

NUIT BLANCHE

Nuit Blanche Toronto 2023 – Independent Project Application Guidelines *Humber College Lakeshore Campus*

Introduction

This document provides a general overview of the event as well as a step-by-step guide for completing an application to the Independent Project program for Nuit Blanche Toronto at Humber College Lakeshore Campus.

Please read these guidelines carefully before starting your application. Applications that do not follow the criteria of the guidelines will be returned to the applicant for revisions. Consider these helpful tips when filling out your application:

- We recommend you review the section *Assessment Criteria* on page 5 of this document before writing your description.
- Be clear, articulate, and concise in your descriptions
- Have a friend or colleague who is unfamiliar with this work review the description to ensure readability, clarity, and completeness.

Applications must be submitted by **Monday, March 27, 2023, at 11:59 pm EST** via email to melissa.poliah@humber.ca

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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 16-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 every-day 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.

2023 marks the 17th edition of the event and includes multiple exhibitions curated by local curators responding to the event-wide theme Breaking Ground. Selected curators will create their own unique curatorial statements and exhibition titles. We are also inviting our Open Call, Independent Project and Major Institutional partners to respond to the theme in their projects in order to create a connective thread of experience for audiences throughout the event.

Programming will once again take place in neighbourhoods across the city. Exhibition Areas include Etobicoke, Downtown and Scarborough. Independent Project artists can propose for specific locations including but not limited to the exhibition areas as well as Bloor-Yorkville, Danforth-East, Downtown, Don Mills, North York, Scarborough, Etobicoke (Lakeshore & Kipling – Humber College Lakeshore Campus), Sterling Road, West Queen West and Online (for a virtual project that takes place

On Saturday, September 23rd, 7 p.m. to Sunday, September 24th, 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, and create installations geared at engaging both uninitiated and devoted art lovers from Toronto and beyond.

Nuit Blanche 2023 Theme: *Breaking Ground*

All Independent Project applicants are encouraged to address and integrate the theme of *Breaking Ground* in their project descriptions. The Curator and Selection Committee will consider all applications through this lens.

Breaking Ground speaks to a multiplicity of themes and ideas centred around the natural world as well as being on the vanguard of change and innovation. Defined as the preparation for building or planting, implications of climate change, construction and development of the city's urban landscape, the impacts on communities, our collective responsibilities around land and stewardship comes to mind.

These all begs us to pause and question:

- How do we respond to calls-to-action to centre care and community above all?
- How do we navigate our relationships to one another as well as our natural and built environments in an ever-changing city?
- How do we unite to innovate upon the systems of progression and dismantle those of oppression?

For Nuit Blanche Toronto 2023, at its core, we seek to uncover and highlight artists, creatives and curators whose ground-breaking practices challenge the status quo through media, form or content, transform public spaces, and inspire us to see and experience Toronto in new and meaningful ways.

Benefits of Participation

Independent Projects are partners in Nuit Blanche Toronto, contributing programming that transform the city overnight through contemporary art. As such, all Independent Projects will receive:

Engagement with audiences: Participation in Nuit Blanche Toronto is an opportunity to reach an exceptionally wide range of audiences for contemporary art. Depending on your project location, foot traffic can range from several hundred to tens of thousands of people.

Marketing: Independent Projects benefit from Nuit Blanche Toronto's and Humber College's umbrella marketing campaign to promote the overall event, which includes media partnerships

and an integrated advertising campaign (outdoor, print, online, radio, and television). Independent Projects are included on the event's official website and printed map. They will also receive official Nuit Blanche Toronto project signage for the event.

Production consultation: Independent Projects receive guidance on logistics, permits and processes related to executing their project for the event.

Insurance: All participating partners are covered by the City of Toronto's general liability insurance and many of the permit costs associated with producing an event on City of Toronto property are often waived.

Venue support: Independent Projects receive assistance with locating an appropriate venue for their project (as needed).

Funding opportunities: All selected Independent Projects receive an honorarium of \$1,500.

Eligibility Requirements

Nuit Blanche Toronto invites proposals from Humber College staff, faculty, students, and alumni, as well as Toronto-based professional artists, collectives, and arts organizations. Commercial businesses and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply or be a partner for this program. To be considered for inclusion in the program, all proposed projects must:

Stay open all night: Projects **MUST** be open for the entire 12-hour period (from 7 pm to 7 am). Projects that close early do not fulfill the "all-night" mandate of the event.

Be free: Projects must be free of charge to the public. Cover charge and entry fees to project premises are not permitted.

Be self-funded: All funding related to the project must be secured by the applicant in advance of the event. Successful applicants will receive an honorarium of \$1,500, to offset costs related to producing their project, such as artist fees, supplies, equipment rentals, and staffing.

