



2018 Visual Artists Program Application Guidelines

**Applications may be submitted anytime between January 2 and November 15, 2018
(No applications may be submitted after November 15, 2018)**

TAC is committed to equity and inclusion. We welcome and encourage applications from all Toronto artists, including but not limited to: Indigenous artists, artists of colour, artists who are Deaf, have disabilities or are living with mental illness, artists who self-identify as 2SLGBTQIAP, newcomer and refugee artists, young and emerging artists and artists working outside the downtown core. Learn more about what we are doing to make TAC more accessible and inclusive in our recently adopted **Equity Framework**

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

Toronto Arts Council's Visual Artists program provides support to visual artists who have a professional independent art practice for the creation/production of new work or the completion of works in progress. Funds are intended to cover direct costs of creation/production, and materials. Visual Arts includes drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media, printmaking, book works, performance art, installation and fine crafts.

NEW IN 2018: APPLICATION DEADLINE

There is no single application deadline in 2018. You may submit an application anytime between January 2 and November 15, 2018. You may submit only one application during this period. You will be notified with the application results approximately 3 months after the submission date.

LEVEL ONE: \$5,000 – for emerging artists in the early stages of their professional career who have produced a small body of work and achieved some local recognition and/or have limited public exhibition experience. Generally, they have had between 2 and 7 years of professional arts practice.

LEVEL TWO: \$10,000 – for mid-career and established artists.

Mid-career artists are past the early stages of their careers, have produced a reasonable body of work and have received recognition outside the local community. Generally, they have had between 8 and 14 years of professional arts practice.

Established artists have produced an extensive body of work and have achieved national or international recognition. Generally, they have had at least 15 years of professional arts practice.

NEW IN 2018: Projects involving Deaf artists and artists with disabilities may apply for an

additional TAC grant by completing the Accessibility Expenses section of the application. A *TAC Accessibility grant* will provide up to a maximum of \$5,000 towards accessibility costs incurred during the project for artists involved with the project. Accessibility costs include but are not limited to: ASL interpretation, communications assistants, and attendant care.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must be professional artists and meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be Canadian Citizens **or** Permanent Residents **or** have an application pending for Permanent Resident status **or** be a Protected Person (approved refugee claimant) and, if requested, be able to provide documentation to verify this.
- Applicants must be residents of the City of Toronto for at least one year prior to the application deadline. Temporary absences of up to 12 months may be considered, subject to written explanation and special permission; please contact the Grants Officer. **Neither a Post Office Box address nor a studio address can be used to meet the residency requirement.**
- Applicants must have completed basic training (not necessarily in a formal educational institution).
- Applicants must have spent a minimum of one year working on and developing an independent art practice after completing full-time studies.
- Undergraduate students are not eligible.
- Professional artists pursuing graduate studies may not apply for work related to their program of study. A letter from the graduate program director specifying that the project is not related to the graduate student's program of studies must be submitted with the application.
- TAC recognizes that due to systemic barriers within the broader arts community (e.g. limited mainstream presentation opportunities for artists from equity-seeking communities) that some flexibility may be required in interpreting eligibility criteria to take into account **equivalent** professional experience and contexts. Potential applicants from equity-seeking communities are encouraged to discuss their eligibility with the program officer in advance of submitting an application.
- Applicants must retain full copyright, financial and creative control.
- Applicants to TAC's 2018 Visual Artists Program may not apply to TAC's 2018 Media Artists Program.
- Applicants may receive funding through TAC's Visual Artists or Media Artists Programs **only once every two years**. Those who received funding from either program in 2017 are not eligible to apply to either program in 2018 but may reapply in 2019.
- Collaborative proposals are eligible. Co-applicants are subject to the same eligibility criteria as primary applicants. If the application is successful, the grant cheque will be payable to the principal applicant, as listed in the application. Similarly, a T4A slip will be issued to the principal applicant.

EXCLUSIONS

The following are not eligible:

- Projects that have been completed prior to the announcement of results. Toronto Arts Council does not fund retroactively.
- Project funding solely for the purpose of travel or exhibition of work, including the cost of framing.
- Capital purchases, such as tools, equipment, etc.

- Commissioned, instructional or promotional projects.

SCHEDULING AND DURATION OF PROJECT

The Project Start Date must be a minimum of 3 months after the date that you submit your application. All projects must be completed within two years of the date on the notification letter.

ASSESSMENT

- Funds are awarded on a competitive basis by an independent jury of peers. Jurors are practicing visual arts professionals, including artists, curators, programmers, etc. Jury members are selected on the basis of their familiarity with and specialized expertise in a broad spectrum of artistic practices and to reflect the range of applicants and represent diverse mediums, genders, and cultural communities.
- The jury makes an artistic assessment based on the applicants' past and proposed work within the context of each competition.
- Jury deliberations are confidential and there will be no disclosure of jury proceedings or comments made during the adjudication.
- **Decisions of the jury are final.** There is no procedure for appealing the decision; however, TAC welcomes comments or suggestions about any of its programs.
- As the jurors and the applications change with each year, a jury's assessment of relative artistic merit will also vary. Unsuccessful applicants may succeed with another jury.
- Included in the **Equity Framework** is an **Equity Priority Policy**, which states that if there are multiple well-assessed applications of equal merit in an adjudication round but insufficient funds in the grants budget to support all deserving candidates, applications proposed by applicants that self-identify as belonging to one of Toronto Arts Council's equity priority groups will be prioritized.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

- For the jury process, this is the most important part of the application. Jury decisions are largely based on the review of examples of your previous work and/or current works in progress. While applicants may choose to show a selection of work based on their complete body of work, emphasis on recent work is recommended.
- Upload a maximum of 10 images; the jury will only view the number specified. The acceptable file type for visual support material is JPEG or JPG. The maximum file size is 2 MB. File resolution required for projection is between 72 and 150 DPI (or saved for "screen/monitor").
- Artists working in installation or performance may submit up to a maximum of 5 minutes of video in lieu of images. For each minute of video, subtract 1 image. Provide a link to the video files and, if required, a password or other instructions required to access the file.

CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

- Recipients are required to file a final report on their project. Future applications will not be accepted unless reports on previous funding have been received and approved by TAC. Funds shall be used only for the purposes outlined in the application. Changes to the scale, activities and timeframe of the project must be reported promptly to TAC.
- Recipients are required to acknowledge the support of Toronto Arts Council in all written materials relating to the activities for which funds are granted.

- The City of Toronto requires that all organizations and individuals adopt a policy of non-discrimination as a condition of receiving a grant from the City.

GRANTS ARE TAXABLE INCOME

Grant recipients are required to maintain adequate accounting records as to the receipt of funds from Toronto Arts Council. A T4A form will be issued by TAC and should be retained for income tax purposes.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted through *TAC Grants Online* (<https://tac.smartsimple.ca>) anytime between January 2 and November 15, 2018. **No applications can be submitted after 11:59 pm on November 15, 2018.** TAC does not accept applications by any other means of delivery. You will receive a confirmation email when your application is submitted. Check your spam/junk mail folder if it doesn't arrive in your in-box.

NOTIFICATION

Applicants will be notified by email when the results are available and will be able to log in to *TAC Grants Online* to receive their results.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Contact Visual/Media Arts Officer Peter Kingstone
416-392-6802 extension 208
peter@torontoartscouncil.org