



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

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

OAC Priority Group Snapshot 2018-19

Prepared by OAC Research Section

March 2020

Photo Credit (page 2):

Remapping the Illegitimate Border (Countering the Legacy of the War of 1812 and the Treaty of Ghent), an installation piece by artist Dylan Miner in collaboration with Indigenous and Latino Youth of Waawayeyaattanong, the Autonomous Windsor-Detroit Borderlands, at the Art Gallery of Windsor during the *Border Cultures: Part One (homes, land)* exhibition. (Photo: Frank Piccolo)

Ontario Arts Council
121 Bloor Street East, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M4W 3M5
Tel: 416-961-1660
Toll-free in Ontario: 1-800-387-0058

info@arts.on.ca
www.arts.on.ca

 @OntarioArts

 @ONArtsCouncil



Ce rapport est également disponible en français.

OAC Priority Groups

The Ontario Arts Council (OAC) is committed to ensuring equitable access for all Ontarians, with particular emphasis on the following priority groups:

- Artists of Colour
- Deaf Artists and Artists with Disabilities
- Francophone Artists
- Indigenous Artists
- New Generation Artists (18-30 years old)
- Artists Living in Regions Outside Toronto

Some of these priority groups have a unique history, identity and status in Canada, some have faced historical and/or systemic barriers, others reflect OAC's province-wide mandate and all are essential to the future of the arts sector.

For further context on each of these groups, see the "Priority Groups" page on OAC's website at:

<https://www.arts.on.ca/grants/priority-group>

As part of our commitment to equitable access, we are interested in knowing how well our grants serve our priority group artists - as well as organizations whose mandate or primary purpose is to support the work of artists from these communities.

To help us achieve this important goal, we gather priority group information for applicants in several ways.

For example, OAC regularly reports on our progress in serving priority groups for several key indicators in our annual performance measures, which are available on our website.

This report provides a broader snapshot of OAC's key granting statistics and assessors by priority group for 2018-19.



Background

Definitions

OAC defines the priority groups as follows:

- Artist of colour is based on the Government of Canada's definition of "visible minorities," which is defined as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour."
- Deaf person or person with a disability includes people who have physical, mental or learning conditions with long-term, temporary, or varying effects that may be apparent or not.
- Francophone is based on the Government of Ontario's Inclusive Definition of Francophone (IDF), which includes "persons whose mother tongue is French, plus those whose mother tongue is neither French nor English but have a particular knowledge of French as an Official Language and use French at home."
- Indigenous refers to First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.
- New generation is a person who is 18 to 30 years of age.
- Regions outside Toronto means outside the City of Toronto.

How the Priority Group Information is Collected

As mentioned, OAC collects information about our priority groups in several ways. Applicants to project programs are asked to complete a voluntary self-identification form including all priority groups except region. For organizations applying for operating support, OAC's Program Officers designate them as one or more of these five priority group(s) based on the stated mandate of the organization. Similarly, assessors are asked to complete a voluntary self-identification form including all priority groups except region. For all applicants and assessors, region is determined by their address.

How the Priority Group Information is Used

The information that applicants and assessors provide via the self-identification forms is confidential and is never identified publicly with them. This information is not used to assess their application, is not shared with assessors, and is not visible to OAC granting staff. The information is used by OAC staff in the Research Section solely to create aggregate statistics, such as those in this report.

Response Rate/Data Coverage

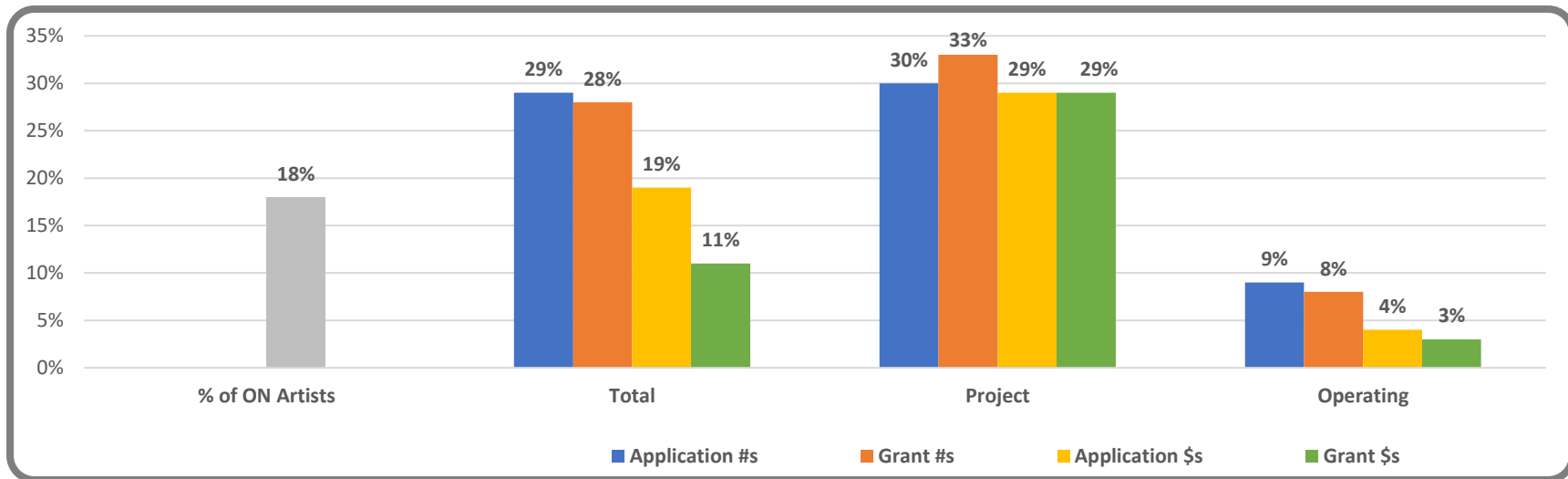
For 2018-19, we have data for 80% of project applications on at least one of the five priority groups asked via self-identification, and 100% data on region, as it is determined by address, not self-identification. We have 100% data on operating program applications as it is completed by Program Officers.

