, the focal point of all applications must be contemporary visual art. If your medium is not contemporary visual art, please explain how it relates.
- 2. Merit, Presentation, and Originality:** All applications must present a professional, high-quality, original proposal that reflects the scale and spirit of Nuit Blanche Toronto. Repeat projects from previous years are not eligible.
- 3. Feasibility:** Applications should include: a balanced budget that outlines both revenue and expenses; an assessment of security needs, and a plan to meet those needs; an assessment of production and technical requirements, and a plan to meet those requirements; and an assessment of logistical concerns, and a plan to address those concerns. Your application should articulate what you plan to do and how you plan to do it.
- 4. Project Contributors:** The CV, biography and/or history of participating artists, curators and arts organization will be considered.
- 5. Prior Participation:** The history of applicants who have presented works at Nuit Blanche Toronto in previous years will be taken into consideration.
- 6. Relevance to Theme:** Preference will be given to proposals that respond to the event's 2018 theme, *You are Here*.

2018 Independent Projects Application Guidelines

Benefits of Participation

Independent Projects are partners of Nuit Blanche Toronto, contributing programming that transforms the city overnight through contemporary art. As such, all Independent Projects will receive:

Engagement with Audiences: Nuit Blanche Toronto welcomes an exceptionally wide range of audiences for contemporary art. Participation in the event is an opportunity to reach these audiences with your project and/or venue. Depending on your project and location, foot traffic can range from several hundred to tens of thousands of people.

Marketing: All Independent Projects will benefit from an umbrella marketing campaign to promote the overall event, including media partnerships and an integrated advertising campaign (outdoor, print, online, radio, and television). Independent Projects will be included on the event's official website and printed map, and will receive official Nuit Blanche Toronto project signage for the event.

General Production Support: Independent Projects receive general support with logistics, permits and processes related to executing their project for the event.

Insurance: All participating partners will be covered by the City of Toronto's general liability insurance and many of the permit costs associated with producing an event on City of Toronto property are often waived.

Venue Support: Independent Projects receive assistance with locating an appropriate venue for their project (as needed).

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Production and Logistics

Independent Project producers are responsible for all costs associated with their project including, but not limited to artist and curator fees, event staff, production/technical equipment, materials for creation, and logistical concerns such as security guards, barricades and/or power distribution.

All projects must be created and executed in strict compliance with the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and all other applicable legislation.

In the assessment of your project, the City of Toronto may identify City departments or external regulating agencies that require further approval for the safe and legal execution of your project. These departments and agencies may include, but are not limited to, Toronto Police Services, Toronto Fire Services, Public Health and/or the Electrical Safety Authority.

In all cases, it is the sole responsibility of the Independent Project producer to ensure they have the appropriate permissions and/or permits in place for the build and execution of their project.

Sponsorship and Grants

Artists participating in Nuit Blanche Toronto who wish to solicit their own sponsorship or corporate donations must obtain approval from the City of Toronto before securing funds. The City of Toronto secures overall corporate sponsorships to fund Nuit Blanche Toronto and it is necessary for us to ensure that there are no conflicts with our sponsors. We are not always able to credit additional project sponsors on the official event collateral.

Participating artists are encouraged to apply for other grants but are advised not to rely on receiving them to fulfill their project.

2018 Independent Projects Application Guidelines

Completing Your Application

Brief Project Summary

Please provide a very short, functional description of your project, in **50 words** or less. Treat this description as a 'snapshot' or an 'elevator pitch' for your project, focusing on the critical detail. You will have an opportunity to describe your project in more detail on the Project Summary page.

An example of a Brief Project Summary is:

"I would like to propose a live video projection and 20-person performance taking place in a public park that deals with the hidden history of that part of the City."

Project Summary

Provide an overview of your project, articulating what you plan to do, and how you plan to do it. Include any information required to fully describe your project proposal to us. Focus on your project's relationship to current contemporary visual art practice, its merit, presentation, originality, its feasibility, and its relevance to the 2018 theme *You are Here* and describe how your programming will extend for the duration of 12 hours.

