

Introduction

This document is a general overview of the event and the application process, as well as a step-by-step guide for completing an application to the Open Call Program of Nuit Blanche Toronto.

Please review these guidelines carefully before starting your application. Applications that do not follow the criteria will not be accepted.

Applications must be submitted [online](#) by **Monday, February 4, 2019** at 11:59 pm EST.

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2019 Open Call Application Guidelines

About Nuit Blanche (Toronto)

Nuit Blanche was originally conceived in Paris, France in 2002, with a mandate 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 is a free, 12-hour contemporary art event that has a mandate to connect contemporary art to the broadest possible publics and to create opportunities for the audiences to explore and engage with contemporary art in public space.

2019 marks the 14th edition of the event, with programming taking place in neighbourhoods across the city, including Scarborough, Don Mills, Bloor-Yorkville, Downtown, Fort York, West Queen West, Sterling Road, and more.

On Saturday, October 5, sunset to sunrise, the city will be transformed through contemporary art. This is an exciting opportunity to celebrate and showcase Toronto's arts community and the City's commitment to contemporary art, and create installations geared at engaging both uninitiated and devoted art lovers from Toronto and beyond.

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Project Categories

Nuit Blanche Toronto is made up of three categories of contemporary art projects, two of which accept applications from artists: Open Call Projects and Independent Projects.

Exhibition Projects:

Exhibition Projects are selected by Nuit Blanche Toronto curators by invitation only for inclusion in their exhibitions, in consultation with the City of Toronto. These artworks are commissioned or remounted specifically for Nuit Blanche Toronto as part of each exhibition's curatorial theme.

Open Call Projects:

Open Call Projects are selected by Nuit Blanche Curators through an open call application process. These projects are funded and produced by the City of Toronto for up to \$10,000. Proposals should respond to the curatorial theme of each eligible exhibition area. This year, up to four projects will be selected.

Independent Projects:

Independent Projects are self-produced partners of the event, and can include Toronto-based artists, collectives, galleries, cultural and educational institutions, neighbourhood organizations, and more. Applications are reviewed by a jury composed of members of the Nuit Blanche External Advisory Committee and invited representatives from Toronto's contemporary arts community.

Projects can be located throughout the City of Toronto. Proposals should respond to the event-wide theme: Nuit Blanche 2019 *Continuum*.

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Applying to Nuit Blanche Toronto

Applications for Exhibition Projects are not accepted.

Artists may apply as both an Open Call and an Independent Project (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.

Separate applications must be submitted for each category. Open Call Project and Independent Project applications are reviewed through 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.

You will be informed if your Open Call application is accepted or declined by **February 4, 2019**, allowing time to apply as an Independent Project (due Thursday, February 14, 2019) should your Open Call application be unsuccessful.

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Submission Criteria

Projects selected through the Open Call process should adhere and respond to the Nuit Blanche event mandate: **to create a contemporary artwork in public space of that engages the broadest audience 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 proposed 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 your practice and how 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 October 5 to sunrise on October 6, 2019.
- 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 \$8,000.00-10,000.00 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.
- Feel free to seek additional financial support through grants to enhance your project. However your project cannot rely on this funding in order to be successful. While you may seek sponsorship; approval is required from City of Toronto Producers in advance.
- 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.

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Areas of Assessment

Projects will be assessed by the Curator(s) and 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 5 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. Not all applicants will have had this previous opportunity so please highlight any comparable experiences.
8. Durability and sustainability of the artwork, including its ability to withstand large audiences and inclement weather (rain, high winds, etc.).

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Curatorial Themes and Biographies

Open Call Projects are selected to complement the curatorial themes of the Exhibition to which it is applying. If your project is selected by one of the Curators, it will be geographically located within the respective Exhibition location.

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

Each Exhibition area has its own distinct curatorial theme.

Please apply for ONE Exhibition area only.

Exhibition 1

Curator: Ashley McKenzie-Barnes

Geography: Scarborough Centre neighbourhood

Queens and Kings of Scarborough

A theatrical playground that challenges the constructs of systematic social marginalization, negotiation of self-identity and racial stereotype within a modern framework.

Over the course of one night and taking place in the east end's highly frequented landmarks which will serve as a backdrop to three Acts: The People's Square (Scarborough Town Centre), The Amphitheater (Coliseum Scarborough Cinemas), and The Royal Court (Scarborough Civic Centre). From film and sculpture to consumer advertising and media, Queens and Kings of Scarborough dismantles conventional and societal perceptions, flipping the script, and honouring Scarborough as a hotbed of culture.

