TORONTO ARTS _ COUNCIL

2027 VISUAL ARTISTS PROGRAM: CREATION

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The program accepts applications on an ongoing basis.

TAC is committed to equity and inclusion. We welcome and encourage applications from all Toronto artists, including but not limited to: Indigenous artists, Black artists, artists of colour, artists who are Deaf, have disabilities or are living with mental illness, artists who self-identify as 2SLGBTQIAP, newcomer and refugee artists, young and emerging artists and artists working outside the downtown core. Learn more about what we are doing to make TAC more accessible and inclusive in our Equity Framework

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What does this program support?

Toronto Arts Council's Visual Artists program provides support to visual artists who have a professional independent art practice for the creation/production of new work or the completion of works in progress. Funds are intended to cover direct costs of creation/production, and materials.

Visual Arts includes drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media, printmaking, performance art, installation and fine crafts and more. **The Visual Artists Program does not include film or video makers: they apply to the Media Artists program.**

Grants for this program are $10,000.

TAC Accessibility grant

Projects involving Deaf artists and artists with disabilities may apply for an additional ***TAC Accessibility grant*** that will provide up to a maximum of $5,000 towards accessibility costs for artists incurred during the project. Accessibility costs include but are not limited to: ASL interpretation, audio description, closed captioning, communications assistants, attendant care (including helpers for Elders), support workers and equipment rentals or other supports required to meet artists' accessibility needs.

Starting in 2026, the TAC Accessibility Grant will allow grant recipients to apply for an Accessibility Grant at any time during their project. The Accessibility Grant will be available to grant recipients as a separate application in 2026.

When can the project happen?

The Project Start Date must be a minimum of 4 months after the date you submit your application. All projects must be completed within two years of the date that the Notification Letter was issued.

Who can apply?

Applicants must be professional artists and meet the following criteria:

- A professional artist is someone who has specialized training in the field (not necessarily in academic institutions), who is recognized as such by their peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition), who has a history of public presentation, publication and/or production and who is committed to devoting more time to their artistic activity if financially feasible.

- TAC recognizes that due to systemic barriers within the broader arts community (e.g. limited mainstream presentation opportunities for artists from equity-seeking communities) some flexibility may be required in interpreting eligibility criteria to take into account equivalent professional experience and context. Potential applicants from equity-seeking communities are encouraged to discuss their eligibility with the Program Manager in advance of submitting an application.
- Applicants must be Canadian Citizens **or** Permanent Residents **or** have an application pending for Permanent Resident status **or** be a Protected Person (approved refugee claimant) and, if requested, be able to provide documentation to verify this.
- Applicants must be residents of the City of Toronto for at least one year prior to the application deadline. Temporary absences of up to 12 months may be considered, subject to written explanation and special permission; please contact the Program Manager. **Neither a Post Office Box address nor a studio address can be used to meet the residency requirement.**
- Professional artists pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies may not apply for work related to their academic program of study.
- Applicants must retain full copyright, financial and creative control.
- Applicants to TAC's 2027 Visual Artists Program may not apply to TAC's 2027 Media Artists Program.
- Applicants can apply once per year for the Visual Artists program
- Individual artists may only receive one discipline-stream project grant and one strategic initiative grant per calendar year and can only have one open application in each stream at a time. Please note: if you apply for a Visual Artists grant you cannot also apply to another TAC program for the same project.
- Collaborative proposals (involving a co-applicant) are eligible. For these proposals, one of the applicants must identify a principal applicant. Co-applicants are subject to the same eligibility criteria as single, individual applicant. If the application is successful, the grant payment will be payable to the principal applicant, as listed in the application. Similarly, a T4A slip will be issued to the principal applicant.

This Program does not fund:

- Projects that have been completed prior to the announcement of results. Toronto Arts Council does not fund retroactively.
- Project funding solely for the purpose of travel or exhibition of work, including the cost of framing.
- Project funding solely for the purpose of publishing, including the cost of printing.
- Capital purchases (e.g. tools, equipment, etc.) in excess of $750
- Commissioned, instructional or promotional projects.

How do I apply?

You may submit an online application anytime, and may submit only one application to this program during the year via *TAC Grants Online* (https://tac.smartsimple.ca). You will be notified with the application results approximately 4 months after the submission date. The first result notifications will be made by March.

Applications must be submitted through our online application system, TAC Grants Online. TAC

does not accept applications by any other means of delivery. Submitting an application through TAC Grants Online requires you to first register in the system, which enables you to log in and out as many times as needed before submitting. Online applications may be submitted anytime, and you may submit only one application to this program during the year.

You will receive a confirmation email when your application is submitted. When the application results are available, approximately 4 months after the submission date, we will send you an email and you will be able to log in to *TAC Grants Online* to receive the results. Check your spam/junk mail folder if it doesn't arrive in your in-box.