About this Analysis

This analysis examines four key granting statistics: the number of applications compared to the number of grants, and the dollars requested in the applications compared to the dollars granted. It also provides information on OAC assessors by priority group.

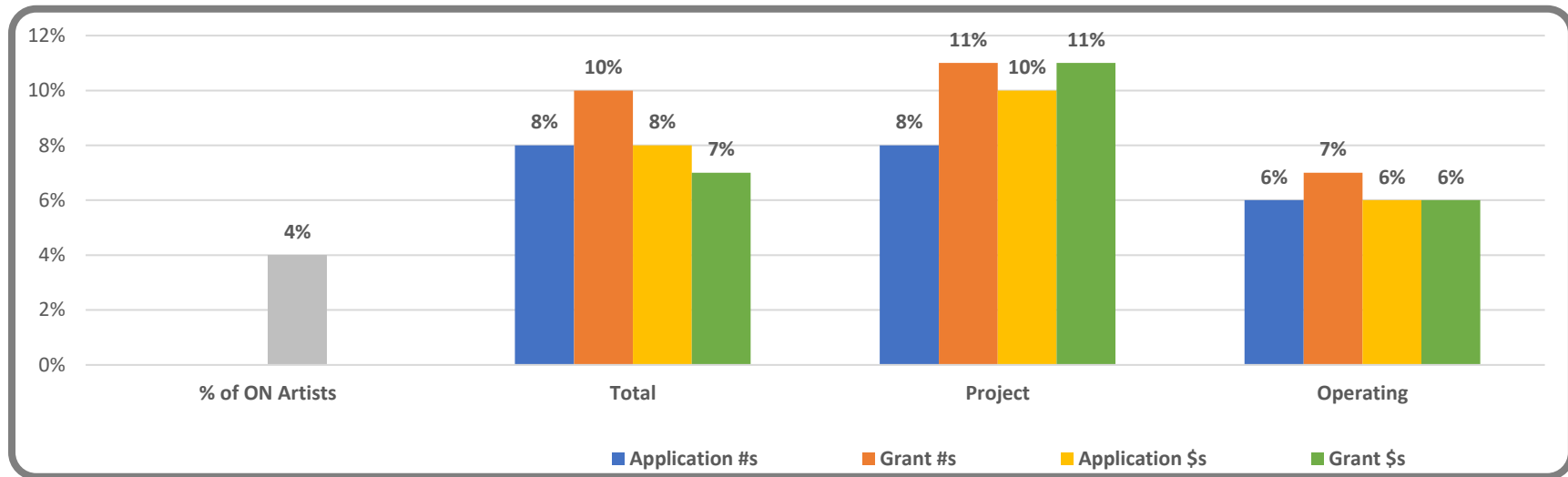
OAC uses the percentage of Ontario artists according to the 2016 Census of Canada as an external benchmark with which to compare our progress on serving the priority groups. While by no means a perfect guide, the census data are the best available benchmark. Note: For Deaf artists/artists with disabilities the benchmark source is the Canadian Survey on Disability 2017 because the census does not have data on disability. Due to Statistics Canada's cell size limitations, the benchmark is the percentage of Ontario's experienced labour force with a moderate, severe or very severe disability.

Snapshot: Artists of Colour



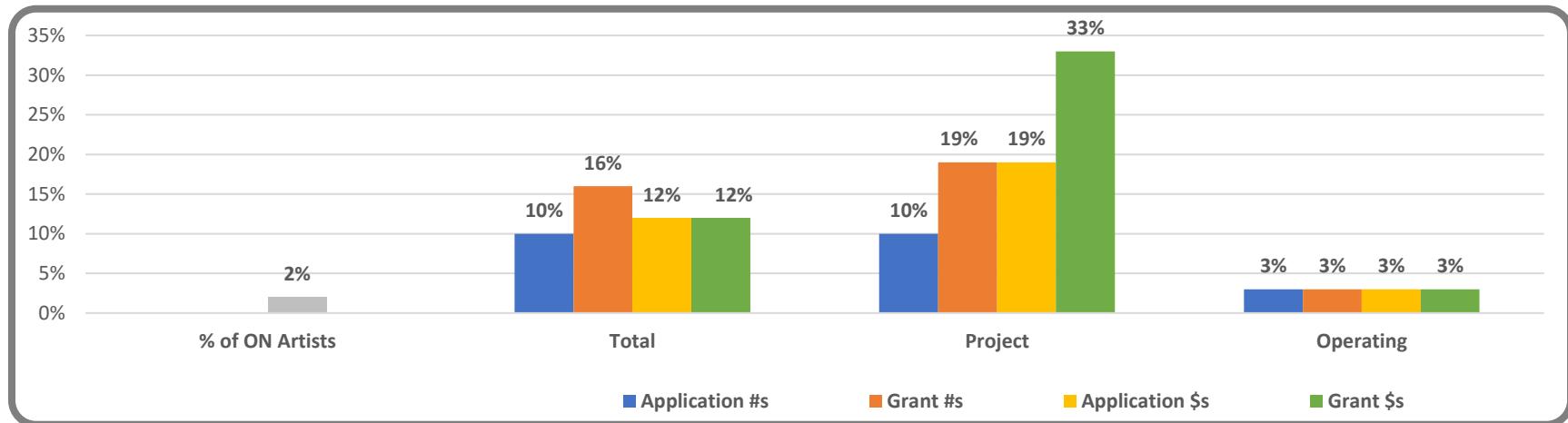
- According to the 2016 Census, 18% of Ontario artists are people of colour. In comparison, 29% of OAC's total number of applications in 2018-19 came from artists/organizations of colour. Largely in line with this, the proportion of OAC's total number of grants to artists/organizations of colour was 28%. Artists/organizations of colour also accounted for 19% of the total dollars requested, and 11% of the total grant dollars.
- Looking only at project grants presents a different pattern with the numbers and dollars of applications and grants all largely in line. Almost one-third (30%) of applications to project grant programs came from artists/organizations of colour and this group received 33% of the number of project grants. Similarly, 29% of the project grant dollars requested, and 29% of the project grant dollars went to artists/organizations of colour.
- For operating grant programs, organizations with mandates focused on artists of colour accounted for only 9% of OAC's total applications - with the number of grants largely in line at 8% of total grants. However, dollars requested and granted were both lower with 4% of the dollars requested and 3% of the operating grant dollars.

