

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.

Application deadline: **Monday, December 7, 2020 by 11:59 p.m. EST.**

### 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 audiences to explore and engage with contemporary art in public space.

2021 marks the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the event and includes a major shift in the curatorial vision of the event. For the first time Nuit Blanche will have an Artistic Director who will provide a complete curatorial overview of all programming elements and one cohesive theme that encompasses the entire event from 2020-2021. Programming will once again take place in neighbourhoods across the city, including Scarborough, Don Mills, Bloor-Yorkville, Downtown, West Queen West, Sterling Road, with new exhibition hubs in North York, South-Etobicoke, and a virtual space.

On Saturday, October 2, 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.

# 2021 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Project Categories

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

### Exhibition Projects:

Exhibition Projects are selected by the Artistic Director, by invitation only, in consultation with the City of Toronto. These artworks are new commissions or remounted projects selected specifically for Nuit Blanche.

### Open Call Projects:

Open Call Projects are selected by Nuit Blanche's Artistic Director from submissions through an open call application. These projects are funded and produced by the City of Toronto with a budget of up to \$11,000. Artist-led proposals should respond to the curatorial theme of the event and be in one of the key neighbourhoods outlined in the guidelines. This year, up to three projects may be selected.

### Independent Projects:

Independent Projects are self-produced partners of the event, and can include Toronto-based artists, collectives, galleries, cultural institutions, and more. Applications are reviewed by the Artistic Director in consultation with representatives of City of Toronto Cultural Events team. Projects can be located throughout the City of Toronto.

## Applying to Nuit Blanche Toronto

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 the other. However, only one project from an 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 has been accepted or declined by **Tuesday, January 8, 2021**. If your Open Call application is unsuccessful you can still be considered as an Independent Project. However, to be considered you must apply to both programs separately within their application window.

## Applicant Eligibility

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 that**

# 2021 Open Call Application Guidelines

**engages the broadest audience through artistic excellence.** All concept proposals must meet the criteria outlined below and will be reviewed and assessed by the Artistic Director and representatives of the City of Toronto with final selections made by the Artistic Director.

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. All costs must be accounted for in the project budget.
- You agree to create a site-specific project in public space, which responds to the 2020/2021 curatorial theme.
- Your concept proposal and the 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 2 to sunrise on October 3, 2021.
- You are willing to make the commitment required (personnel, financial and otherwise) in order to achieve the project.
- Your project expenses should fall within the range of the allocated inclusive budget of no more than \$10,000.00 CAD, including supplies, staffing, 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. A scaled plan to address reduced budget is recommended. While you may seek additional funding; approval of your potential funding partners is required from City of Toronto Producers not later than May 21, 2021.
- Your project must be installed in a safe manner, and abide by all City of Toronto by-laws, laws, and safety standards, which will be assessed and evaluated in consultation with the City of Toronto staff (for example: excessive noise can be a violation, 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.
- If the project is virtual – it must be free to access, not aged restricted and accessible to the majority of attendees. I.e. not require use of uncommon technologies or platforms.

# 2021 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Areas of Assessment

Projects will be assessed by the Artistic Director and City of Toronto based on 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 3 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 event.
6. The feasibility of the project, including a realistic budget and project delivery schedule.
7. A previously demonstrated ability, or appropriate project plan to execute a project of this scope and to work collaboratively with an existing project team including: City of Toronto staff; the Artistic Director; project partners; venues; 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.).

# 2021 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Curatorial Theme, Geography and Artistic Director

### Nuit Blanche 2020/2021: The Space Between Us

People are the heart of their communities and this curatorial theme will focus on the connections across urban, polar and pacific landscapes revealing the space between us as a potential site for sharing knowledges.

The global crisis of displacing people brings communities together to stand up for humanity and support each other. Connecting with different communities and nations – to build new spaces and families, shifting their relationships to each other and to place. It reminds us of our willingness to share knowledges when our future is grounded in building bridges between cultures, communities, and the environment. To transform the city by telling their stories about the connection to place.

**Geography:** These exhibitions will bring together the six areas of the GTA by leaving the grid infrastructure in order to map out the city through its ravines and trade routes. These waterways and routes connect to existing green space (parks and recreation locations) in the city, foregrounding the water system and confronting viewers with knowledge of the history of this space. Thus, the exhibitions situate themselves outside of the familiar grid and instead move through the organic flows of ravines and trails, shifting the way the Nuit Blanche exhibition is mapped out with the goal of engaging all areas of the GTA. Artists are also encouraged to consider use of the virtual.

