



## **Feedback from the Peer Jury**

Since October 2023, after artsnb releases the results of its program competitions, general constructive comments and recommendations from the peer jury evaluation are available.

Please note that these comments are summarized from the discussions in the peer jury meetings, and do not necessarily relate to every application submitted to that deadline. The goal of sharing this feedback is to provide some insight into the jurying process, and to strengthen future applications.

## **Summary of the peer jury feedback from the August 1, 2023, Arts Infrastructure Grant for New and Emerging Artists' competition**

### **General feedback and data:**

- The jury found this a strong competition in terms of artistic merit. Most of the points lost were due to ineligible expenses in the budget, unclear creative project proposals, or missing details in the application documents.
- The jury evaluated 31 applications and was able to award 11 grants with the available budget envelope for this competition (35.4% success rate).
- In addition to the 11 recommended applications, the jury ranked 5 more applications highly, but since the competition budget could not grant all of the meriting applications, these 5 applications received a Merit status. Evaluated applications may receive one of these three statuses: Recommended (received funding), Merit (recommended by jury, but did not receive funding), and Not Recommended (did not receive funding).
- The jury assigned 15 applications the status of Not Recommended. If an application isn't successful, it doesn't necessarily mean that the work lacks merit. Grant assessment is a competitive process and budgets are limited. Remember that every competition has a different set of applicants and a different jury.
- Eight applications were disqualified prior to jury evaluation. These applications were disqualified because they proposed projects not eligible for this program or because the applicant's level of experience exceeded artsnb's definition of an emerging artist (see Appendix 5 of [the program guidelines](#)). Please note that the Artistic Infrastructure program is only open to artists who qualify as emerging artists as defined by artsnb.

### **Recommendations on application components:**

- The jurors recommended that applicants write their proposals with a multidisciplinary artistic audience in mind. When describing the proposed equipment purchase and project, be sure to describe these in a way that will be understandable by a jury of arts professionals from a variety of artistic backgrounds, as one or more jurors may not be as familiar with the technical terms or needs of your specific art form.



- Many of the applications in this competition included work resumé's which were unrelated to the applicant's artwork instead of the required professional artist CV. Please refer to artsnb's [Application Toolkit](#) for tips on how to prepare a professional artist CV; this document is required for all of artsnb's grant programs.
- Please note that the Arts Infrastructure Grant requires two proposal sections: in addition to describing the piece of equipment you wish to purchase, "applicants must propose an artistic creation project that the proposed capital improvement or equipment acquisition will enable them to carry out within one year (12 months) following the completion of these activities" (see Section A of the [program guidelines](#)). Both of these proposals are evaluated by jurors, and strong applications included detailed text for both the equipment purchase and the proposed creative project.
- Since the Arts Infrastructure program funds equipment purchases that will further the creation of new works, the jurors felt that proposals which focused more on promotional or business goals did not suit the aims of this program. The jury recommended instead to focus on creative or artistic goals with this equipment purchase.
- If an applicant's project includes expenses that are ineligible for this specific grant, the jury recommends demonstrating in the budget that these expenses will be covered by a personal contribution or other funding sources. Examples of ineligible expenses included in budgets for this competition include instructor or service fees, and consumable materials (paints, canvases, beads, inks, etc.). See section G of the Program Guidelines for more detailed information. You may also refer to artsnb's [Application Toolkit](#) for tips on preparing a budget.
- The jury recommended that applicants explain in more detail why they have chosen the specific piece of equipment proposed: i.e., why this brand, why this model, how are these specifications important for your creative goals? Is this model the industry standard for artists working in your field? What does this specific model allow you to achieve that others would not? Addressing these potential questions in your proposal help convince a jury of the strength and feasibility of your application.

#### **Other artsnb programs that may interest the applicants in this competition:**

- For applicants seeking support for promotional expenses, please refer to artsnb's [Career Development—Professionalization & Promotion program](#).
- For applicants seeking mentorship or further education in their artform, please refer to artsnb's [Career Development—Professional Development program](#).
- For applicants proposing the creation of new work without needing to purchase significant equipment (i.e. if the proposed expenses mainly or only include consumable materials), please refer to artsnb's Creation program.