Snapshot: Francophones



- According to the 2016 Census, 4% of Ontario's artists are francophone. In comparison, francophone artists and organizations accounted for 8% of the total number of applications received by OAC in 2018-19 and received 10% of OAC's total number of grants. Francophone artists/organizations accounted for 8% of the total dollars requested and received 7% of OAC's total grant dollars.
- For project grants alone, a similar 8% of applications to project grant programs were from francophone artists/organizations - with the number of project grants, project dollars requested and project grant dollars all slightly higher at 11%, 10% and 11% respectively.
- While at somewhat lower levels than for project grants, all of the operating grant indicators were in line with one another with 6% of operating applications, 7% of operating grants, 6% of operating dollars requested and 6% of operating grant dollars from or to francophone artists/organizations.

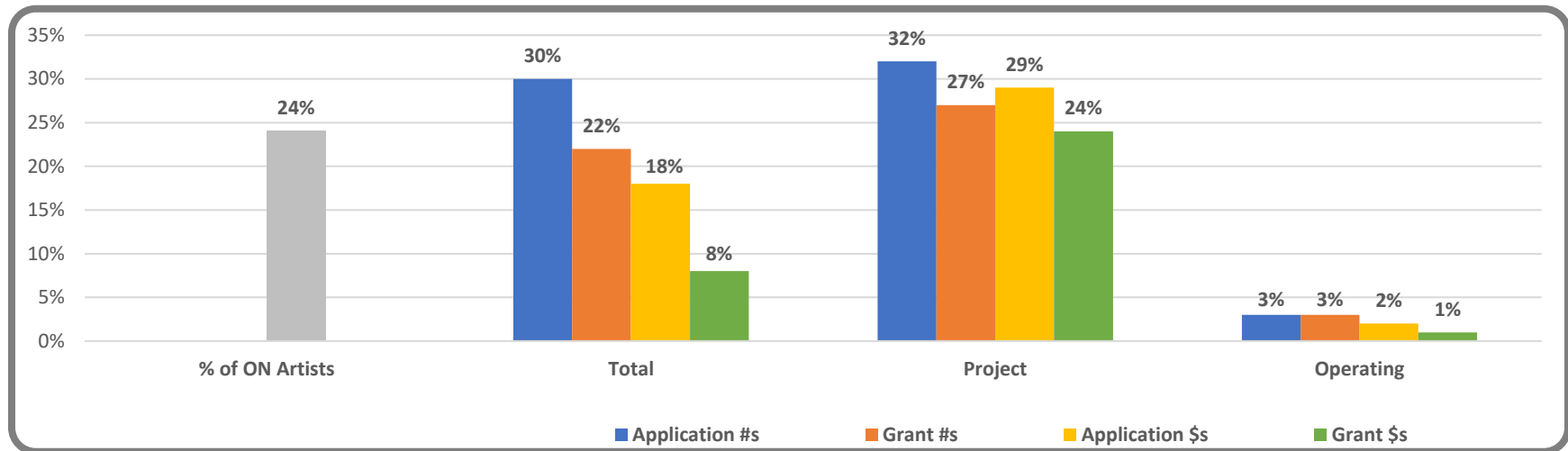
Snapshot: Indigenous



- According to the 2016 Census, 2% of Ontario’s artists are Indigenous.¹ In comparison, 10% of the total number of applications received by OAC in 2018-19 were from Indigenous artists or organizations. The proportion of grants was even larger with Indigenous artists/organizations receiving 16% of the total number of grants. The dollars requested by, and the dollars granted to, Indigenous artists/organizations were in line at 12% of total dollars for each.
- A focus on project grants provides a different picture. While the percent of project grant applications that were from Indigenous artists/organizations was consistent at 10%, the number of project grants was much higher - with 19% of all project grants going to Indigenous artists/organizations. And while Indigenous artists/organizations accounted for 19% of the project dollars requested, fully one-third (33%) of all project grant dollars went to this group - due partly to the large grants made through the Indigenous Culture Fund.
- Only 3% of the number of operating grant applications received by OAC were from Indigenous organizations. However, the other grant indicators are all in line, with the percentages of the number of operating grants, operating dollars requested, and operating grant dollars by/to Indigenous organizations identical at 3% for each.

