



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 January 1st, 2024 Competitions – Artist in Residence and Career Development

Artist in Residence Program

General Information and data:

- The jury evaluated 16 applications and was able to award 15 grants with the available budget envelope for this competition (93.8 % success rate).
- The jury assigned 1 application 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.
- The department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture has announced additional funding this year to the remodeled Artist in Residence program, as a response to the recommendations from the Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist.

Recommendations on applications components:

- The jury members recommend that individual and organizational applicants use the Project description section to outline the specific activities planned during the residency (e.g. creation or development of a new work, leading workshops, performances). While explaining the conceptual grounding of the artist's work is important, the logistics of the residency itself are equally important for the jury to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed project.
- For host organizations wishing to host an artist residency, the jury appreciated the applications that clearly demonstrated how their choice of a proposed artist aligns with their organization's objectives, and what this specific artist will bring to their community.
- The jury encourages applicants to utilize the Cultural Relationships section of the application form to reflect on the ethical considerations, protocols, and practices that best suit the communities their project engages.
- The jury appreciated the range of differing opportunities proposed in this application pool.



Other artsnb programs that may interest the artists 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 information and data:

- The jury evaluated 35 applications and was able to award 14 grants with the available budget envelope for this competition (40 % success rate).
- 15 additional applications received a status of "Merit." This status indicates that the jury wished to recommend these applications for funding, but that the program budget was insufficient to fund all meriting applications.
- The jury assigned 6 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 component:

- Strong applications in this competition included a detailed and clear project description, a feasible 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 used clear and concise language to explain their project at the beginning of the project description (ie. "I have been invited to present my work at this festival..." or "I propose creating an artist's website to showcase my work..."), then went into more detail to describe the relevance of the proposed project.
- Jurors commented that although this was a project-based competition with a focus on the development of the artist's career, they would have liked to know more about the artist's previous artistic experience/practice in addition to details about the current opportunity. There is a limit of 350 words for the project description, and the jurors recommended using part of that space for a concise summary of the applicant's artistic trajectory, and the importance of the proposed project in relation to their career.



- Some 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 roles and outcomes, and a budget line for payment to mentors or collaborators, if applicable.
- The jury recommends uploading a detailed budget file with extra notes about what expenses will be covered by this grant. Please refer to artsnb's [Application Toolkit](#) for tips on preparing a budget.
- This program allows multiple collaborating artists to submit individual applications; in this case, the jury recommends personalizing each application, to give a better sense of each individual artist applying and their role in the proposed project.
- The jurors recommend that applicants curate their selection of samples of work, including targeted samples/extracts for the jurors to evaluate. Please refer to [Appendix 2 of the program guidelines](#) for more detail on submitting samples of work. If the applicant provides more work than is allowed in the guidelines, the jurors start evaluating at the beginning of the work and may not have the opportunity to see all of the relevant portions of the samples of work.

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

- For applicants seeking support for an artist residency, please refer to artsnb's [Artist in Residence program](#).
- For applicants proposing the creation of new work, please refer to artsnb's [Creation program](#).