Take place on Humber College Lakeshore Campus: All projects must be located on Humber College Lakeshore Campus. It is advisable that when seeking and selecting a location, you consider the neighbourhood's historical context, resident and business communities, traffic and navigation, and how your project will fit into, engage with, or activate your venue and its surroundings.

Be accessible: Venues and projects should also be AODA compliant. All venues must 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.

Be produced by practicing artist(s) based in Toronto: All projects must have at least one lead artist/curator who is based in Toronto, and at least one professional/practicing artist or arts organization associated with the project.

- o A practicing artist is defined as someone who has developed their skills through training and/or practice; is recognized as such by artists working in the same field; actively practices their art; seeks payment for their work; and has a history of two or more years of public presentation or exhibition of their work.

- o Priority consideration will be given to artists who have presented within the public realm previously and/or those who demonstrate proven ability to plan and execute a project of this scope.

- o A collective is defined as a group of two or more artists working together under a group name, either on a single project (ad hoc) or on an ongoing basis. For collectives of two artists, both must be City of Toronto residents. For collectives of more than two artists, the majority of members must be City of Toronto residents.

Be mentored by a Toronto-based professional artist, curator, or designer: Although students are encouraged to apply, their artwork must be created in consultation with a faculty member or practicing artist, curator, or designer.

Assessment Criteria

Projects will be assessed by Nuit Blanche Toronto Curators as well as a committee comprised of City of Toronto staff and representatives of the local visual arts community based on the following criteria:

Relation to contemporary visual art practice: Nuit Blanche Toronto is unique because it is a large-scale, public event rooted in contemporary art. While artists' concepts can be executed in any discipline, proposals should have a strong visual component. For our purposes, contemporary visual art practice is generally considered that of artists currently practicing in our globally influenced, culturally diverse, and technologically advancing world. No topic, medium, process, intention, or aesthetic principle is off limits; contemporary art is often

distinguished by the lack of a uniform, organizing principle, ideology, or “ism”. It is informed by and part of cultural dialogue that concerns larger contextual frameworks such as personal and cultural identity, family, community, and nationality.

Artistic merit, production quality, and originality: All applications must present a professional, high-quality, original proposal that reflects the scale and spirit of Nuit Blanche Toronto. Repeat projects from previous years are not eligible.

Audience engagement: Applications should show consideration for how audiences will experience the proposed work. How might audiences access the work during peak times? How will you ensure consistency of audience experience across the entire 12 hours of the event? If visitor interaction is integral to your project, how will you facilitate this?

Feasibility: Applications should demonstrate the ability of the applicant to carry out the project as outlined, including the financial viability of the project (which accommodates payment of artist fees); and a plan that addresses security and staffing/volunteer needs, production and technical requirements, and any other logistical details related to developing and presenting your project.

Project Contributors: The CV, biography and/or history of participating artists, curators and arts organizations will be considered. The history of applicants who have presented works at Nuit Blanche Toronto in previous years will be taken into consideration.

Relevance to Theme: Proposals that most effectively, critically, and creatively address the 2023 theme *Breaking Ground* will be given priority.

Selection and Notification Process

All Independent Project applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application by the following business day at 5pm EST. If you do not receive this email, your application has not been received. Please follow up with Melissa Poliah (contact information can be found on page 11).

Independent Project applications are reviewed by a Selection Committee comprised of the Nuit Blanche Toronto curator(s), City of Toronto staff, and Humber College staff. Accepted projects will receive email notification from the Selection Committee.

Certain projects may be accepted contingent on the resolution of minor factors. In this case, the artists and creative producers will be notified of this contingent acceptance and will be engaged to resolve these factors.

Projects that have not been accepted will be notified formally by email. Given the large number of applications received each year, staff capacity for feedback on unsuccessful applications may be limited.

All applicants to the Independent Project program will be notified of the results by email, no later than **Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 5:00 pm EST.**

Additional Funding, Donations and Grants

Participants in Nuit Blanche Toronto who wish to solicit their own funding support or corporate donations must obtain approval from the City of Toronto and Humber College before securing funds. The City of Toronto secures overall corporate sponsorships to fund Nuit Blanche Toronto and it is necessary to ensure that there are no conflicts with our sponsors. Please note, Nuit Blanche Toronto is not able to credit additional project donors or funding partners on the official event collateral.

Participating artists are encouraged to apply for grants and public funding but are advised to secure all necessary funding by **June 30, 2023**, at the very latest.

Completing Your Application

Applications must be submitted by **Monday, March 27, 2023, at 11:59 pm EST** via email to melissa.poliah@humber.ca

We recommend that you prepare your answers in advance of starting the application process. There are strict character limits for some sections.

Applications can be submitted as either a digital PDF using the fillable PDF, or a scanned handwritten document. Alternative formats can be provided on an as needed basis.