**Biography:** Dr. Julie Nagam is Canadian Research Chair in Indigenous Arts, Collaboration and Digital Media and is an Associate Professor at the University of Winnipeg. Dr. Nagam's SSHRC research includes digital makerspaces + incubators, mentorship, digital media + design, international collaborations and place-based knowledge. She is a collective member of GLAM, which works on curatorial activism, Indigenous methodologies, public art, digital technologies, and engagement with place. Dr. Nagam is building an Indigenous Research Centre Aabijjiwan: The Collaborative New Media Lab in Winnipeg, Canada and her scholarship, curatorial and artistic practice has been featured nationally and internationally.

# 2021 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 \$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.

Open Call Projects will be integrated into the geographic exhibition areas 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.

# 2021 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Completing Your Application

Applications must be submitted [online](#) on **Monday, December 7, 2021** by **11:59 p.m. EST**.

### IMPORTANT:

You can pause and return to the online application as many as you need to either by closing the browser window or by clicking on the Pause link at the bottom of each page. Answers are saved automatically when you click the Next button, so it is best to pause immediately at the beginning of a new page. When you open the application link again, you are automatically brought back to the last page you were filling out. Applicants can also use the Pause link on the bottom of each the survey page.

We recommend that you prepare your answers in advance of starting the application process. There are strict character limits for some 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 (~ 25 words 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. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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

- \*Concept** (~ approx. 300 words / max 2000 characters including spaces and punctuation)
  - what ideas are motivating this project?
  - what are the aesthetic and/or conceptual details of the proposal?
  - how does the project reflect the theme The Space Between Us?

# 2021 Open Call Application Guidelines

- \***Logistical / Technical** (approx. 150 words / max 1000 characters)
  - are there elements that require fabrication or building?
  - do you need a venue contract, building permit, park permit?
  - are there video, audio or lighting equipment exposed to the elements and require
- \***Workplan** (approx. 150 words / max 1000 characters)
  - describe what you need to adequately install and execute the project for 12 hrs
  - consider staffing, install and removal planning, breaks for performers
- \***Anticipated Audience Experience** (~ approx. 100 words / max 750 characters)
  - 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.

## 4. 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** (~ approx. 250 words / max 1,500 characters including spaces/punctuation words)

## 5. GEOGRAPHY AND LOCATION DETAILS

Nuit Blanche 2021 will bring together the neighbourhoods of the GTA by mapping out the city through its ravines and trade routes. These waterways and routes connect to existing green space (parks and recreation locations) in the city, foregrounding the water system and confronting viewers with knowledge of the history of this space. Artists are encouraged to consider the use of digital space as venue and how this connects to the curatorial theme.

A confirmed venue is not required to apply but site specificity is important. Please describe the type of location you are seeking (for example: a park, alleyway, courtyard, storefront, etc.) as well as the reason behind your site/venue choice. Information on the choice of neighbourhood should also be included if important to the project.

## 6. \*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, staffing, 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.



# 2021 Open Call Application Guidelines

Please note that artists participating in Nuit Blanche Toronto who wish to solicit their own funding and/or donations must obtain approval from the City of Toronto before securing funds by May 21, 2021. Participating artists are encouraged to apply for other grants but are advised not to rely on receiving them to fulfill their project.

## 7. SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Audio-visual support material is essential to the assessment process and is a requirement. The material submitted must demonstrate the applicant's ability to carry out the project and therefore must be representative of the work that will be presented.

Still images and audio recordings may be uploaded to the application. The maximum file size is 5 MB per file and files are accepted in the following formats:

- Still Images – jpeg, jpg
- Audio – MP3, MP4, WAV, WMA

Video support material must be submitted by providing a link to an external website where your work has already been uploaded, such as Vimeo, YouTube, your personal website, etc.

Printed support material can be uploaded in PDF format.

**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 6 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)
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------

# 2021 Open Call Application Guidelines

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

## 8. 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.

## 9. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please list who will be the primary point of contact for follow up and notification purposes.

## 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.

# 2021 Open Call Application Guidelines

## Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted [online](#) on **Monday, December 7, 2021** by **11:59 p.m. EST**.

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

Rachel Fender  
Programming, City Cultural Events  
City of Toronto  
416-395-6891  
Rachel.Fender@toronto.ca