

NUIT BLANCHE

Nuit Blanche Toronto 2021 – Independent Project Application Guidelines *Humber College Lakeshore Campus*

Introduction

This document provides a general overview of the event as well as a step-by-step guide for completing an application to the Independent Project program for Nuit Blanche Toronto at Humber College Lakeshore Campus.

Please read these guidelines carefully before starting your application. Applications that do not follow the criteria of the guidelines will be returned to the applicant for revisions. Consider these helpful tips when filling out your application:

- We recommend you review the section *Assessment Criteria* on page 5 of this document before writing your description.
- Be clear, articulate, and concise in your descriptions
- Have a friend or colleague who is unfamiliar with this work review the description to ensure readability, clarity, and completeness.

Applications must be submitted by **Sunday, March 21st, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. EST** via email to stefanie.galvanek@humber.ca

Contents

| | |
|---|---------|
| About Nuit Blanche Toronto | pg 2 |
| 2020/2021 Theme: <i>The Space Between Us</i> | pg 2-3 |
| Benefits of Participation | pg 3 |
| Independent Projects Eligibility Requirements | pg 3-4 |
| Assessment Criteria | pg 5 |
| Selection and Notification Process | pg 5-6 |
| Additional Funding, Donations, and Grants | pg 6 |
| Completing your Application | pg 6-10 |
| Contact | pg 10 |

About Nuit Blanche Toronto

Nuit Blanche was originally conceived in Paris, France in 2002, with a mandate to bring contemporary art to large, diverse audiences in public spaces. In 2006, the City of Paris invited the City of Toronto to join an assembly of European cities producing similar art and cultural events. Toronto thus became the first North American city to develop its own Nuit Blanche program.

Nuit Blanche Toronto is a free and annual night-time event, produced by the City of Toronto. Its mandate is to connect contemporary art to the broadest possible publics and to create opportunities for audiences to explore and engage with contemporary art in public space.

2021 marks the 16th edition of Nuit Blanche Toronto and includes a major shift in the curatorial vision of the event. As with last year, Nuit Blanche Toronto's Artistic Director will provide a complete curatorial overview of all programming elements under one cohesive theme, *The Space Between Us*. This particular focus has become even more pertinent during these many months of isolation amid the COVID-19 global pandemic and the overnight event will likely feature a strong digital component.

Programming will again take place in neighbourhoods across the city, including Scarborough, Don Mills, Bloor-Yorkville, Downtown, West Queen West, and Sterling Road, with new exhibition hubs in North York and South-Etobicoke.

2020/2021 Theme: *The Space Between Us*

People are the heart of their communities and this year's curatorial theme will focus on the connections across urban, polar, and pacific landscapes revealing the space between us as a potential site for sharing knowledges. The global crisis of displacing people brings communities together to stand up for humanity and support each other. Connecting with different communities and nations – to build new spaces and families, shifting their relationships to each other and to place. It reminds us of our willingness to share knowledges when our future is grounded in building bridges between cultures, communities, and the environment. To transform the city by telling stories about our connection to place.

All Independent Project applicants are encouraged to address and integrate the 2020/2021 theme in their project descriptions in their application. The City of Toronto and the Selection Committee will adjudicate all applications through the lens of this vision.

This year's theme, content, and audience participation will inevitably reflect new opportunities and obstacles presented to us by the reality of the COVID-19 global pandemic. For instance, in the last several months, audiences have been deterred from congregating at galleries,

museums, fairs, and festivals. Organizations must rethink how to ensure safe access to their installations and collections, without undermining the visitor experience. And some artists are experimenting with new mediums that blur the lines between the real and digital worlds. As a result, all submissions for Nuit Blanche Toronto, whether intended to be exhibited in-person or online, are encouraged. It is also suggested that physical distancing be kept at the forefront of mind when producing a physical artwork.

Benefits of Participation

Independent Projects are partners of Nuit Blanche Toronto, contributing programming that transforms the city overnight through contemporary art. As such, all Independent Projects will receive:

Engagement with Audiences: Participation in Nuit Blanche Toronto is an opportunity to reach an exceptionally wide range of audiences for contemporary art either digitally or in-person.

