



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Public Art Galleries: Operating

This program has been replaced by the **new** Ontario Arts Operating Fund. For more information, visit the [Ontario Arts Operating Fund](#) web page.

Purpose

The program supports the ongoing operations of not-for-profit, professional public art galleries in Ontario.

Priorities

The program's priorities are to support diverse public art galleries that demonstrate a commitment to Ontario's visual arts infrastructure, including exhibition/presentation, production, distribution, artist development, and opportunities created for the public to interact with contemporary visual art.

Deadline date(s)

June 4, 2025, 1 p.m. ET

- In 2025, this program is in year 3 of a three-year cycle.
- New applicants may only apply in the first year of a program's multi-year cycle.
- Applications are available in Nova about two months before the deadline.
- Financial and statistical reports must be submitted through Canadian Arts Data / Données sur les arts au Canada (CADAC) before the deadline.
- Grant notification will be available about five months after the deadline.

Eligible applicants

- Ontario-based, not-for-profit corporations, or national not-for-profit corporations with the head office in Ontario

- Organizations must have:
 - at least \$75,000 in total revenues for the last fiscal year, and in projected revenues for the current and requested years (for applicants not currently receiving funding from this program)
 - at least two years of sustained, regular, ongoing programming, as of the application date. If your organization does not meet this requirement, consider applying for project funding
 - a range of revenue sources
 - an active board of directors/governing body
- Public art galleries must:
 - have a distinct and separate space solely for gallery purposes that is secure and dedicated to exhibitions and interpretation of contemporary visual art. The organization’s mandate may also include the collection of visual art
 - serve the public with visual arts programming for a minimum of 10 months of the year and for a minimum of 1,500 hours. The hours may include hours open to the public, hours reserved for public school tours, and events
 - employ professional staff, including a full-time director (minimum 35 hours per week). The director is responsible for the gallery’s operations, programs and services. This person may also serve as the gallery’s curator
 - meet the physical standards relating to security, environmental control, art storage and collection management set out in the Galleries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG) publication Environmental Standards for Art Galleries
 - adhere to a code of professional standards, ethics and legal requirements set out by GOG, Canadian Museums Association and the Canadian Art Museum Directors’ Organization
 - pay exhibition, copyright and reproduction fees to professional artists. See current recommended fee schedules (<https://carfac-raav.ca/>) established by Canadian Artists Representation/Le Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC).

Important:

- If your gallery is within a multi-purpose institution (i.e., library, university, museum, municipality), you must clearly demonstrate your independence by being able to fulfill all OAC eligibility requirements separately and distinctly from the multi-purpose institution.
- This includes a fully segregated and itemized financial statement specifically for the revenues and expenses of the gallery.
- Galleries within a multi-purpose institution must be governed by a board of directors or an advisory body solely responsible for the gallery.

Read the [Guide to OAC Operating Programs](#) for more eligibility information.

Ineligible applicants

- non-arts organizations
- municipalities, colleges and/or universities

To apply

Complete and submit an application in [Nova](#), OAC's online grant application system. You will be able to apply online in Nova about two months before the deadline.

Before applying, you must:

- read the [Guide to OAC Operating Programs](#)
- read the [Guide to OAC Assessment](#)
- contact the program officer to discuss eligibility (new applicants only)
- create or update your profile in [Nova](#)
- register for an account with [Canadian Arts Data / Données sur les arts au Canada \(CADAC\)](#) (new applicants only)

Your application includes:

- your answers to [application questions](#)
- financial and statistical information submitted through [Canadian Arts Data / Données sur les arts au Canada \(CADAC\)](#)
- financial statements for your organization's last completed year, uploaded to CADAC

- artistic examples: images and video documentation of exhibitions and programming, publications.

Complete instructions and requirements are in the application in Nova.

For information on how assessors rate applications see the [Evaluation Rubric - Operating Programs](#).

Program-specific definitions

Public art galleries: promote and encourage understanding of the visual arts. Their professional staff create the context in which artists' works are seen in relationship with community and culture. Through exhibitions, publications, education and outreach initiatives, public art galleries present and interpret works of art, and hold art collections in trust for their communities.

Contact

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Resources

- [Nova User Guide](#)
- [Guide to OAC Operating Programs](#)
- [Guide to OAC Assessment](#)
- [Guide to OAC Support Material](#)

- [Grant Program Deadlines and Important Dates](#)
- [Support for Deaf Artists and Artists with Disabilities](#)
- [Recognition Requirements for Operating Grant Recipients](#)
- [Showcase your photos on our website and publications](#)
- [OAC Geographic Regions Maps \(PDF\)](#)