



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (RFEI)
FOR ADDRESSING ANTISEMITISM THROUGH THE ARTS**

**Ontario Arts Council
121 Bloor Street East, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M4W 3M5**

Project #OAC-2324-02-I

Date Issued: May 24th, 2023

Submission Closing Deadline: June 7th, 2023

10:59:59 AM SHARP (EDST)

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Respondents are requested to submit responses by email to the Tender Administrator at tenders@arts.on.ca by June 7th, 2023 at 10:59:59 am, Eastern Daylight Savings Time (EDST).

The time and date of the submission will be recorded as shown in the email receipt of the Tender Administrator. The subject line of the email submission should read as follows:

OAC-2324-02-I Addressing Antisemitism-RFEI – *Company Name*

1.0 Introduction

The Ontario Arts Council (the “OAC”) is an independent agency of the Government of Ontario, reporting to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports. For almost 60 years, the OAC has provided support to professional artists and arts organizations in numerous communities across Ontario in the form of grants, awards, and prizes.

The OAC is seeking feedback from leaders on their interest and ability to develop a plan and self-assessment tools for Ontario’s arts community in responding to Antisemitism, similar to a scope of work outlined below in Section 3.0.

2.0 Background

Ontario Arts Council (OAC) opposes discrimination in all its forms and seeks to consistently review its funding programs, services, operations, and partnerships to ensure that they benefit from an anti-discriminatory lens, and calls upon the arts community it serves to do the same. As an agency of the Ontario government OAC is part of Ontario’s Anti-Racism Strategic Plan and this year OAC launched its own strategic plan, *Reset.Renew.Revitalize*, which calls for OAC to “leverage its unique position as a funder to support artists and arts organizations in collaborating with other entities” and to “expand opportunities for connection and exchange among artists and arts organizations”.

This RFEI represents a new method of addressing specific anti-discrimination strategies for OAC and if successful could serve as a model for other specific anti-discrimination strategies for the OAC and the arts in Ontario.

Antisemitism is on the rise in Ontario society¹ and OAC seeks a response to Antisemitism for Ontario’s Arts Community that allows for learning and growth. OAC wants the Response to increase the opportunity for Ontario’s Arts Community to be a platform for, and integrated with, the diversity of expression, experience, and identity in the Ontario Jewish community and in doing so increase the effectiveness of an anti-discriminatory approach in the arts.

3.0 Scope of Work

3.1 Purpose

OAC will require a respondent to:

- Develop a self-assessment tool for arts organizations to help them understand if they are best including Jewish culture in their diversity strategies and combatting antisemitism in their anti-racism strategies;
- Develop a plan for a response to Antisemitism by and for the Ontario Arts community which increases awareness and appreciation of the diversity of Jewish culture, identity, experience, and arts in the Ontario Arts Community as well as among Ontarians in general (the “Response”); and

¹ https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/news_centre/ohrc-statement-national-summit-antisemitism

- To self-select and/or identify a lead individual, organization, or partnership to implement the plan.

3.2 Project Objectives

- To develop a self-assessment tool to help arts organizations understand where they currently stand regarding:
 - inclusion of Jewish culture in equity, diversity, and inclusion policies
 - inclusion of antisemitism in anti-racism policies and initiatives
 - A comparable self assessment tool can be viewed here:
<https://equity3.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2021/04/ISAT-admin-v2.pdf>
- To research and document a recent history of leading artists and arts organizations and their artistic and community projects dedicated to the diversity of Jewish culture, identity, and experience as well as artistic and community projects which combat Antisemitism (the “Arts Sector Review”).
- To design artistic and/or community programming, communications, outreach, marketing budget, and identify timelines, resources, sponsors, funders, and donors for the Response, creating a full project plan to implement the Response, including the sharing and increasing engagement with the self-assessment tool described above.
- To research, identify and solicit interest from individuals and organizations interested in participating on, partnering on, and / or leading the Response.
- To self-select as the lead to implement the Response or identify a lead individual, organization, or partnership to implement the Response. In the case of a partnership, to develop a partnership agreement for the lead partnership. The identified leader or partnership would be provided the plan for the Response as their own at the conclusion of this project, subject to the approval by the Selection Committee.

3.3 Project Deliverables

1. Arts Sector Review by October 16, 2023
2. Full Report including plan for the Response and recommended lead by January 29, 2024

4.0 Response Requirements

4.1 RFEI Questions and Information Requirements

The following questions are representative of the type of information the OAC is seeking. This list of questions is not exhaustive, and respondents are invited to provide any additional information that might prove useful or beneficial to the OAC.