Marketing: Independent Projects benefit from Nuit Blanche Toronto's and Humber College's umbrella marketing campaign to promote the overall event, which includes media partnerships and an integrated advertising campaign (outdoor, print, online, radio, and television). Independent Projects are included on the event's official website and printed map. They will also receive official Nuit Blanche Toronto project signage for the event.

Production Consultation: Independent Projects receive guidance on logistics, permits and processes related to executing their project for the event.

Insurance: All participating partners are covered by the City of Toronto's general liability insurance and many of the permit costs associated with producing an event on City of Toronto property are often waived.

Venue Support: Independent Projects receive assistance with locating an appropriate venue for their project (as needed).

Funding Opportunities: All selected Independent Projects receive an honorarium up to \$2,000, depending on the scale and requirements of the artwork.

Independent Projects Eligibility Requirements

Please read the following guidelines carefully to determine both applicant and project eligibility before submitting an application to this program.

Nuit Blanche Toronto invites proposals from Humber College staff, faculty, students, and alumni, as well as Toronto-based professional artists, collectives, and arts organizations.

Commercial businesses and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply or be a partner for this program.

To be considered for inclusion in the program, all proposed projects must:

1. **Be able to stay open all night:** Projects must be open for the entire 12-hour period (from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.). Projects that close early undermine the "all-night" mandate of the event and will not be eligible to participate in future events.
2. **Be free:** Projects must be free of charge to the public. Cover charge and entry fees to project premises are not permitted.
3. **Be self-funded:** All funding related to the project must be secured by the applicant in advance of the event. Successful Independent Projects will receive an honorarium up to \$2,000, to offset costs related to producing their project, such as artist fees, supplies, equipment rentals, and staffing.
4. **Take place on Humber College Lakeshore Campus:** All projects must be located within one of Humber College Lakeshore Campus's properties. It is advisable that when seeking and selecting a venue, you consider the neighbourhood's historical context, resident and business communities, traffic and navigation, and how your project will fit into, engage with, or activate your venue and its surroundings.
5. **Be accessible.** All venues must be accessible. This means that venues limited to patrons over the age of 19 are NOT acceptable. Venues should also be AODA compliant. Information on the AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) can be found [here](#), and further resources on accessibility in arts and culture spaces can be found [here](#).
6. **Be mentored by a Toronto-based professional artist, curator or designer.** Although students are encouraged to apply, their artwork must be created in consultation with a faculty member.
7. **Be able to present in both a digital and physical format.** In the case of a physical artwork or an in-person experience, accommodations can be advised on by Humber College to assist in creating and delivering an engaging digital artwork experience.
8. **Keep physical distancing in mind and require no physical interaction.** Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, all physical, in-person art installations must consider the safety of staff, volunteers, and visitors. There should be no physical interaction (i.e.: touching) between the public and the artwork.

Assessment Criteria

The Nuit Blanche Toronto Artistic Director and a Selection Committee comprised of Humber College staff will base their selections on the following criteria:

Relation to a contemporary visual art practice: Nuit Blanche Toronto is unique because it is a large-scale, public event rooted in contemporary art. While artists' concepts can be executed in any discipline, proposals should have a strong visual component. For our purposes, a contemporary visual art practice is generally considered that of artists currently practicing in our globally influenced, culturally diverse, and technologically advancing world. No topic, medium, process, intention, or aesthetic principles are off limits; contemporary art as a whole is often distinguished by the lack of a uniform, organizing principle, ideology, or 'ism.' It is informed by and part of cultural dialogue that concerns larger contextual frameworks such as personal and cultural identity, family, community, and nationality.

Artistic merit, production quality, and originality: All applications must present a professional, high-quality, original proposal that reflects the scale and spirit of Nuit Blanche Toronto. Repeat projects from previous years are not eligible.

Audience engagement: Applications should show consideration for how audiences will experience the proposed work physically and/or digitally. How might audiences access the work during peak times? How will you ensure consistency of audience experience across the entire 12 hours of the event? If visitor interaction is integral to your project, how will you facilitate this?

