Explore and Create: Component Selection

The Explore and Create program funds Canadian artists, artistic groups and organizations committed to the creation and dissemination of innovative, vibrant and diverse art.

This program advances Canadian artistic practices by encouraging artists to investigate creative processes and take risks that lead to the development of unique works destined to connect with the public.

Explore and Create supports the research, development, creation and production of work, as well as professional development for artists.

The following will give you an overview of the two project funding components available in the program (*Research and Creation*, and *Concept to Realization*) in addition to information about the assessment process.

Two Project Components - what's the difference?

1) The Research and Creation component of Explore and Create supports the initial stages of the creative process. Canadian artists, artistic groups and arts organizations can apply to develop and make creative works. Grants provide support for creative research, creation, and project development. If you are in the process of thinking about a project and wanting to try things out with no specific presentation in mind yet, then this component is for you.

Projects involving production and/or post-production of a final work must apply to Concept to Realization.

2) The Concept to Realization component of Explore and Create supports the full creative cycle – from the initial idea through to presentation. If your project involves production and/or post-production of a final work, you must apply to Concept to Realization component. If most of the thinking and experimentation is done and you are ready to undertake the activities towards a realization of the work, apply to this component.

If you still have any questions about which component to apply to, we recommend that you email the Explore and Create program at exploreandcreate@canadacouncil.ca.

Application Assistance

Application Assistance | Canada Council for the Arts contributes to costs for services to help applicants with the application process.

Who can request assistance:

Individuals (or the lead applicant for a group) who self-identify as:

- Deaf, hard of hearing, having a disability or living with a mental illness
- First Nations, Inuit or Métis facing language, geographic and/or cultural barriers.

Assessment

Peer assessment is the basis for most of the Canada Council's funding decisions. The Research and Creation and Concept to Realization components are assessed by a committee with both a specific and broad range of professional expertise across artistic fields of practice.

How do peer assessment committees work?

The Council invites a wide range of peer assessors to participate in its decision-making process to provide the highest degree of accountability, fairness and transparency. The peer assessment process at the Canada Council strives to reflect Canada's population by representing Indigenous, culturally diverse, Deaf and disability communities and all regions, as well as ensuring a balance of gender, age and official languages.

Committee members are selected to reflect the diversity of professional specialization; artistic practice; demographics (age, gender, ethnicity); and region. Assessments involve a group of 3-5 peers evaluating a group of approximately 60-100 applications. New committees are formed for each competition with the occasional returning member from one competition to the next.

Peer assessors evaluate eligible applications, scoring each application against the assessment criteria published in the program guidelines and other contexts found on the website:

- Research and Creation - Guidelines and application form
- Concept to Realization - Guidelines and application form
- Canada Council Context Briefs.

Peer assessment is based on the information submitted with the application. They do their best and are guided to be generous, critical and to avoid bias to any one approach, style, or aesthetic.

Scoring is not based on grant writing style. Applications have a better chance of success when they respond clearly to the questions in the application form as this relates to the assessment criteria and program objectives within a national competitive context.

The role of a peer assessment committee is to establish a list of recommended applications in order of merit. Assessment committees do not determine grant amounts awarded to successful applicants.

Feedback After the Application Process?

Although the Canada Council is unable to provide direct feedback on your application, we can provide you with some useful insights for future proposals.

For more information, please see Apply to Programs | Canada Council for the Arts and Annual Application Limits | Canada Council for the Arts

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