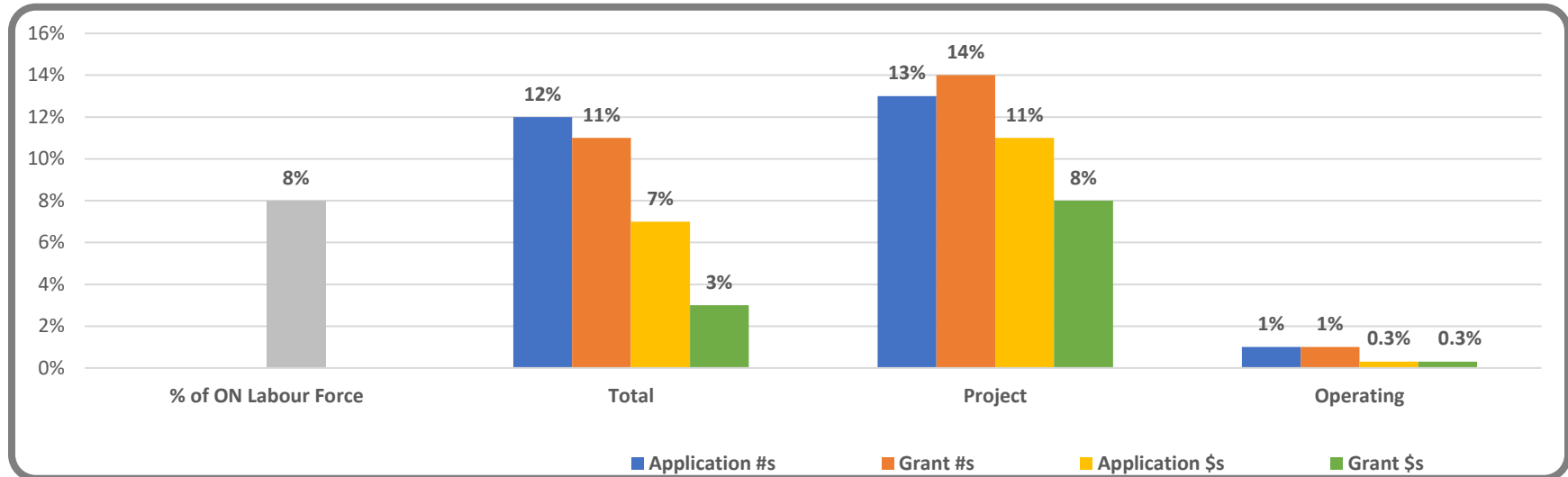
¹ Due to issues related to 2016 Census enumeration on Indian reserves and the census definition of “artist” in Indigenous cultures, this figure is likely an underestimate.

Snapshot: New Generation



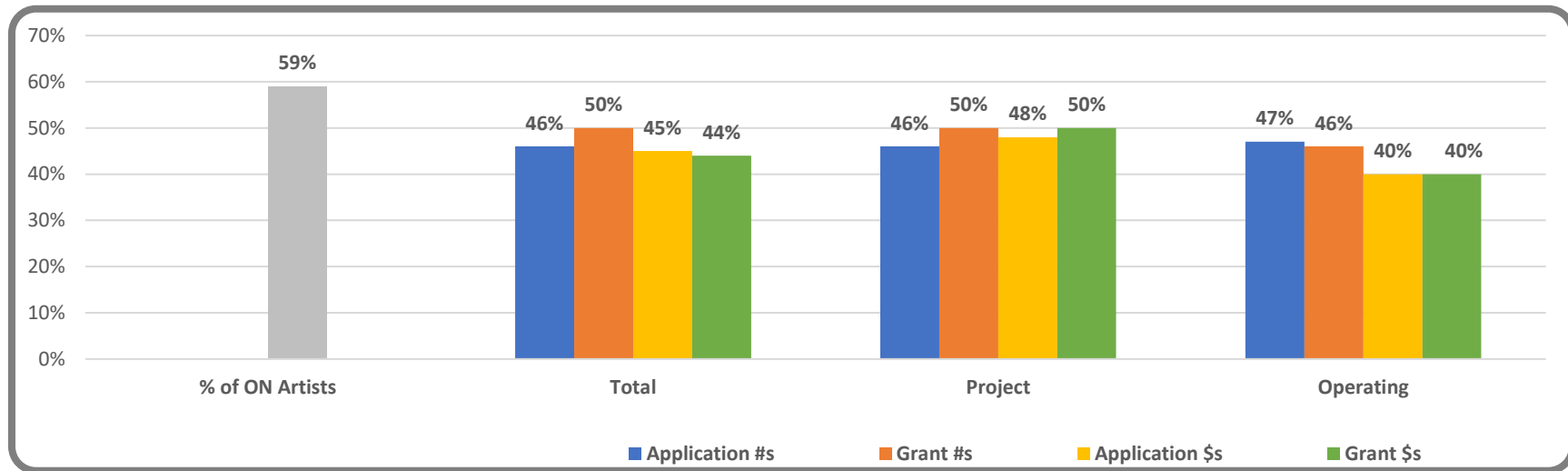
- Almost one quarter (24%) of Ontario’s artists are “new generation” artists (from 18-30 years of age) according to the 2016 Census.
- In comparison, new generation artists/organizations account for almost one-third (30%) of the total number of applications received by OAC in 2018-19 and 22% of the total number of grants. These new generation artists/organizations account for 18% of the total amount requested, but only 8% of the total dollars granted.
- For project grants alone, there is more consistency across the four grant indicators. Specifically, new generation artists/organizations account for 32% of the number of project applications, 27% of the number of project grants, 29% of the project dollars requested and 24% of the project grant dollars.
- For operating grants, all levels are much lower, but are largely in line with one another. Organizations mandated to serve new generation artists account for only 3% of operating applications, with their proportion of the number of operating grants in line at 3% as well. New generation organizations account for two percent (2%) of the operating dollars requested, and one percent (1%) of operating grant dollars.