Submission Requirements (500 words maximum)	
1. Organizational Details	
1.1	Full legal name, address, telephone number and website (where applicable).
1.2	Name, position/title, phone number and email address of the representative who will function as the primary point of contact.
1.3	Brief description of your organization.
2. Project Questions	
2.1	Does your organization foresee any issues or concerns with meeting the requirements of the Scope of Work or meeting the initial deliverable dates?
2.2	Is your project leader and team able to meet with OAC for further discussion and response to questions?

3. Submission Responses (500 words)	
3.1	Summary in narrative form of your understanding of the project purpose, tasks, and deliverables.
3.2	A brief description of at least three examples of projects of similar scope completed by your organization including a summary of the project identifying the consultant's role in the process.
3.3	Declaration of the absence of any existing or potential conflict of interest, actual or perceived.
3.4	Any additional information that might assist OAC in achieving its goals?

4.2 Inquiries

Respondents having questions respecting this RFEI are encouraged to submit such questions by email as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for the OAC to consider a response, including whether an amendment to the RFEI should be made. The only method for posing questions concerning this RFEI is through an email pursuant to this Section.

All inquiries regarding this RFEI shall be directed by email as follows:

Attention: Tender Administrator
Email: tenders@arts.on.ca

5.0 Conflict of Interest

By policy, the OAC may not acquire goods, materials or services from an employee of the OAC, any person who is not at arm's length from any employee of the OAC, or from any corporation, firm or other business in which an employee or someone who is not at arm's length from an employee of the OAC is a controlling shareholder or owner, without both the full prior disclosure of this conflict of interest and a written waiver of the conflict from the OAC or their designate. Failure by a Supplier to declare any potential conflict of interest and/or to obtain a waiver of any such conflict shall be grounds for the OAC to terminate any contract formed without liability and for cause.

Suppliers who wish to work with OAC should not:

- a) be in receipt of an OAC grant at the time they may be contracted and,
- b) are prohibited from applying for grants during the terms of any contract.

6.0 Project Documents

Information documents on this opportunity can be found on the posting site Merx at www.merx.com, as well as the Ontario Arts Council's website at <https://www.arts.on.ca/about-us/opportunities-for-vendors-en>. This RFEI is open to all individuals and organizations with expertise in the Scope of Work outlined in Section 3.0. The OAC also encourages individuals and organizations to share this information with others who may have expertise to fulfill the requirements.

DISCLAIMER

Responding to this Request for Expression of Interest (“RFEI”) is not a prerequisite to being eligible to bid on any subsequent open solicitation. Any subsequent solicitation will be conducted in accordance with the province of Ontario procurement directives and the Ontario Arts Council’s (the “OAC”) internal policies.

This RFEI is not to be construed as a solicitation for tenders or proposals. No contract or other form of commitment will be entered into based on responses to this RFEI. This RFEI is not authorization by OAC) to undertake any work that would result in costs to OAC.

All responses will be held by the OAC on a confidential basis (subject to applicable federal and provincial legislation) and remain the property of the OAC once they have been received.

The OAC reserves the right to change at any time, all, or part of the requirements, as it deems necessary. The OAC also reserves the right to revise its procurement approach, as it considers appropriate, either based upon information submitted in response to this RFEI or for any other reason as required.

PRESENTATION SESSIONS

At its sole discretion, the OAC may meet with interested respondents to provide an opportunity for a follow-up to their written response and present their capabilities in relation to this RFEI.

Respondents that have expressed such interest and have demonstrated via their response to the RFEI that their services correspond sufficiently to the questions as stated may be contacted to schedule the presentation.

Presentations will be virtual utilizing desktop audio video conferencing tools such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

RESPONSES AND INQUIRIES

The OAC requests that all sections of this document be answered as concisely as possible while providing all information necessary to understand the interest and ability of the respondent. Any deviation from the question or requirements that cannot be satisfied by the respondent must be clearly identified.

Any information of a confidential or proprietary nature contained in a respondent’s submission should be clearly marked ‘PROPRIETARY’ or ‘CONFIDENTIAL’ by item or at the top of each page.

Responses to this RFEI will not be used to pre-qualify or otherwise restrict participation in any future procurement process (for example, a Request for Proposal).

The OAC will not reimburse the respondent for any costs incurred in preparing responses and participating in the presentation sessions related to this RFEI.

The respondent is requested to provide a contact name, email address and telephone number when submitting their response.