



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 November 1, 2023 competitions – Artist in Residence and Career Development programs

Artist in Residence program

General feedback and data:

- Overall, the jury was excited to see so many applications that were focused on making connections and starting dialogues about important subjects.
- The jury evaluated 15 applications and was able to award 12 grants with the available budget envelope for this competition (80% success rate).
- 12 applications received a status of "Recommended." 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 3 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.
- Additional funding for the Artist in Residence program was provided by the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture (THC).

Recommendations on application components:

- The jurors recommended that applicants write their proposals with a multidisciplinary artistic audience in mind: be sure to describe your project and your residency 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 of your specific art form.
- The Samples of Work section allows you to upload up to 15 images/15 minutes of audiovisual material/15 pages of text, and the jury recommends that applicants make use of that space to upload samples of their past work that relate to the proposed project. Please refer to artsnb's [Application Toolkit](#) for tips on selecting Samples of Work.



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- Strong applications included a clear and concise project description, a feasible timeline, clear goals and outcomes, and integration with the community of the host organization (such as workshops or studio visits).
- Many of the applications in this competition contained small budget discrepancies or errors. The jury recommends taking a closer look at your application budget, and perhaps uploading a detailed budget file with extra information about the total costs of the project, to aid the jurors in assessing the feasibility of the residency. Please refer to artsnb's [Application Toolkit](#) for tips on preparing a budget.

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

- For applicants seeking travel funds after an invitation to show their work, please refer to artsnb's [Career Development – Arts by Invitation program](#).
- For applicants seeking mentorship or further education in their art form, please refer to artsnb's [Career Development—Professional Development program](#).
- For applicants proposing the creation of new work, please refer to artsnb's [Creation program](#).

Career Development program

General feedback and data:

- The jury evaluated 26 applications and was able to award 12 grants with the available budget envelope for this competition (46.2% success rate).
- The jury assigned 14 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.
- One application was disqualified due to ineligibility prior to jury evaluation.

Recommendations on application components:

- The jurors recommended that applicants write their proposals with a multidisciplinary artistic audience in mind. When describing the proposed 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.
- The jurors were particularly interested in seeing how this project would develop the applicant's practice or push them forward in their careers. There is a 350-word limit on the project description section for this program, and the jurors recommended using the full word count with details about the proposed project. What festival/exhibition/event will you be attending, and why is it important to you? How is this training opportunity relevant or important for your artistic practice? What is the timeline of your project? Why is this promotional tool necessary for your continued development in your field?



Addressing these potential questions in your proposal help convince a jury of the strength and feasibility of your application.

- Strong applications in this competition included a detailed project description, a feasible and clear rationale for how this would push the applicant forward in their practice, a balanced and well-justified budget, and a selection of relevant samples of work. The jurors especially appreciated when an applicant included contextual details on a concept/festival/opportunity and did not require the jurors to do supplementary research in order to understand the application.
- Many of the applications in this competition had missing or incomplete details about proposed collaborators; the jury recommended including a clear invitation or collaboration letter with well-defined goals and outcomes, and a budget line for payment to mentors or collaborators.
- The jury recommends uploading a detailed budget file with extra notes about what expenses will be covered by the grant. Please refer to artsnb's [Application Toolkit](#) for tips on preparing a budget.