Snapshot: Deaf Artists/Artists with Disabilities



- According to the Canadian Survey on Disability 2017, 8% of Ontario's experienced labour force has a moderate, severe or very severe disability. In comparison, Deaf artists/artists with disabilities and organizations mandated to serve these individuals accounted for 12% of the total applications received by OAC in 2018-19 and received 11% of the total number of grants. Both dollar indicators are lower - with Deaf artists/artists with disabilities and related organizations accounting for 7% of the total dollars requested and receiving only 3% of the total grant dollars.
- For project grants, the four grant indicators are higher and more in line with one another - although grant dollars are still somewhat lower. Specifically, Deaf artists/artists with disabilities and related organizations accounted for 13% of all project grant applications, 14% of all project grants, 11% of project dollars requested and 8% of project grant dollars.
- Only one percent (1%) of operating grant applications came from organizations mandated to serve Deaf artists/artists with disabilities - but the proportion of grants was in line, with an identical one percent (1%) of the total number of grants going to this group. And while only 0.3% of operating grant dollars went to organizations mandated to serve Deaf artists/artists with disabilities, this was in line with the 0.3% of operating dollars requested by these organizations.

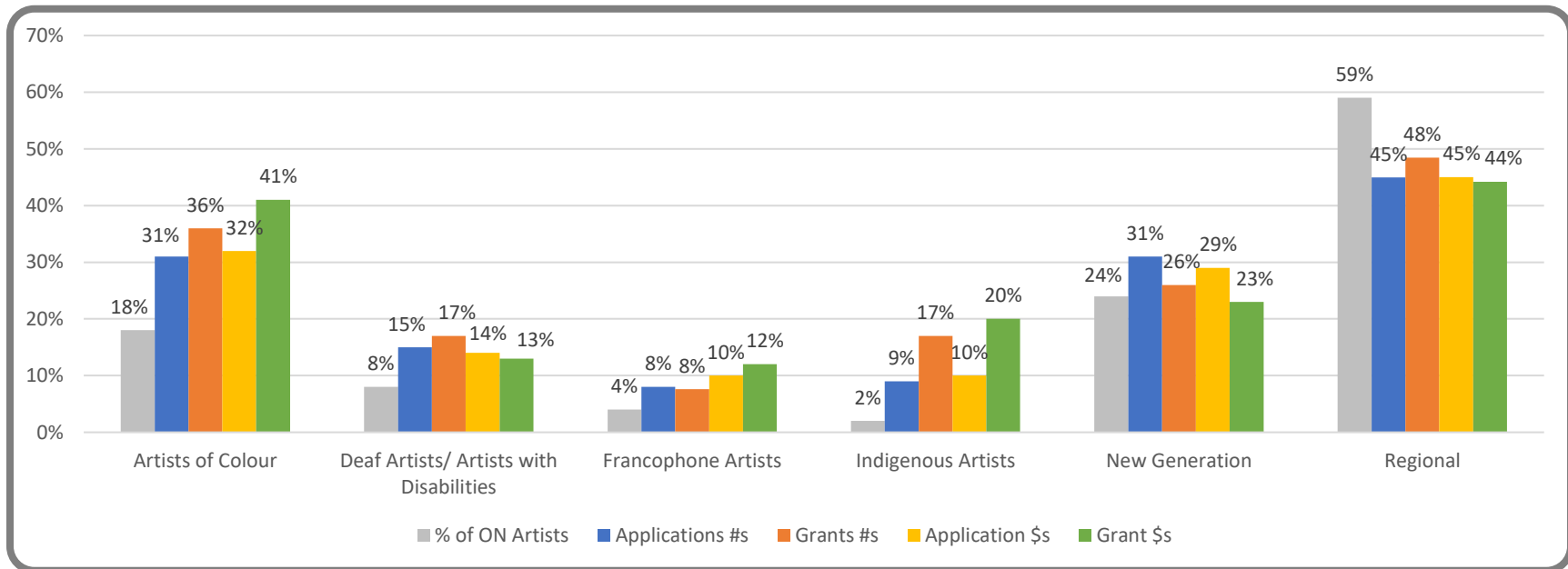
Snapshot: Regions Outside Toronto



- According to the 2016 Census, 59% of Ontario's artists live in regions outside the City of Toronto.²
- Proportions across the four grant indicators are largely consistent for artists/organizations in regions outside Toronto. While 46% of the total applications received by OAC in 2018-19 were from regional artists/organizations, slightly more - half or 50% of the total number of grants went to artists/organizations in regions outside Toronto. Similarly, 45% of the total dollars requested and 44% of the total grant dollars were from/went to artists/organizations based outside of Toronto.
- Project grants and operating grants both show quite similar pictures - although dollars requested and granted were somewhat higher for project grants (at 48% and 50% respectively for regional artists/organizations) and somewhat lower for operating grants (at 40% for both dollars requested and granted for regional artists/organizations).

