

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

Applications must be [submitted online](#) by **11:59 p.m. EST, Sunday January 21, 2024**.

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About Nuit Blanche Toronto

Nuit Blanche Toronto is a free, 12-hour event; a celebration of contemporary art, produced by the City of Toronto in collaboration with Toronto's arts community. Its mandate is to connect contemporary art to the broadest possible audience; to inspire dialogue, transform public space and to create opportunities for the public to explore and engage with contemporary art.

With its inaugural event held in 2006, Nuit Blanche Toronto has a 17-year history of welcoming audiences to the streets of Toronto to experience an all-night, ephemeral, contemporary art event. From sunset to sunrise, city spaces and neighbourhoods are transformed into temporary exhibition areas populated by compelling new and remounted artworks. Often utilizing unusual or hidden spaces, the city proper becomes a site of contemporary art and facilitates a journey of delight, connection and discovery. The everyday is suspended as the city's landscape is transformed through a variety of artistic experiences. Cultural institutions, museums, galleries and artist-run centres participating open their doors and offer free access to their spaces.

2024 marks the 18th edition of the event and includes multiple exhibitions curated by local curators under the Artistic Direction of Laura Nanni. All exhibitions and projects will be responding to the event-wide theme titled Bridging Distance. Selected curators in collaboration with the Artistic Director will create their own unique exhibitions. We are inviting our Open Call, Independent Project and Major Institutional partners to respond to the 2024 concept in their projects in order to create a connective thread of experience for audiences throughout the event.

Programming will take place in neighbourhoods across the city. Prospective Independent Project artists can propose for specific locations including a hybrid experience in consultation with the Artistic Director, curators and City of Toronto staff.

On Saturday, October 5th, 7 p.m. to Sunday, October 6th, 7 a.m. 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, create installations geared at engaging both the unsuspecting and devoted art lovers.

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 in collaboration with exhibition curators, by invitation only, in consultation with the City of Toronto. These artworks are new commissions or remounted projects selected specifically for Nuit Blanche Toronto.

Open Call Projects:

Open Call Projects are selected by Nuit Blanche's Artistic Director and curators in consultation with City of Toronto staff from submissions through an open call application. These projects are funded and produced by the City of Toronto with a budget of up to \$15,000.00 CAD. Artist-led proposals should respond to the theme of the event and will be added in one of the exhibition areas. This year, up to six projects may be selected. International and Canadian artists are invited to apply.

Independent Projects:

Independent Projects are self-produced partners of the event, and include Toronto-based artists, collectives, educational institutions, neighbourhood groups and more. Applications are assessed by a panel comprised of the Nuit Blanche Toronto Artistic Director, curators as well as City of Toronto staff and representatives of the local visual arts community. Projects can be located throughout the City of Toronto and are not required to be located within an exhibition area.

Applying to Nuit Blanche Toronto

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

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

You will be informed if your Open Call application has been accepted or declined by **Friday February 8, 2023**. If your Open Call application is unsuccessful, you can still be considered as an Independent Project. However, to be considered you must have applied to both programs separately within their application window.

Nuit Blanche 2024 theme: Bridging Distance

The view of a horizon line. The time it takes to travel between point a and point b. The feeling we have when separated from a loved one. Zoom out for perspective. Take a closer look.

Distance. How do we understand it? How do we feel it? How do we reconnect and bridge the gaps?

For 2024, Nuit Blanche Toronto invites artists and curators to propose works that explore the multifaceted ways we experience and understand distance, while also reimagining how we can bridge distance through art. This is an opportunity for recalibration and reconnection with our city, our world, and each other, in public space.

How does the impact of distance manifest in our bodies, the city, and beyond? How might art physicalize and magnify different distances? How can art bring us closer to the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of others outside of our immediate geographic, social, and political realms? How might art play with distance to provide different perspectives and invite reconnection?

Projects by contemporary artists, collaborations between artists and researchers or creators working in other disciplines relevant to the theme, are welcome and encouraged.

Of particular interest are proposals that play with distance in their content and form, including performances that travel over multiple areas of the city and virtual experiences that connect audiences in separate locations simultaneously.

Benefits of Participation

Open Call Projects will be integrated into the geographic exhibition areas for which they are selected.

Open Call Projects receive:

1. Financial support up to \$15,000.00 CAD (inclusive of Artist Fee) and oversight based on the needs and assessment to produce and exhibit the work.
2. 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 Artistic Director, curator(s) and the City of Toronto.
 - b) Securing access to venues as required and 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.
 - f) Based on your project's unique needs, staff and volunteer support will be included in the facilitation of your project during the night of the event.

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), a thorough media relations and social media plan intended to garner local and international attention.

Applicant & Project 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 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, curators and representatives of the City of Toronto.

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

Be produced by a practicing visual artist or collective in collaboration with Nuit Blanche Toronto. 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 must be willing to make the commitment required (personnel, financial and otherwise) to achieve the project.

Rooted in contemporary 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.

Respond to 2024 theme. . You propose to create a site-specific project in public space, which demonstrates relevance to ideas within **Bridging Distance**. Your concept proposal and the resulting artwork must be a work of contemporary art.

