

### Important Information

**This document must be read before you complete the application form.**

Please review these Guidelines carefully. Applications that do not follow the criteria in these Guidelines will not be accepted. This document has a total of 11 pages.

### Deadline

**Deadline for Applications is 11:59 pm EST on Monday, January 22, 2018.**

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Email applications and attachments to [ocs@toronto.ca](mailto:ocs@toronto.ca)

You will be notified by 5:00 pm EST on Monday, January 29th, 2018 if your Open Call Project has been accepted.

NOTE: Open Calls are only being accepted for *Nuit Neighborhoods* in Scarborough. See "New this year" on page 3 for more information.

# 2018 Open Call 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 with an extended 10-day component that has a mandate to connect contemporary art to the broadest possible public and create opportunities for the public 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 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Project Categories

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

### **Exhibition Projects:**

Up to 20 projects are chosen by curators for inclusion in the commissioned exhibitions as part of the curator's 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:**

Up to five 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 themes in the 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.

**NEW THIS YEAR: Nuit Blanche will be presenting part of the event in Scarborough including a curated exhibition in and around the Scarborough Civic Centre and Scarborough Town Centre. Open Call applications must be directed towards this exhibition.**

Please refer to the curator biography and curatorial vision as well as this year's event-wide theme on page 7 of the guidelines.

# 2018 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Application Process

Applications for Exhibition Projects are not accepted.

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

Separate applications must be submitted for each category. Open Call applications and Independent Projects 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, it will be removed from consideration as an Independent Project upon confirmation with the artist.

You will be informed if your Open Call application is accepted or declined by January 29, 2018, allowing time to apply as an Independent Project (due February 5, 2018) should your Open Call application be unsuccessful.

# 2018 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Submission Criteria

Projects selected through the Open Call process must adhere and respond to the Nuit Blanche event mandate: **to create a contemporary artwork in public space of that engages the broadest public through artistic excellence.** All concept proposals must meet the criteria outlined below and will be reviewed, assessed, and selected by the curators and the City of Toronto prior to official acceptance to an exhibition and the event.

**To apply to become an Open Call Project, you must meet all of the following criteria:**

- You are a professional visual artist or collective. Artists and collectives can be based anywhere, however, we cannot assist visiting artists with their travel expenses.
- You agree to create a site-specific project in public space which responds to one of the two curatorial themes.
- Your concept proposal and the end resulting artwork must be a work of contemporary visual art.
- If your primary artistic discipline is not contemporary visual art, please contextualize and describe how your practice and the end resulting artwork would reflect the artistic discipline.
- You will offer all-night access to your project that is free of charge to the public during the event, from sunset on September 29 to sunrise on September 30, 2018.
- You are willing to make the commitment required (personnel, financial and otherwise) in order to achieve the project.
- Your project expenses should fall within range of the allocated inclusive budget of \$5,000.00-8,000.00 CAD, including supplies, artistic and production-related expenses, plus a \$1,000.00 CAD artist honorarium. The City of Toronto may not be able to support projects exceeding the scale and scope of the allocated production budget.
- You may seek additional financial support through grants to enhance your project. For sponsorship opportunities, approval is required from the City of Toronto prior to proceeding with sponsorship agreements.
- Your project must be installed in a safe manner, and abide by all City of Toronto by-laws, laws, and safety standards, to be assessed and evaluated in consultation with the City of Toronto (for example, no vehicle idling, no noise violations, all electrical devices must meet code, fabrics must be fire-proofed, etc.).
- All projects must be open for the entire 12-hour period (from sunset to sunrise). Please consider carefully if you are able to undertake this all-night commitment before submitting your application. Projects that close early do not meet the "all night" mandate of the event.

# 2018 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Areas of Assessment

**Projects will be assessed by the curator(s) and the City of Toronto utilizing the following criteria:**

1. Artistic merit of your project proposal and supporting material.
2. Fulfillment of the mandate of Nuit Blanche Toronto as outlined on page 4 of this document.
3. Strong aesthetic, conceptual elements, demonstration of artistic innovation, interpretation and integration of contemporary art in the specific context of the curatorial thesis, and potential sites.
4. The history of the applicant as a professional artist.
5. Demonstration that the project responds to the curatorial theme of the exhibition.
6. The feasibility of the project, including a realistic budget and project delivery schedule.
7. A previously demonstrated ability to execute a project of this scope and to work collaboratively with an existing project team including: City of Toronto staff; curators; project partners; manufacturing, technical, and installation contractors engaged to realize a finished temporary public artwork (although not all will have had the previous opportunity).
8. Durability and sustainability of the artwork, including its ability to withstand large audiences and inclement weather.

# 2018 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Curatorial Themes and Biographies

Open Call Projects are only being accepted for the new *Nuit Neighborhood* program in Scarborough and will be selected to complement the curatorial themes of the exhibition. If your project is selected by the curator, it will be geographically located within the exhibition geography. **Your application must respond to the following curatorial theme:**

### ***Scarborough, styll (working title)***

#### **Curator: Alyssa Fearon**

Nearly 20 years ago the borders of Toronto were redrawn. With the amalgamation of Scarborough into the rest of metropolitan Toronto, the merger resulted in one of the biggest mega-cities in North America. The artists in this zone will disrupt and subvert boundaries and borders between downtown and the suburbs, the centre and the margins, ourselves and each other. Each artistic project exposes that which is unexpected and unplanned, and makes real again what was once erased or denied. The exhibition aims to illuminate the creativity and artistic production that has always existed, and continues to thrive in Scarborough. What do we take with us, and what do we leave behind when we go to a new place? How do we create borders, both real and imagined? Who gets to create them?