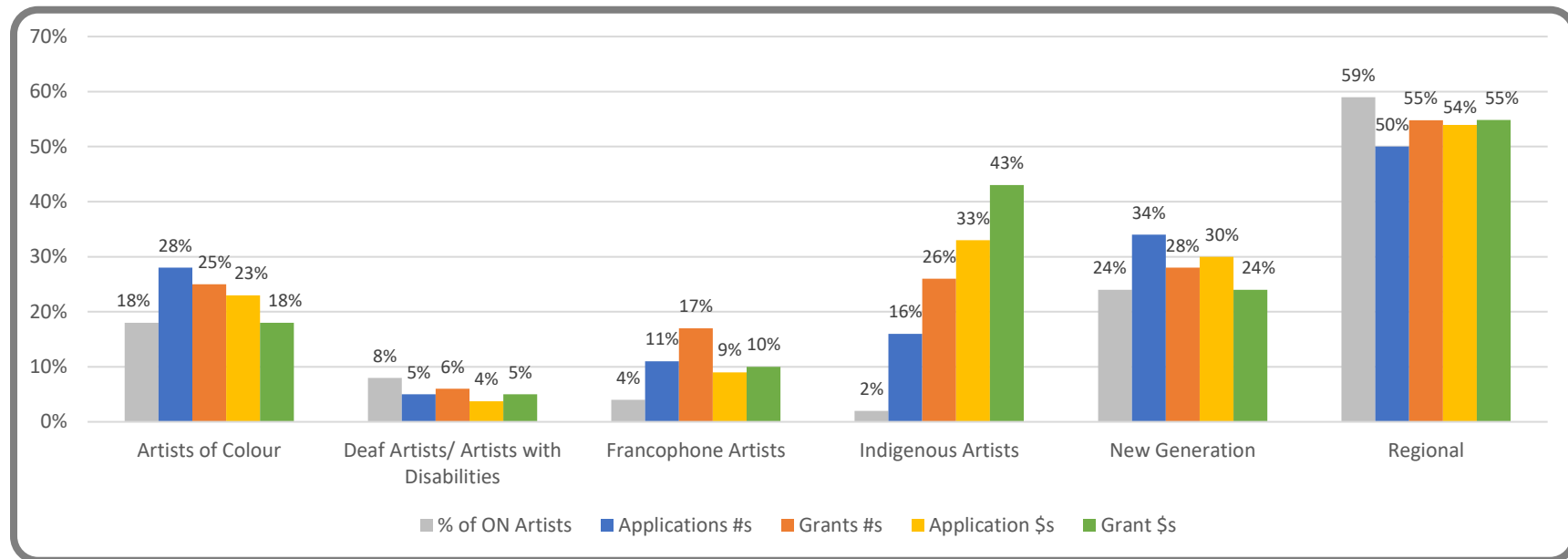
² While a useful benchmark, this census figure is imperfect as an absolute goal as the census includes individuals only and therefore it does not reflect the high concentration of arts organizations in Toronto. For this reason, this census figure likely overestimates the proportion of the arts sector located in other regions.

Focus on: Individuals in Project Programs



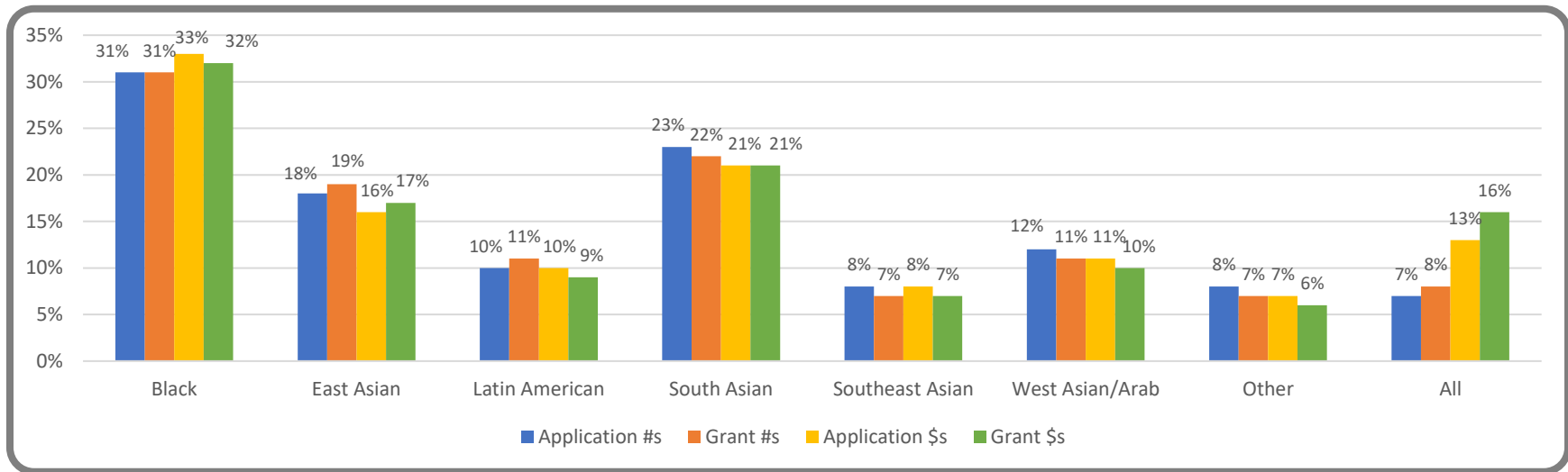
- This chart includes the key granting indicators for **individual artists only** - a subset of the overall project program statistics shown in the earlier charts.
- It shows, for example, that artists of colour accounted for 31% of the total number of applications from individuals that OAC received in 2018-19, and 36% of the total number of grants to individuals. Similarly, artists of colour accounted for 32% of the total dollars requested by individuals - and a higher percentage (41%) of total grant dollars to individuals going to this group.

Focus on: Organizations in Project Programs



- This chart includes the key granting indicators for **organizations in project programs** - a subset of the overall project program statistics shown in the earlier charts.
- It shows, for example, that organizations with specific mandates to serve artists of colour accounted for 28% of the total number of applications by organizations to project programs in 2018-19, compared to 25% of the total project grants to organizations. Organizations of colour also accounted for 23% of the total dollars requested by organizations in project programs - and a somewhat lower percentage (18%) of total project grant dollars to organizations.
- Indigenous organizations account for high percentages of total project organization dollars - 33% of dollars requested and 43% of grant dollars - due partly to the large grants made through the Indigenous Culture Fund.

