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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 July 1st, 2024 Deadlines – Artist in Residence and Career Development Programs

Artist in Residence Program

General Information and data

- The jury evaluated 18 applications and was able to award 7 grants with the available budget envelope for this competition (38.9 % success rate).
- 7 additional applications received a status of “Merit.” This status indicates that the jury recommended these applications for funding, but that the program budget was insufficient to fund all meriting applications.
- The jury assigned 4 applications the status of “Not Recommended”. This result does not 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.
- Of the 7 grants awarded, 2 were awarded to applicants receiving their first grant from artsnb.
- The department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture has announced additional funding 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.
- For more detailed information including success rates by artistic discipline, please visit the [official press release](#) featuring the results of this deadline.

Recommendations on application components:

- The jury was enthusiastic about projects that had strong community impact, and projects led by artists from underrepresented communities and art forms.
- The jury appreciated applications that explained exactly how the residency project will advance or benefit the artist’s career development. In particular, the jury recommended explaining why this project, and why now.
- In the Samples of Work section, the jury noted that many applications included more material than is requested in the program guidelines. The jury recommended that



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applicants use the description box for each sample to indicate specific excerpts that relate to the proposed project, and to keep the total of these excerpts within the maximum length indicated in the guidelines.

- The jury advised organizations and institutions who apply to host an artist to demonstrate how the proposed residency will benefit the artist as well as the host organization: what resources or connections is the host organization offering the artist? how will the artist and their collaborators be compensated?

Other artsnb programs that may interest the artists who applied to this program deadline:

- 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 seeking to professionalize their portfolios and/or samples of work (e.g. hiring a professional photographer or videographer to document their work), please refer to [artsnb's Career Development—Professionalization & Promotion 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 34 applications and was able to award 19 grants with the available budget envelope for this competition (55.9 % success rate).
- 11 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 4 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 additional application was disqualified due to ineligibility, and one application was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the peer jury evaluation due to project changes.
- Of the 19 grants awarded, 5 were awarded to applicants receiving their first grant from artsnb.
- For more detailed information including success rates by artistic discipline, please visit the [official press release](#) featuring the results of this deadline.



Recommendations on application components:

- Strong applications in this competition included a detailed and clear project description, a feasible rationale for how this grant would impact the applicant and their community, a balanced and well-justified budget, and a selection of relevant samples of work.
- Jurors commented that although this was a project-based program with a focus on the development of the artist's career, they would have liked more context on the artist's position on this opportunity; why is this travel/mentorship/workshop important for the artist at this moment? The jury recommends including details about the applicant's previous artistic experience/practice in addition to information about the current opportunity.
- The juries recommended including detailed budget breakdowns whenever an application includes multiple types of expenses, e.g., multiple types of materials, many different services required, collaborator fees, and explanation for any travel requested. Clarifying the budget is especially useful when a project has multiple sources of funding, so the jury understands what portion of the project will be funded by artsnb.
- The jurors recommend that applicants curate their selection of samples of work to support their application, 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](#).