

Nuit Blanche Toronto 2020 – Independent Project Application Guidelines

Humber College Lakeshore Campus Application

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.

Applications must be submitted by **Friday, April 3rd, 2020** at 11:59 p.m. EST. via email to casey.norris@humber.ca

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About Nuit Blanche (Toronto)

Nuit Blanche was originally conceived in Paris, France in 2002, with a mandate to bring contemporary art to large, diverse audiences in public spaces. In 2006, the City of Paris invited the City of Toronto to join an assembly of European cities producing similar art and cultural events, and Toronto became the first North American city to develop a similar program.

Nuit Blanche Toronto is a free, 12-hour contemporary art event, produced by the City of Toronto. Its mandate is 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.

2020 marks the 15th edition of the Nuit Blanche 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. Programming will 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 more.

2020 Theme: *The Space Between Us*

People are the heart of their communities and this year's 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 stories about our connection to place.

All Independent Project applicants are encouraged to address and integrate the 2020 theme in their project descriptions in their application. The City of Toronto and the Selection Committee will adjudicate all applications through the lens of this vision.

Benefits of Participation

Independent Projects are partners of Nuit Blanche Toronto, contributing programming that transforms 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 an 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, and 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 \$2,000.

Independent Projects Eligibility Requirements

Please read the following guidelines carefully to determine both applicant and project eligibility before submitting an application to this program.

Nuit Blanche Toronto invites proposals from Humber College Staff, Faculty, and Students and Toronto-based professional artist, collective, and arts organization.

To be considered for inclusion in the program, all proposed projects must:

1. **Be able to 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 undermine the "all-night" mandate of the event and will not be eligible to participate in future events.

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

3. **Be self-funded:** *All funding related to the project must be secured by the applicant in advance of the event.* Successful applicants will receive a \$2,000 honorarium to offset costs related to producing their project, such as artist fees, equipment rentals, and staffing.

4. **Take place on Humber College Lakeshore Campus:** All projects must be located within one of Humber College Lakeshore Campus's properties. It is advisable that when seeking and selecting a venue you take into account 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.

5. **Be accessible.** This means that venues limited to patrons over the age of 19 are NOT acceptable, and that venues should be AODA compliant. 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](#).

Commercial businesses and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply or be a partner for this program.

Assessment Criteria

The Nuit Blanche Artistic Director and a selection committee comprised of Humber College staff will base their selections 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 principles are off limits; contemporary art as a whole 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 large audiences access the work during peak times? How will you ensure consistency of audience experience across the full 12 hours of the event? If audience or 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.

Relevance to Theme: Proposals that most effectively, critically, and originally address the 2020 theme *The Space Between Us* will be given priority.

Selection and Notification Process

All Independent Project applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application within 24 hours of submission. If you do not receive this email, your application has **not** been received. Please follow up with the Independent Projects Coordinator.

All applications for the Independent Project Program **are reviewed by a committee** composed of the Artistic Director and Humber College staff. Final selection is made by the Artistic Director.

Accepted projects will receive a notification from Humber Galleries.

Certain projects may be accepted contingent on the resolution of minor factors. In this case, the artists/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 **by 5:00 p.m. EST on April 28th, 2020.**

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 Nuit Blanche 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 1, 2020**, at the very latest.

Completing Your Application

Applications must be emailed to casey.norris@humber.ca by **11:59 p.m. Friday, April 3rd, 2020**.

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

Application Terms

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

Eligibility

Please refer to the criteria on page 3 of this document to ensure you are eligible for the program before proceeding.

Project Information

While not all sections are required please provide as much information as possible.

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.

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, strictly adhering to the 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."

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 The Space Between Us?

Logistical / Technical (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 contract, building permit, park permit?
- are there video, audio or lighting equipment exposed to the elements?

Workplan (~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 (~ 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 section *Assessment Criteria* on page 4 of this document before creating your description.

Writing tips:

- 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.

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 that highlights your professional achievements and history of contemporary art practice (if applicable).

Biography or History of Condensed CV (~approx. 250 words / max 1500 characters)

Provide any details on of your past artistic, performance, installation, or related experience.

Project Assistance Needs (~ approx. 100 words / max. 750 characters)

If you have any needs to complete your project that cannot be completed by your current team Humber Galleries can assist in connecting with other Humber staff or applicants that may be able to collaborate with you.

Site/Location Needs and Requirements

Applicants are responsible for securing their own venue. You will be asked to describe your confirmed or prospective venue/location in more detail in this section.

While it is not necessary to have a confirmed venue in order to apply, site specificity is important. If you have a venue or location please include the reason you have selected it for your project. You **must** contact a venue before listing them on your application. If your project is accepted you will be required to supply us with a copy of your venue agreement, unless the venue is also the applicant.

If you do not have a venue, we can assist you in finding a suitable location for your project, pending availability, upon acceptance into the program. Site specificity is a primary consideration so please describe the kind of location you are seeking (for example: a park, alleyway, courtyard, storefront, etc.), as well as the reason you feel it best suits your project. Your project must be situated in one of Humber College's Lakeshore Campus properties.

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 mechanisms, permits, and venue rental, along with **all** confirmed and projected sources of revenue.

Please list the \$2,000 honorarium as confirmed revenue. While other sources of funding are not a requirement, the financial viability assessment criteria considers 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 such organizations 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 have listed funding partners, you will be asked to list all prospective and confirmed funders, and whether their contributions are cash or in-kind.

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 5 files may be submitted, with a maximum file size of 5 MB per file. Files are accepted in the following formats:

- Still Images – jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, tif
- 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.

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.

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

- File name
 - o Please title all files with the primary contact's name and title of project
- date of completion
- medium/ media
- dimensions
- image credit line
- if the work has been shown previously

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. If you do not receive a confirmation email within an hour of submitting, please contact Casey Norris at the email address below.

Contact

Independent Projects

Casey Norris
Technical and Communications Coordinator
Humber Galleries, Humber College
casey.norris@humber.ca