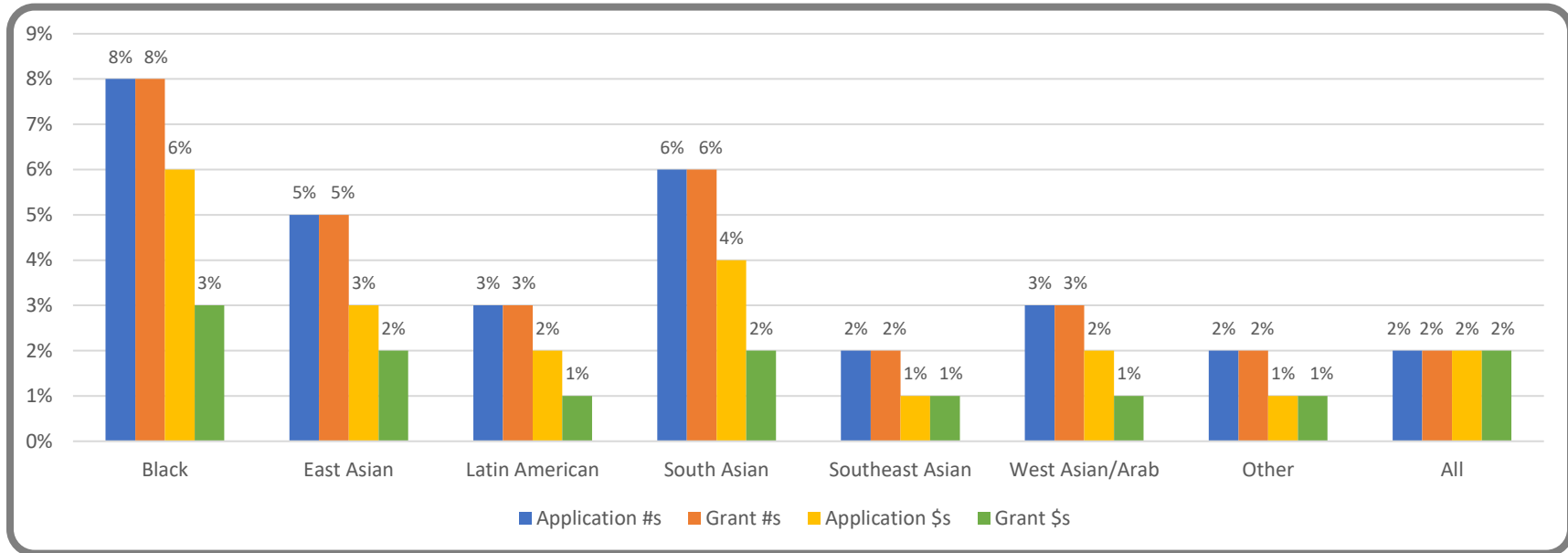
Focus on: Artists of Colour – Breakdown by Group



- In 2018-19, for the first time, OAC asked applicants who identified as artists/organizations of colour to further identify as one or more specific group.³ This chart shows the breakdown for each specific group **as a percentage of totals for all artists/organizations of colour**.
- For example, this chart shows that almost one-third (31%) of the number of applications that OAC received from artists/organizations of colour in 2018-19 were from those who identified as Black. Similarly, those who identified as Black accounted for 31% of the number of grants to artists/organizations of colour, 33% of the dollars requested and 32% of the grant dollars.
- Seven percent (7%) of the applications from artists/organizations of colour were from organizations mandated to serve all artists of colour (rather than a specific group). These organizations accounted for 8% of the grants to artists/organizations of colour, 13% of the dollars requested and 16% of the grant dollars.

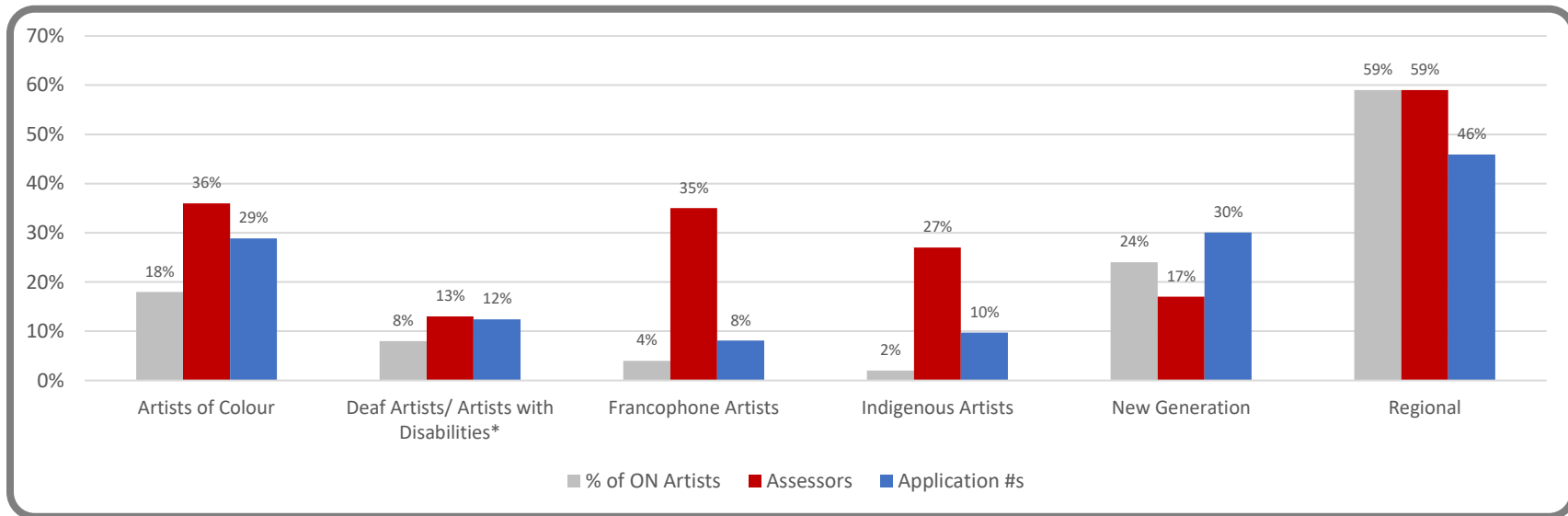
³ These groups align with categories identified in the census and themselves include a variety of racial backgrounds. OAC acknowledges that these categories, and concepts of race, are not based on science or biology but on differences that society has created (i.e. are “socially constructed”). Individuals may identify as more than one group.

