

ANIMATING TORONTO PARKS

**TORONTO
ARTS _ COUNCIL**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Toronto Arts Council respectfully acknowledges the diversity of Indigenous Cultures and their connection to the Natural World we are privileged to share. We honour the Wendat, the Anishinaabeg Peoples, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and others who have walked this land or paddled these waters. We are grateful to the Ancestors and Elders of their Peoples and to their descendants who live and work with us on the back of the Great Turtle.

ANIMATING TORONTO PARKS

ABOUT THE GRANT PROGRAM

WHAT IS ANIMATING TORONTO PARKS?

TAC strategic program in partnership with City of Toronto Parks & Recreation, Toronto Arts Foundations' Arts in the Parks, and Park People.

Animating Toronto Parks program offers grants of up to **\$25,000 to create and present free arts programming** in any arts discipline.

- Open to individual artists, arts organizations, and collectives
- Funds free arts programming in selected Toronto parks in Etobicoke, East York, York, North York and Scarborough
- Arts programming can be in any artistic discipline, i.e.: dance, music, theatre, visual arts, community-engaged arts, etc.
- Limited-time / event-based activities tend to be more feasible and successful in comparison with something more durational and static (i.e. installations)
- Projects must be free and open to the public
- Projects must include community consultation and/or engagement
- Funded projects will take place in the summer of the following year and will be part of Arts in the Parks programming

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM OFFER?



Scarborough Made, *Scarborough Made in the Parks*. Funded by Toronto Arts Council's Animating Toronto Parks program. Photo by Ziyaad Haniff (2023).

- Funding toward artist fees and production elements
- Support with navigating park permitting and special event park permits from City of Toronto Parks & Recreation at no cost
- Additional permits such as noise exemption are not covered and costs associated with portable bathrooms are not covered
- Coverage under the TAC's liability insurance
- Introduction to Park People and local community/parks groups
- Support under Toronto Arts Foundation's Arts in the Parks initiative: support with marketing, community engagement, on-site wayfinding signage, and volunteer coordination
- This grant may cover up to 100% of project costs, including artist fees, equipment rental, materials, and other programming costs. Payment of professional artist fees is a requirement

NEW: RECURRING FUNDING

TAC is **piloting** a recurring funding opportunity for applicants to Animating Toronto Parks.

The opportunity will provide a grant for **three consecutive years**. Applicants approved for three years of recurring funding will be notified in the year, in which you apply. The grant amounts will be released annually upon submitting interim reporting.

To be considered for recurring 3-year funding, the applicants must:

- have received the Animating Toronto Parks grant at least three times, with at least one approved grant in the past three years;
- be committed to continue working in a park as described in the application (or in a similar way) for the next three years.

Applicants with fewer than three Animating Toronto Parks grants may be considered for this funding if there is a proven track record of consistent presence and programming in the park.



PROGRAM TIMELINE

Month	Note
Early June	Application Deadline
Early October	Applicants are notified of the results
November	Program orientation
January–March of the following year	Park Permit applications; conditions on the release of funds uploaded; funds releases
February–June of the following year	Grant recipients work with Arts in the Parks and Park People & local community groups on marketing, outreach, community engagement & project planning
June–September of the following year	TAC supported activities by grant recipients take place in parks

**Final reports are due 90 days after project completion date.
All major changes must be communicated to the program manager.**

ELIGIBILITY

INDIVIDUALS – COLLECTIVES – ORGANISATIONS



WHO CAN APPLY?

- This grants program is open to professional artists, not-for-profit arts organizations, artist collectives operating on a not-for-profit basis, and not-for-profit organizations. Not-for-profit organizations that are not arts-based may only apply to undertake projects that involve the artistic leadership of professional artists.
- A professional artist is someone who has developed their skills through training and/or practice; is recognized as such by artists working in the same artistic field; actively practices their art; seeks payment for their work; and has a history of public presentation or exhibition.
- You may not apply as an individual and be part of an organization or collective applying in the same competition.
- You may not apply for the same project in different grants programs.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Individuals:

- Must be Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents or have an application pending for Permanent Resident Status or be a Protected Person (approved refugee claimant);
- Must have been a resident of the City of Toronto for at least one year prior to the deadline, and live and work in Toronto for at least 8 months a year. A Post Office Box address cannot be used to meet the residency requirement;
- Professional artists pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies may not apply for work related to their program of study.

Organizations and Collectives:

- Organizations and collectives must be incorporated non-profit organizations or unincorporated collectives which operate on a non-profit basis. A collective is defined as two or more artists working together under a group name, either on a single project (ad hoc) or on an ongoing basis. For collectives of two artists, both must be City of Toronto residents. For collectives of more than two artists, the majority of members must be City of Toronto residents.
- Organizations and collectives must be located in the City of Toronto. A Post Office Box address cannot be used to meet this requirement.
- Collectives must be prepared to submit bank account information (in the name of the collective as listed in the application) if the application is successful.