Feasibility: Applications should demonstrate the ability of the applicant to carry out the project as outlined, including the financial viability of the project (which includes payment of artist fees). It should also contain a plan that addresses security and staffing/volunteer needs, production and technical requirements, and any other logistical details related to developing and presenting your project.

Relevance to theme: Proposals that most effectively, critically, and originally address the 2020/2021 theme *The Space Between Us* will be given priority.

Selection and Notification Process

All Independent Project applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application by the following business day. If you do not receive this email, your application has not been received. Please follow up with Stefanie Galvanek, the Independent Projects Coordinator (contact information can be found on page 10).

All applications for the Independent Project Program are reviewed by a committee composed of the Nuit Blanche Toronto Artistic Director and Humber College staff. Final selection is made by the Artistic Director.

Accepted projects will receive notification from Humber Galleries.

Certain projects may be accepted contingent on the resolution of minor factors. In this case, the artists/producers will be notified of this contingent acceptance, and will be engaged to resolve these factors.

Projects that have not been accepted will be notified formally by email. Given the large number of applications received each year, staff capacity for feedback on unsuccessful applications may be limited.

All applicants to the Independent Project program will be notified of the results by email no later than **Friday, April 23rd, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. EST.**

Additional Funding, Donations and Grants

Participants in Nuit Blanche Toronto who wish to solicit their own funding support or corporate donations must obtain approval from Nuit Blanche Toronto and Humber College before securing funds. Please note, Nuit Blanche Toronto is not able to credit additional project donors or funding partners on the official event collateral.

Participating artists are encouraged to apply for grants and public funding, but are advised to secure all necessary funding by **Thursday, July 1st, 2021**, at the very latest.

Completing Your Application

Applications must be submitted by **Sunday, March 21st, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. EST** via email to stefanie.galvanek@humber.ca

We recommend that you prepare your answers in advance of starting the application process. There are strict character limits for some sections.

Applications can be submitted as either a digital PDF using the fillable PDF, or a scanned handwritten document. Alternative formats can be provided on an as needed basis.

Application Form Details

1. Application Terms:

Review the text and check the box to confirm you understand the terms.

2. Eligibility:

Please refer to the criteria on pages 3 - 4 of this document to ensure you are eligible for the program before proceeding.

3. Project Information:

Name of Artist, Collective, or Organization: If your artist or collective name is different from your legal name or the name to which payments and documents should be issued, please indicate both here.

Title of Project:

Brief Project Summary: Use this section to provide a short, functional description of your project. Treat this description as an elevator pitch for your project, focusing on the critical details (*approximately 25 words/maximum 200 characters, including spaces and punctuation*).

An example of a Brief Project Summary is:

"Infinity Mirrors" is an exhibition of paintings, sculptures, and immersive installations by Yayoi Kusama, in which audiences can explore endless landscapes that subvert time and space."

4. Project Description:

Use this section to provide a detailed description of your project, focusing on four (4) key areas:

A. Concept: This is the "what" of your proposal (*approximately 300 words/maximum 2000 characters, including spaces and punctuation*)

- What ideas are motivating this project?
- What are the aesthetic and/or conceptual details of the proposal?
- How does the project reflect the theme *The Space Between Us*?

B. Logistical/Technical: This is the "how" of your proposal (*approximately 150 words/maximum 1000 characters, including spaces and punctuation*)

- Are there elements that require fabrication or building?
- Do you need a venue contract, building permit, park permit, etc.?
- Will there be any video, audio or lighting equipment exposed to the elements?
- How do you plan to make this a hybrid project (with both an in-person and online component)

C. Workplan (*approximately 150 words/maximum 1000 characters, including spaces and punctuation*)

- In the case of a physical artwork, describe what you need to adequately install and execute the project for a 12-hour duration.
- Consider staffing, install and removal planning, and breaks for performers (as needed).

D. Anticipated Audience Experience (*approximately 100 words/maximum 750 characters, including spaces and punctuation*)

- If you have goals for a specific type of audience engagement, list them here.
- Consider how audiences will access your piece.
- How will audiences physically distance themselves from other people and the artwork?