Biography: Scarborough-born, **Ashley McKenzie-Barnes** is a full-time Creative Director, independent Curator and part-time Academic Professor at Humber College, with over a decade of integrated experience in the advertising, entertainment, corporate, and non-profit sectors. She has programmed exhibitions, creative collaborations and installations for companies such as Samsung, Manifesto Festival and Artscape, and is no stranger to executing within a variety of DIY spaces and traditional galleries to major institutions like the Art Gallery of Ontario. Ashley has conceptualized and deployed global integrated campaigns for large Canadian brands like Scotiabank, Bell Media, Virgin Radio, Canadian Wildlife Federation and Free the Children.

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Exhibition 2

Curators: Layne Hinton and Rui Pimenta
Geography: Fort York neighbourhood

Creation : Destruction

All things reside on the borders of creation and destruction.

Creation : Destruction looks to challenge us to understand these seemingly contradictory concepts not in oppositional terms but rather, as extensions of each other, forces that both deplete and feed each other. There is nothing more primal, more essentially human. It is the very essence not only of the natural world but our place in it, all of which can only be found somewhere in between creation and destruction.

Taking its curatorial inspiration from a geographic area that encompasses various sites including, a military fort, an old garbage incineration plant, and a decommissioned animal slaughterhouse, all of which embody the dialectic of creation and destruction and will provide an engaging context for thinking deeply about this profoundest cycle of life.

NOTE: *this exhibition open call is prioritizing open call projects that can be sited outdoors.*

Curator Biography:

Layne Hinton and **Rui Pimenta** are the curatorial duo behind Art Spin. Since 2009 they have been activating decommissioned venues and unique public spaces to produce large-scale group exhibitions along with curated bicycle-led art tours to showcase a multi-disciplinary range of new programming in alternative sites, most notably the reanimation of Ontario Place's West Island for *in/future* in 2016. At the heart of their curatorial practice is a passionate interest in pushing the possibilities of what constitutes public art through site-specific/site-responsive practices via ephemeral modes of presentation.

Nuit Blanche Toronto 2019: Continuum

The city of Toronto and its inhabitants are in a constant state of becoming. With shifting boundaries, new developments and changing perspectives we are invested in the desire for a change in experiences, viewpoints, landscapes, and ideas.

This progression follows many paths through the night of Nuit Blanche. The cycle of creation and destruction that simultaneously depletes and feeds, the elevation of the noble into a place of renown nobility, the challenge of finding inner calm and enlightenment in the midst of it all, underlined by the ever-present renewal of night into day. All are part of the continuum. Is there peace without enduring commotion? Is destruction actually the end of something, or does it mark a new beginning? How can we know there is more to our existence without the contrast and comparison?

In a world that feels increasingly polarized, there is a critical need for nuanced conversations and intersectional perspectives. From dusk to dawn, Nuit Blanche Toronto plants seeds of change addressing the more compelling and complex parts of our existence, as individuals, as communities and as a city. In this place of potential, process, awakening and evolution exists.

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Benefits of Participation

Open Call Projects receive:

1. An artist honorarium of \$1,000.00 CAD.
2. Financial production support from \$8,000.00- \$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(s) and the City of Toronto.
 - b) Securing access to venues when possible
 - c) Technical consultation including assistance with city permits and other permissions (e.g. access to public space, health & safety, when possible).
 - d) Assistance with sourcing technical equipment where required.
 - e) Access to power, where possible during the event. Please note that power is limited at venue locations – usually one or two, 15 Amp, 120 volt circuits maximum.
 - f) Based on your project's needs, staff and volunteer support will be included in the facilitation of your project during the night of the event.

All Open Call Projects will be integrated into the larger curated exhibition area for which they are selected. The Open Call projects are included in all major umbrella marketing campaigns 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.

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Completing Your Application

Applications must be submitted [online](#) on **Monday, February 4, 2019** by **11:59 p.m. EST.**

IMPORTANT:

Because you cannot save and return to the online application, you should prepare your answers in advance of starting the application process using a text editor program, adhering to strict characters counts (including spaces and punctuation) in specific sections.

Please read thoroughly through the details below, and prepare any section marked with a **red asterisk (*)** in advance of starting the online application process.

Application Form Details

1. APPLICATION TERMS

Review the text and check the box to confirm you understand the terms.

2. PROJECT INFORMATION

You must complete each field to proceed:

Name of Artist, Collective, or Organization:

Title of Project:

***Brief Project Summary (max. 200 characters including spaces and punctuation)**

Use this section to provide a short, functional description of your project, adhering to strict character counts listed above. Treat this description as an elevator pitch for your project, focusing on the critical details.