Stay open all night. Projects **MUST** be open for the entire 12-hour period (from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.). Projects that close early do not fulfil the "all-night" mandate of the event. Please consider carefully if you are able to undertake this all-night commitment before submitting your application.

Be free: You will offer all-night access to your project that is free of charge to the public during the event, from 7 p.m. on October 5th to 7 a.m. October 6th, 2024.

Take place in Toronto: All projects must be located within the city of Toronto, with the exception of projects that take place virtually or connect a geographic location in Toronto with a location elsewhere in the world. It is advisable when seeking and selecting a venue or site for physical projects that you consider the neighbourhood context, resident and business communities, traffic and navigation and how your project will fit into, engage with, or activate your venue and its surroundings. If the project is virtual – it must be free to access, not age restrictive and accessible to the majority of attendees i.e., not require use of uncommon technologies, platforms or personal data.

Be accessible: Information on the AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) can be found [here](#), and further resources on accessibility in arts and culture spaces can be found [here](#). Venues limited to patrons over the age of 19 are not accessible to all audiences and will not be considered.

Adhere to the project budget: Your project expenses should fall within the allocated inclusive budget of no more than \$15,000.00 CAD, including supplies, staffing, artistic and

production-related expenses, including artist honorarium. The City of Toronto may not be able to support projects exceeding the scale and scope of the allocated creation / production budget. You are encouraged to seek additional financial support through grants to enhance your project. However, your project cannot rely on this projected 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 City Cultural Events staff no later than May 31, 2024.

Be safe: 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, measures shall be made to reduce flammability rating of textiles and other materials).

Areas of Assessment

Projects will be assessed by the Artistic Director, curators 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: to create a contemporary artwork in public space that engages the broadest audience through artistic excellence, which is free and presented all night long.
3. Demonstration that the project responds to the overall event theme, **Bridging Distance**.
4. Strong aesthetic, conceptual elements, demonstration of artistic innovation, interpretation and integration of contemporary art in the specific context of the curatorial vision, and potential sites.
5. The creation, production and presentation history of the applicant.
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: the Artistic Director, City of Toronto staff; the curators; project partners; venues; manufacturing, technical, and installation contractors engaged to realize a finished temporary public artwork. Not all applicants will have had this previous work experience, 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.).
9. Projects by contemporary artists, collaborations between artists and researchers or creators working in other disciplines relevant to the theme, are welcome and encouraged.
10. Of particular interest are proposals that play with distance in their content and form, including performances that travel over multiple areas of the city and virtual

experiences that connect audiences in separate locations simultaneously.

Completing Your Application

Applications must be [submitted online](#) by **11:59 p.m. EST, Sunday January 21, 2024**.

IMPORTANT:

You can pause and return to the online application as many times as you need 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 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** (maximum 200 characters including spaces and punctuation – approx. 25 words)

Use this section to provide a short, functional description of your project, adhering to strict character counts listed above. Treat this description as an introduction 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)

This is the “what” of your proposal.

- what ideas are motivating this project?
- what are the aesthetic and/or conceptual details of the proposal?
- how does the project reflect the theme **Bridging Distance**?

***Logistical / Technical** (approx. 150 words / max 1000 characters)

This is the “how” of your proposal.

- are there elements that require fabrication or building?
- do you need a venue, building permit, park permit?
- are there video, audio or lighting equipment exposed to the elements

***Workplan** (approx. 150 words / max 1000 characters)

- describe what you need to adequately install and execute the project for 12 hours
- consider staffing, install and removal planning, breaks for performers if applicable

***Anticipated Audience Experience** (approx. 100 words / max 750 characters)

- if you have goals for a specific type of audience engagement, describe them here
- consider how audiences will access and participate in your piece

We strongly recommend you review the *Areas of Assessment* section on page 8 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, Collective History or Condensed CV** (approx. 250 words / max 1,500 characters including spaces/punctuation words)

5. GEOGRAPHY AND LOCATION DETAILS

Nuit Blanche 2024 will bring together the neighbourhoods of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Artists are encouraged to consider the use of virtual realm as venue and how this connects to the 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 reasoning behind your site/venue choice. Information on the choice of neighbourhood should also be included if important to the project.

Consider the history and treaties relating to the land and the ecological impact human activity continues to have on the natural environment. How does your project incorporate considerations of the land on which it is situated, in your process, form, and/or content?

All Nuit Blanche projects must be physically accessible. Please articulate how accessibility is considered in the relation to the site, venue and/or design on 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. If you anticipate additional funding either through public grants or sponsorship, please outline those details.

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 31, 2024. Participating artists are encouraged to apply for other grants but are advised not to rely on receiving them to fulfill their project.

7. SUPPORT MATERIALS

Audio-visual support material is essential to the assessment process. 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 six (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 5 MB, 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	Time-lapse 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. PRIMARY CONTACT 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. 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.

10. 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 an automated confirmation email of receipt within 1 hour of submission. Check your email inbox (or junk folder), and if you have not received this email within the timeframe, please contact Rachel Fender at the email address below.

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Open Call Program 2024 Application Guidelines

Application Deadline

Applications must be [submitted online](#) by 11:59 p.m. EST, Sunday January 21, 2024.

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

Rachel Fender
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City Cultural Events, City of Toronto
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