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Now Active on artsnb's Online Application System: A Voluntary Self Identification Survey

Fredericton, September 26, 2022 - The New Brunswick Arts Board (**artsnb**) is pleased to have launched the new Voluntary Self-Identification Survey on its Online Application System. This new survey has been created to identify possible gaps in programming and outreach to communities who may be under-represented.

Since September 1st, applicants submitting a grant request on artsnb's Online Application System, are invited to answer questions about their linguistic and cultural community affiliations, pronouns, gender identification, sexual orientation and about whether they live with a disability and/or a chronic illness.

Victoria Hutt, artsnb Chair, shares: *"After two years in the making, the New Brunswick Arts Board is very excited about this new development on our Online Application System. The Voluntary Self-Identification Survey is in harmony with our upcoming strategic plan, founded on principles of inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility. This new initiative will inform the accessibility and equitable distribution of our grant programs and will allow us to increase the reach of our mandate to a more diversified applicant base."*

The Voluntary Self-Identification Survey has been created to gather data on various equity-seeking communities served by artsnb. Following best practices from other provincial and national arts boards, this new survey will help artsnb identify possible gaps in programming and outreach to communities who may be under-represented among the current applicant base. Answers to this survey are entirely optional, confidential, and will not be disclosed to peer juries during the evaluation of grant applications.

"All data and finding we will publish from the survey will be completely anonymizes. This will allow us to assess which communities we need to serve better, without compromising the privacy of individual artists. This new tool will show us where to build new and closer relationships with artists from marginalized communities who have previously been underserved by public arts funding, and to better offer our support to the wisdom and creativity of these artists", say Rebecca Salazar, artsnb Program Officer.



The New Brunswick Arts Board is an arm's length arts funding agency with a legislated mandate to facilitate and promote the creation of art as well as administering funding programs for professional artists in the province. Most of the funding for these programs is provided through the province's Arts Development Trust Fund and by the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture.

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