An example of a Brief Project Summary is: *"Infinity Mirrors" is an exhibition of paintings, sculptures, and immersive installations by Yayoi Kusama, in which audiences can explore endless landscapes that subvert time and space.*

3. EXHIBITION APPLICATION STREAMS

You must check a box to indicate which stream you are applying to:

- ***Queens and Kings of Scarborough, Curator Ashley McKenzie-Barnes***
- ***Creation : Destruction, Curators Layne Hinton and Rui Pimenta***

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4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Use this section to provide a detailed description of your project, focusing on four key areas:

- ***Concept** (max 1,400 characters including spaces and punctuation – approx. 200 words)
 - what ideas are motivating this project?
 - what are the aesthetic and/or conceptual details of the proposal?
- ***Relation to selected Exhibition and the 2019 event theme** (max 740 characters including spaces and punctuation – approx. 100 words)
 - how does your project respond to the theme, NBTO 2019: *Continuum*
- ***Production details** (max 1,000 characters including spaces and punctuation – approx. 150 words)
 - what are the technical and logistical details of this project?
 - describe what you need to adequately install and execute the project for 12 hrs
- ***Anticipated Audience Experience** (max 740 characters including spaces and punctuation – approx. 100 words)
 - if you have goals for a specific type of audience engagement, list them here
 - consider how audiences will access your piece

We strongly recommend you review the *Areas of Assessment* section on page 6 of this document before creating your description.

5. PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS

Please list all participating artists, collectives or organizations associated with your project. You will be asked to submit an artist or organizational biography (or short CV) that highlights your professional achievements and history of contemporary art practice.

Name of Artist, Collective, or Organization:

Currently based/lives/works in:

Website (if applicable):

- ***Biography or Condensed CV** (max 1,700 characters including spaces and punctuation – approx. 250 words)

6. LOCATION DETAILS

A confirmed venue is not required to apply but artists are asked to provide details on the type of preferred venue (ie. building lobby, parking lot, 10 meter square wall space etc.).

NOTE: The exhibition *Creation : Destruction* will prioritize projects that can be sited outdoors.

7. *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. We do not ask you for specifics on revenues but if you anticipate additional funding either through public grants or sponsorship please outline those details.

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Please note that artists participating in Nuit Blanche Toronto who wish to solicit their own sponsorship and/or corporate donations must obtain approval from the City of Toronto before securing funds. Participating artists are encouraged to apply for other grants but are advised not to rely on receiving them to fulfill their project.

8. SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Submit up to 5 images, audio or video files to support your application. It is recommended that at least one of these items is a mockup, rendering, or preview of your proposed project; and that at least two samples illustrate your past work that is most relevant to the proposed project and/or your artistic practice.

There are two ways to submit support materials: either by uploading files into the application form system, or through providing a live link under the Supporting Materials: Descriptions section below the upload section.

Please ensure your files are **maximum 5MB** each, and one or our accepted file formats:

Images: jpg, gif, png

Video: flv, mp4, m4v, f4v, mov, swf

Audio: m4a, f4a, mp3

Other: csv, pdf

Important: if you are linking to files through a file sharing program such as Dropbox, please ensure your link does not expire for at least 4 weeks after the application deadline, and that it does not require special permissions (i.e. a password) to access and download a file. For audio/video files that are larger than 5MB, we recommend hosting the materials on a website where we can review directly rather than download, such as YouTube, Vimeo or Soundcloud.

***Support Materials File Name & Short Description:**

Name your files by artist last name or collective / organization name along with a number and the file extension name. We will ask you to fill in a short description (max 200 characters including spaces and punctuation – approximately 30 words). See sample chart below:

	Audio, Video or Image File Name	Description (max. 200 characters)	Link (if applicable)
1	Kusama_01.jpg	Installation view of “Obliteration Room” (2018) at beginning of exhibition	N/A
2	Kusama_02.jpg	Installation view of “Obliteration Room” (2018) at end of exhibition	N/A
3	Kusama_03.mp4	Timelapse video of “Obliteration Room” (2018) during exhibition; 4 minutes	N/A
4	Kusama_04.m4a	Audio clip of audience member in “Obliteration Room” (2018); 1.5 minutes	N/A
5	Kusama_05.pdf	Rendering of proposed project for Nuit Blanche Toronto	N/A

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9. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please list who will be the primary point of contact between the City of Toronto and you as the artist, collective, or organization. This contact will be notified of receipt of this application, as well as application results.

10. NBTO EMAIL UPDATES

In this section, you can opt in to receive future email communications regarding Nuit Blanche Toronto. We would also like to know how you found out about this call for submissions.

11. DECLARATION

You will be asked to declare that the application is reflective of your original artistic vision and that all information is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

Once you click this, hit 'Finish' to submit your application.

You can expect a confirmation email from a City of Toronto staff person within 48 hours of submission. Check your email inbox (or junk folder), and if you have not received this email within the timeframe, please contact Jeanne Holmes at the email address below.

Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted [online](#) on **Monday, February 4, 2019 by 11:59 p.m. EST.**

If you have questions about the Open Call please call or email:

Exhibition: *Creation : Destruction*

Jeanne Holmes

Programming, City Cultural Events

City of Toronto

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Exhibition: *Queens and Kings of Scarborough*

Jenn Goodwin

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