We strongly recommend you review the above section *Areas of Assessment* on page 7 of this document before creating your description.

Venue Information

Applicants are responsible for securing their own venue. You **must** contact a venue before listing them on your application. If your project is accepted you will be required to supply us with a copy of your venue agreement, unless the venue is also the applicant.

If you do not have a venue, we can assist you in finding a suitable location for your project, pending availability, upon acceptance into the program.

Projects that require the use of public space such as a park or road are responsible for securing their own permits. We will assist you with this process.

Budget

Proposed budgets must reflect **all** potential artistic and production costs associated with producing the project, such as artist fees, staffing, equipment, fabrication, crowd control, permits, and venue rental, along with all confirmed and projected sources of revenue. Revenues and expenses **must** balance.

2018 Independent Projects Application Guidelines

Supporting Materials

Beyond the application form, Independent Project applicants can include a strict **maximum** of:

A. Three (3) Supporting Documents.

These documents should only be used to submit information not found in the application. Examples of **unacceptable** supporting documents include: artist/curator biographies; budgets; and project descriptions or details. Examples of **acceptable** supporting documents include: site layouts; technical or design specifications; engineer or architectural drawings; and letters of reference or support.

B. Five (5) Images, Video, and Audio Works.

Submitting an image is highly recommended. Ideally, you should submit an artist rendering or mock-up of your project. You may also submit videos or audio works. Please ensure you comply with the specifications below:

- a. All images must be in .JPG format, at a maximum resolution of 300 dpi or a maximum size of 2 MB, whichever is lower.
- b. All images must be named following the model:
number_artist/group name_title of work.jpg
(for example: 01_B_Smith_MyWorkofArt.jpg)
- c. All video must be in .MOV, .MPEG, .WMV, or .AVI format only. All audio must be in .MP3 or .WAV format only.
- d. Supplementary material must be sent as either:
 - An attachment (if submitting by email)
 - An accessible online link, through an online platform such as Youtube, Vimeo, Dropbox, or Google Drive
 - Files on a CD-R, DVD-R or USB Drive if submitting by mail – please note, these materials will not be returned

Due to bandwidth limitations, 10 MB is the maximum size email receivable by our mailbox. Your application must be contained within a single email.

2018 Independent Projects Application Guidelines

Submitting Your Application

Email:

The ideal method of delivery is by email, with the application and supporting materials sent to ips@toronto.ca.

When sending the email, please use the subject line:

"Nuit Blanche 2018 – Independent Projects - Name_ Title of Project".

For example "Nuit Blanche 2018 – Independent Projects - Bree Smith_My Work of Art"

Your application should not be broken up over multiple emails.

Your one email should contain **only** the following:

- 1. The Application form**
- 2. Up to a maximum of five images/videos/audio files (or a link to these)**
- 3. Up to a maximum of three supporting documents**

The total size of the email and attachments must be less than 10 MB.

These files must not be zipped or archived in the email.

Mail:

You can also send your application by mail, to the following address:

**Nuit Blanche Toronto Independent Projects Application
City Cultural Events
City Hall, 6th Floor, West Tower
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2**

The application form and supplementary material may also be hand delivered to the 6th floor reception of the address above, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. EST.

If sending/delivering your application by mail, please ensure you burn all items and materials, including the application form and all attachments (up to the maximum four attachments), as data on one CD-ROM or USB Drive. Given the volume of applications, mailed materials will not be returned.

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Deadlines

All email submissions are due by **11:59 p.m. EST on Monday, February 5, 2018.**

All mailed or hand delivered submissions are due by **4:00 p.m. EST on Monday, February 5, 2018.**

Contact

Umbereen Inayet

Programming Supervisor, City Cultural Events,
City of Toronto

ips@toronto.ca