5. Project Contributors:

Please list all participating artists, collectives or organizations associated with your project. You will also be asked to submit an artist or organizational biography that highlights your professional achievements and history of contemporary art practice.

Biography or Condensed CV:

Provide details about your past artistic, performance, installation, or exhibition experience (*approximately 250 words/maximum 1500 characters, including spaces and punctuation*).

Project Assistance Needs:

If you need help completing your project, Humber Galleries can assist in connecting you with other Humber College applicants who may wish to collaborate with you (*approximately 100 words/maximum 750 characters, including spaces and punctuation*).

6. Site Specificity/Needs and Requirements:

Your project must be situated on one of Humber College's Lakeshore Campus properties. While it is not necessary to have a confirmed venue before submitting your application, site specificity is important. If you have a venue or location on Humber College grounds in mind, please

include the reason you have selected it for your project (*approximately 40 words/maximum 250 characters, including spaces and punctuation*).

If you do not have a venue, Humber Galleries can assist you in finding a suitable location for your project, pending availability, upon acceptance into the program. Site specificity is a primary consideration so please describe the ideal type of venue or location you are seeking (ex: an outside-facing classroom, park, alleyway, courtyard, storefront, etc.), as well as the reason you feel it best suits your project (*approximately 150 words/maximum 1000 characters, including spaces and punctuation*).

7. Budget:

Proposed budgets must reflect all potential artistic expenses and revenues associated with producing a project.

Expenses could include artist fees, staffing, equipment, fabrication and crowd control mechanisms. In the case of an online project, this may also consist of web hosting fees.

While other sources of funding are not a requirement, the financial viability assessment criteria considers additional and confirmed revenues to be an asset. Please include all confirmed and projected sources of revenue in your proposed budget.

In addition, if you list public sources of funding from arts councils such as the Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, or Canada Council for the Arts in your revenue budget, you will be asked to describe which specific funding programs you have or plan to apply to. Similarly, if you list private donations and crowdfunding, you will be asked to list all confirmed or projected funders, and whether their contributions are cash or in-kind.

8. Support Materials:

Support materials, which also includes a rendering of the final artwork, are essential to the assessment process and considered an application requirement. The material submitted should demonstrate the applicant's ability to carry out the project and must be representative of the final artwork that will be presented.

Still images and audio recordings may be uploaded to the application email or submitted via a link within the application. Up to five (5) files total may be submitted, with a maximum file size of 5MB per file. Files are accepted in the following formats:

- Still Images: jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, tif
- Audio: MP3, MP4, WAV, WMA

Video support material may be submitted by providing a link to an external website where your work has already been uploaded, such as Vimeo, YouTube, your personal website, etc.

Important: If you are linking files through a file sharing program such as Dropbox or Google Drive, please ensure your link does not expire for at least 6 weeks after the application deadline, and that it does not require special permissions (i.e.: a password) to access and download a file. For audio and video files that are larger than 5MB, we recommend hosting the materials on a website where we can review them directly rather than download, such as YouTube, Vimeo or Soundcloud.

Complete this table with information that corresponds to your support material files. This should include:

- File name (please title all files with the primary contact's name and title of project)
- Date of artwork completion
- Artwork medium & dimensions
- Has artwork been previously shown?
- Image credit line
- Link (if applicable)

9. Applicant Information:

Please list who will be the primary point of contact between the City of Toronto, the Humber College Nuit Blanche Selection Committee, and you as the artist, collective, or organization. This contact will be notified of receipt of the application, as well as application results.

10. Declaration:

You will be asked to declare that the application is reflective of your original artistic vision and that all information is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. All Independent Project applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application by the following business day. If you do not receive this email, your application has not been received. Please follow up with Stefanie Galvanek, the Independent Projects Coordinator (contact information can be found below).

Contact

Independent Projects Coordinator
Stefanie Galvanek
Communications and Curatorial Coordinator
Humber Galleries, Humber College
stefanie.galvanek@humber.ca