Focus on: Artists of Colour – Breakdown by Group (continued)



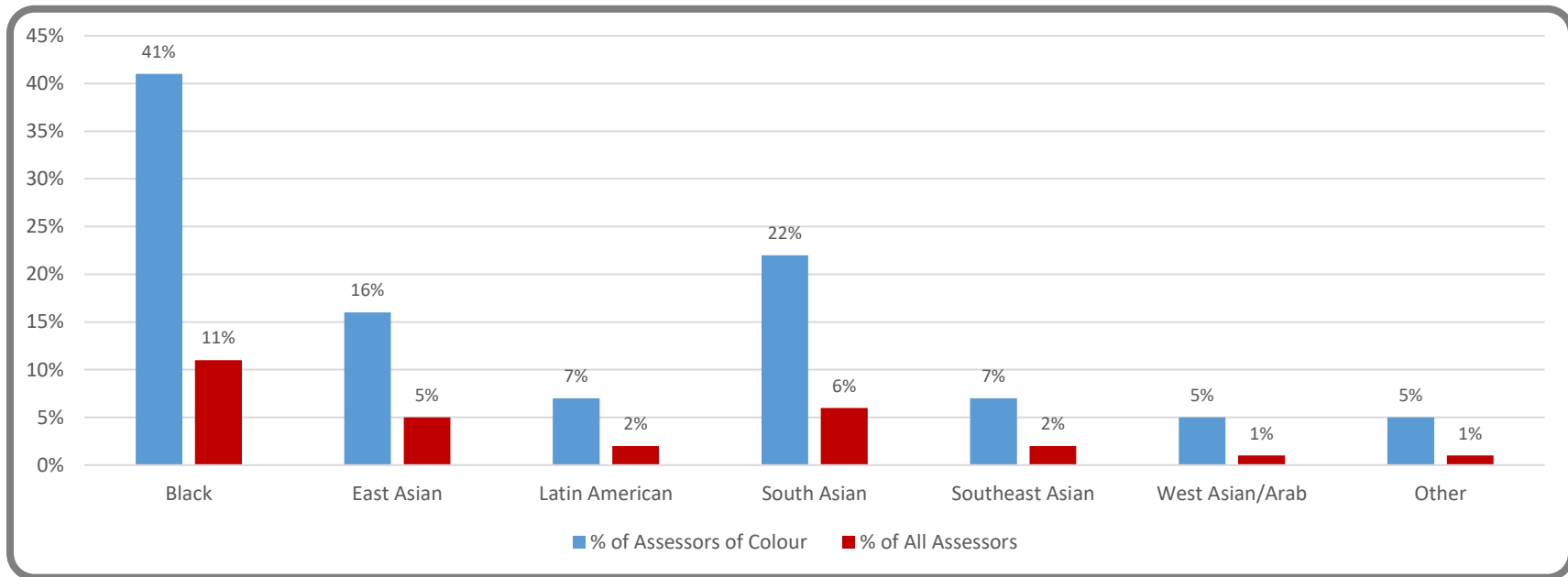
- This chart shows the breakdown for each specific group **as a percentage of totals for OAC overall**.
- For example, this chart shows that artists/organizations identifying as Black accounted for 8% of all applications to OAC in 2018-19, and for 8% of all grants, 6% of all dollars requested and 3% of all grant dollars.
- Two percent (2%) of all OAC applications were from organizations mandated to serve all artists of colour (rather than a specific group). These organizations accounted for 2% of all grants, dollars requested and grant dollars.

OAC Assessors by Priority Group



- In most cases, the percentage of OAC’s assessors who identified as a priority group is equal to, or higher than, the proportion of Ontario’s artists from that priority group, and above the proportion of the number of applications from that priority group.
- For example, in 2018-19, over one-third (36%) of assessors identified as people of colour. In comparison, 18% of Ontario’s artists were people of colour, and 29% of the total number of applications received by OAC that year were from people of colour.
- An exception is the new generation priority group. In this case, 17% of OAC’s assessors identified as new generation (from 18-30 years old), compared to 24% of Ontario artists who are new generation and 30% of total applications received from this group.

Assessors of Colour – Breakdown by Group



As a Proportion of Assessors of Colour

- Among those assessors who identified as people of colour, 41% further identified as Black, 22% as South Asian, and 16% as East Asian.

As a Proportion of All Assessors

- Among **all** OAC assessors, over one in ten (11%) identified as Black, 6% as South Asian and 5% as East Asian.