HOW MANY TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL GRANTS CAN I HAVE PER YEAR?

Animating Toronto Parks Exception:

If you received an Animating Toronto Parks grant for activities happening this year, you can still apply in this round for activities in summer of the next year. This exception is only for the Animating Toronto Parks program. Funds for recommended grants will not be released until the following year.

TAC has two distinct funding envelopes:

1. Arts Discipline:

project and operating grants in dance, visual arts, theatre, etc.

2. Strategic Programs:

Animating Historic Sites, **Animating Toronto Parks**, Open Door, etc.

You may not apply to a Strategic Program if you have another Strategic Program grant application pending OR final report pending; or overdue final report in any program.

PARK SELECTION

ELIGIBLE PARKS

ELIGIBLE PARKS

SCARBOROUGH	ETOBICOKE	NORTH YORK	EAST YORK	YORK
Alexmuir Park	Amos Waites Park	Earl Bales Park	Dentonia Park	Memorial Park
Cedar Brook Park	Bell Manor Park	Fountainhead Park	R.V. Burgess Park	
Fred Johnson Park	Flagstaff Park	Lee Lifeson Art Park	Taylor Creek Park	
Fundy Bay Park	Neilson Park	Parkway Forest Park		
Guild Park and Gardens	Raymore Park	Walter Saunders Memorial Park		
Maidavale Park	Rowntree Mills Park			
Milliken Park	Summerlea Park			
Morningside Park	Wincott Park			
Neilson Park				
Prairie Drive Park				
Shawn Blu Rose Park				
Thomson Memorial Park				

Link to map of Parks: [here](#)

PARK SELECTION

Starting in 2026, an applicant can pick “Other” on the park list. The park must be located in Toronto, outside of the downtown core. Assignment of a park outside of the designated park list cannot be guaranteed, but will be considered if compelling rationale is included, such as ongoing work in a local park.

- You can choose one or more parks in the “Parks Selection” section of the grant application.
- Build your application around your preferred park(s). List your alternative park preferences.
- The grant review panel may assign a different park (or parks) for your project, where necessary. Be prepared to be flexible.
- It is strongly recommended that first-time applicants select one park. For all applicants: if you want to program multiple parks, consider outreach for each of the local communities, obtaining permits for each park, site visits, etc. and include it in your work plan and budget.

HOW TO APPLY

STEPS & ACCESSIBILITY

HOW DO I APPLY?



Hercinia Arts Collective, *Gurgle, Splash*. Directed by Vanita Butrsing Korn, Costumes by Amanda Wong. Pictured are artists Emily Hughes and Kirsten Edwards. Funded by Toronto Arts Council's Animating Toronto Parks program. Photo by Evan DeRushie (2024).

- 1. Read the grant program guidelines carefully.** Am I eligible for this grants program? Is this program a good fit for my project? Ask program manager if in doubt!
- 2. Read the parks descriptions and visit your park of choice.**
- 3. Create a TAC SmartSimple account:**
tac.smartsimple.ca
- 4. Read the grant application carefully.** Make a list of the materials you will need to gather (i.e.: bios and CVs, support materials, letter of support, etc).
- 5. First time applicants — talk to the program manager.** The program manager and grants administrators are here to support you!
- 6. Submit before the deadline!** Complete all of the required fields, upload all of the required materials and click “Submit” before the deadline.

ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORTS



Dance Together Festival, *Dance Together Festival in Amos Waites Park*. Funded by Toronto Arts Council's Animating Toronto Parks program. Photo by Mirna Chacin (2022).

APPLICATION ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT

Applicants who are Deaf or have a disability and 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.

If you have questions about this or would like to access this support, please send me an email!

TAC ACCESSIBILITY GRANT

Successful applicants to a TAC project grant may apply for the TAC Accessibility Grant up to a maximum of \$5,000 towards accessibility costs for involved artists and project contributors who identify as Deaf and/or disabled.

Applicants have the flexibility of applying for the Accessibility Grant at any time during their project timeline. Multiple applications can be made, where the requests can accumulate up to the maximum amount.

For more information, please feel free to contact access@torontoarts.org

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS ASSESSED?

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis by a grant review panel of practicing artists with input from the program partners. Grant review panels are composed to ensure equitable representation from TAC's Equity Priority Groups as well as geographical communities and artistic disciplines.

Assessment criteria:

- Artistic merit.
- Extent to which the proposed project will engage and include local community.
- Quality of experience the proposed activity will provide to community.
- Demonstrated capacity of the applicant to carry out the project as outlined.
- Financial viability of the project, including adequate payment of artist fees.

CONTACT

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