#### **Curator Biography**

Alyssa Fearon is a cultural producer, arts manager and independent curator. Raised in Scarborough, Ontario, Alyssa actively seeks new ways of organizing artistic projects within communities that have not traditionally been sanctioned as places of creativity and innovation. She has organized a range of projects, from large-scale performances by international artists to community-based youth artist residency programs. She most recently curated the exhibition *No Vacancy* (2017). Alyssa currently works at the Art Gallery of Ontario in marketing, while pursuing an independent creative practice. She holds an MBA from the Schulich School of Business and MA Art History from York University.

**Additionally, your application must respond to the following event-wide theme.**

### **Nuit Blanche Toronto 2018: *You Are Here***

Toronto is a city of change. A city in progress. A city of endless personal, collective and cultural histories. At this moment in time, the artists and curators of Nuit Blanche Toronto 2018 invite you to join them to unfold, reinterpret, question, listen, disrupt and see through new eyes Toronto and our places in it. 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? As relationships of power and privilege shift, how do we redefine the status quo and reconsider what it means to be together?

You are here. Now.

# 2018 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Benefits of Participation

### Open Call Projects receive:

1. An artist honorarium of \$1,000.00 CAD.
2. Financial production support from \$5,000.00- \$10,000.00 CAD based on needs and assessment to produce and exhibit the work. Please note: the project budget and expenditures must be pre-approved by City of Toronto.
3. Programming and Production support from the City of Toronto including, but not limited to:
  - a) Artistic consultation and curatorial guidance on all elements of project design, budgets and execution from the curator and the City of Toronto.
  - b) Securing access to venues when possible
  - c) Assisting with city permits and other permissions (e.g. access to public space, health & safety, when possible).
  - d) Technical consultation.
  - e) Assistance with sourcing technical equipment where required
  - f) Where possible, the City of Toronto will make arrangements for access to power during the event. Please note that power is limited at venue locations – usually one or two, 15 Amp, 120 volt circuits maximum.
  - g) Based on your project's needs, staffing support will assist in the facilitation of your project during the night of the event.

All Open Call Projects will be integrated into the larger curated exhibition into which they are a part of. The Open Call projects are included in the major umbrella marketing campaign to promote the overall event, driving attention to the event's print materials and website. The campaign will include media partnerships, print collateral, an integrated advertising campaign (outdoor, print, online, radio and television), and a thorough media relations and social media plan intended to garner local and international attention.

# 2018 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Application Guidelines

Due to the high volume of applications received each year, there is a very specific set of criteria for applications, which will allow all submissions to be reviewed and assessed fairly and effectively.

### Supporting Materials

Open Call Project applicants can include a strict maximum of **four** supplementary materials in addition to your Application form. These include all images, videos and/or audio works you wish to submit to supplement your application.

#### Images, Video and Audio Specifications:

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.

1. All images must be in .JPG format, at a maximum resolution of 300 dpi or a maximum size of 2 MB, whichever is lower.
2. All images must be named following the model:  

number\_artist/group name\_title of work.jpg  
(for example:01\_B\_Smith\_MyWorkofArt.jpg)
3. All video must be in .MOV, .MPEG, .WMV, or .AVI format only. All audio must be in .MP3 or .WAV format only.
4. Supplementary material must be sent as either:
  - a. An attachment (if submitting by email)
  - b. An accessible online link, through an online platform such as Youtube, Vimeo, Dropbox, or Google Drive
  - c. Files on a CD-R, DVD-R or USB Drive if submitting by mail – please note, these materials will not be returned
5. Please note, 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 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Method of Delivery

### Email:

The ideal method of delivery is by email, with the application sent to ocs@toronto.ca.

When sending the email, please use the subject line: "Nuit Blanche 2018 | Exhibition Name | Artist or Company Name\_ Title of Project". For example:

*"Nuit Blanche 2018 | Exhibition I want to be part of | Bree Smith\_My Work of Art"*

### Your application should not be broken up over multiple emails.

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

- The Application Form (saved as a Word 2007 compatible .docx file or PDF).
- Up to a maximum of four attachments. 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 Open Call Application**  
**City Cultural Events**  
**City Hall, 6th Floor, West Tower**  
**100 Queen Street West**  
**Toronto ON M5H 2N2**

The application and supplementary material may also be hand delivered to one of two locations: the office of City Cultural Events, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, West Tower at Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West (Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm); OR the front desk at the Scarborough Civic Centre Library at 156 Borough Drive, Scarborough (Monday - Saturday 9:00am - 5:00pm, Sunday 1:30pm - 5:00pm).

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.

## Deadlines

All emailed applications must be sent by 11:59 pm EST on Monday, January 22, 2018

All regular mailed applications must be post marked by Monday, January 22, 2018

- Please send your application by mail or by email (please do not send via both).
- Mailed CDs or USB drives will not be returned.
- All hand deliveries are due in the offices at Toronto City Hall or Scarborough Civic Centre Library by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2018

# 2018 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Grants and Sponsorship

Artists participating in Nuit Blanche Toronto who wish to solicit their own sponsorship/corporate donations for their project 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. Please note that sponsors secured by the City of Toronto may be associated with accepted Open Call Projects within marketing material and on-site signage. We are not always able to credit additional project sponsors.

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

### Contact:

**Jenn Goodwin**

Programming Supervisor, City Cultural Events  
City of Toronto

416-392-8776

[jenn.goodwin@toronto.ca](mailto:jenn.goodwin@toronto.ca)