Application Form Details

1. Application Terms:

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

2. Eligibility:

Please refer to the criteria in this document to ensure you are eligible for the program before proceeding.

3. Project Information:

- A. Name of Artist, Collective, or Organization:** If your artist or collective name is different from your legal name or the name to which payments and documents should be issued, please indicate both here.
- B. Title of Project:** This can be a placeholder title, as it may change as we get closer to the event.
- C. Brief Project Summary:** Use this section to provide a short, functional description of your project. Treat this description as an elevator pitch for your project, focusing on the critical details *(25 words/200 characters, including spaces and punctuation)*.

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.

4. Project Description:

Use this section to provide a detailed description of your project, focusing on four (4) key areas. Please do not include any personal information.

- A. Concept:** This is the “what” of your proposal *(300 words/2000 characters maximum, 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 curatorial theme *Breaking Ground*?
- B. Logistical/Technical:** This is the “how” of your proposal *(150 words/1000 characters maximum, including spaces and punctuation)*
 - Are there elements that require fabrication or building?

- Do you need a venue contract, building permit, park permit, etc.?
- Will there be any video, audio, or lighting equipment exposed to the elements?

C. Workplan *(150 words/1000 characters maximum, including spaces and punctuation)*

- Describe what you need to adequately install and execute the project for a 12-hour duration.
- Consider staffing, installation and removal planning, and breaks for performers.

D. Anticipated Audience Experience *(100 words/750 characters maximum, including spaces and punctuation)*

- If you have goals for a specific type of audience engagement, list them here.
- Consider how audiences will access your piece.
- How will audiences physically distance themselves from other people and the artwork?

5. Project Contributors:

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

A. Biography or Condensed CV: Provide details about your past artistic, performance, installation, or exhibition experience *(250 words/1500 characters maximum, including spaces and punctuation)*.

B. Project Assistance Needs: If you need help completing your project, Humber Galleries can assist in connecting you with other Humber College applicants who may wish to collaborate with you *(100 words/750 characters, including spaces and punctuation)*.

6. Site Specificity/Needs and Requirements:

Your project must be situated on Humber College Lakeshore Campus. While it is not necessary to have a confirmed location before submitting your application, site specificity is important. If you have a venue or location on Humber College grounds in mind, please include the reason you have selected it for your project *(40 words/250 characters maximum, including spaces and punctuation)*.

If you do not have a location in mind, Humber Galleries can assist in finding you a suitable location for your project, upon acceptance into the program and pending availability. Site

specificity is a primary consideration so please describe the ideal type of venue or location you are seeking (e.g., park, hallway, courtyard, storefront, etc.), as well as the reason you feel it best suits your project (*150 words/1000 characters maximum, including spaces and punctuation*).

7. Budget:

Proposed budgets must reflect **all** potential artistic expenses and revenues associated with producing a project, such as artist fees, staffing, equipment, fabrication, crowd control mechanisms.

Please list the \$1,500 honorarium as confirmed revenue. While other sources of funding are not a requirement, the financial viability assessment criteria consider additional and confirmed revenues as an asset. Include all confirmed and projected sources of revenue. Total revenues **must** balance with total expenses.

If you list public sources of funding from arts councils such as the Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, or Canada Council for the Arts in your revenue budget, you will be asked to describe which specific funding programs you have or plan to apply to. Similarly, if you list private donations and crowdfunding, you will be asked to list all confirmed or projected funders, and whether their contributions are cash or in-kind.

8. Support 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 email or submitted via a link within the application. Up to five (5) files total may be submitted, with a maximum file size of 5MB per file. Files are accepted in the following formats:

- Still Images: jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, tif
- Audio: MP3, MP4, WAV, WMA
- Videos: Link via Vimeo, YouTube, a personal website, etc.

Important: If you are linking files through a file sharing program such as Dropbox or Google Drive, please ensure your link does not expire for at least 6 weeks after the application deadline, and that it does not require special permissions (ie: a password) to access and download a file. For audio and video files that are larger than 5MB, we recommend hosting the materials on a website where we can review them directly rather than download, such as YouTube, Vimeo, or Soundcloud.

Complete this table with information that corresponds to your support material files. This should include:

- File name (please title all files with the primary contact’s name and title of project)
- Date of artwork completion
- Artwork medium & dimensions
- Has artwork been previously shown?
- Image credit line
- Link (if applicable)

9. Applicant Information:

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

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.

All Independent Project applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application by the following business day at 5pm EST. Check your email inbox (or junk folder). If you have not received this email within this timeframe, your application has not been received. Please follow up with Melissa Poliah at the email address below.

Contact

Independent Projects Program

Melissa Poliah

Program Lead

Humber Galleries, Humber College

melissa.poliah@humber.ca