After 11:59 pm on October 4, 2027 your 2027 application can still be accessed in your Application History page in TAC Grants Online. To work on a new application after October 4, 2027, you can start a new draft from the Apply page after the program re-opens October 15 for the following granting year**.**

Application Accessibility Support for Deaf Persons or Persons With Disabilities

Applicants who are Deaf, have a disability, or need support to complete their grant applications can apply for funds to cover the costs of assistance from Application Support Service Providers. Up to $500 is available per eligible applicant in each calendar year. Please contact your Grant Program Manager at least six weeks before the grant program deadline to determine eligibility, request application support funding, and to review the process for payment to be made to your Service Provider. Requests for application support require approval from the Grant Program Manager.

What do I need to prepare?

The three main parts of the grant application are: *Proposed Use of Grant*, *Artists Resume / CV*, and *Support Material*:

- The *Proposed Use of Grant* is a 500-word explanation on how the grant will be used. It should include a description of who you are as an artist, any cultural or artistic concerns involved in your practice and a clear description on what you are planning on making.
- An *Artists Resume / CV* detailing your artistic experience.
- *Support Material* is an important part of the application. Grant review panel decisions are largely based on the review of examples of your previous work and/or current works in progress. While you may choose to show a selection of work based on your complete body of work, emphasis on recent work is recommended.
- Upload a maximum of 10 images; the grant review panel will only view 10 images, and no more. The acceptable file type for visual support material is JPEG or JPG. The maximum file size is 2 MB. File resolution required for projection is between 72 and 150 DPI (or saved for "screen/monitor").
- Artists working in installation or performance may submit up to a maximum of 10 minutes of video instead of images. For each minute of video, subtract 1 image (from the maximum of 10 allowed). Provide a link to the video files and, if required, a password or other instructions required to access the file.
- Do not submit materials through Google Drive.

How is my application assessed?

- Funds are awarded on a competitive basis by an independent review panel (called "grant review panel") of peers (called "peer assessors"). Peer assessors are practicing visual arts professionals, including artists, curators, programmers, etc. Peer assessors are selected on the basis of their familiarity with and specialized expertise in a broad spectrum of artistic

practices and represent diverse mediums, genders, and cultural communities. They reflect the range of applicants.

- Included in TAC's Equity Framework is an **Equity Priority Policy**, which states that if there are multiple well-assessed applications of equal merit in an adjudication round but insufficient funds in the grants budget to support all deserving candidates, applications proposed by applicants that self-identify as belonging to one of Toronto Arts Council's equity priority groups will be prioritized.
- The grant review panel makes an artistic assessment based on your past and proposed work. Applications are reviewed in a competitive context. As the peer assessors and the applications change with each year, evaluations of relative artistic merit will also vary. Unsuccessful applicants may succeed with another grant review panel.
- Grant review panel deliberations are confidential and there will be no disclosure of the grant review panel's proceedings or comments made during the adjudication; **therefore we will not provide feedback for your application.**
- **Decisions of the grant review panel are final.** TAC welcomes comments or suggestions about any of its programs.

How do I find out the application results?

We will send you an email when the results are available, and you will log in to TAC Grants Online to receive the results.

What if my project changes?

Funds shall be used only for the purposes outlined in the application. Changes to the scale, activities and timeframe of the project must be reported promptly to TAC.

What do I do when I have completed the project?

Recipients are required to file a final report on their project. The final report is filled out and submitted online through TAC's granting portal. The due date for the final report will be included in the grant notification letter. Future applications to the Creative Communities, Dance, Literary Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual/Media Arts programs will not be accepted unless reports on previous funding have been received and approved by TAC.

What are the rules or requirements for this funding?

- Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Understanding. The Letter of Understanding will detail the terms and conditions of the funding. The Letter of Understanding must be signed and uploaded to TAC Grants Online before funding can be released. The Letter of Understanding also describes situations that would require grant repayment.
- Grant recipients are required to acknowledge the support of Toronto Arts Council in all written materials relating to the activities for which funds are granted. The TAC logo is available on our website; specifications for the size and placement of the logo should be commensurate with that of other donors or sponsors that have provided similar financial support. In lieu of the logo, the recipient may use the phrase "produced with the support of the City of Toronto through Toronto Arts Council."
- Toronto Arts Council has moved to electronic payments. If your application is approved, you will be required to enter the bank account information of the grant recipient that corresponds to the Applicant Name on your Notification Letter. Bank information is submitted along with your Letter of Understanding and other Notification Letter Requirements.

- The City of Toronto requires that all organizations and individuals adopt a policy of non-discrimination as a condition of receiving a grant from the City. All successful applicants will be required to submit a signed Declaration of Compliance with Anti-Harassment/Discrimination Legislation and City Policy.
- Grant recipients are required to maintain adequate accounting records as to the receipt of funds from Toronto Arts Council. A T4A form will be issued by TAC to Individual Applicants and should be retained for income tax purposes.
- In addition to the aforementioned general conditions of funding, TAC reserves the right to place other conditions on the release of the grant (such as confirmation of venue, programming, other sources of funding, etc.). Any specific conditions will be contained in the Letter of Understanding.

Further questions

Contact Visual/Media Arts Program Manager

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