

Media arts

2008

2009

Support for projects for independent curators
Grant program

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Grant program 2008-2009

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Section 1

Operational support

Note: This section is intended solely for organizations and is not examined in this brochure.

Organizations must submit their applications in French in conjunction with the *Programme de subventions en arts médiatiques* :
www.calq.gouv.qc.ca/organismes/arts_mediatiques.htm

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Important note

The Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec has revised its programs and evaluation processes.

Please consult the document entitled *Major reforms of support programs for professional artists and arts organizations – 2008-2009*.

www.calq.gouv.qc.ca/actualites/reformes_en.htm

**Media arts
Support for projects for independent curators
Grant program
2008-2009**

General information

Through this program, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec is seeking to financially support professional organizations that have a mandate to support, promote and disseminate the work of professional artists in the realm of independent production in the media arts, and independent curators. In particular, the program covers artists' centres, organizations that are responsible for province-wide and international events, and service organizations.

The media artists include artistic practices in the realms of cinema, video and the new media. In addition to audio art, the type of works associated with the new media is usually based on the use of communications and information technologies, i.e. computer, electronic, digital, sound, interactive and Web-based technologies.

Independent production in the media arts implies that artists exercise full control over the contents and realization of their work and over all production and distribution agreements. They possess all reproduction and public performance rights to their work or may, by granting a licence, assign them to an associate producer or an independent distributor. This practice is in keeping with production subject to cultural industry market laws.

This program comprises two sections, indicated below.

Section 1 – Operational support

Section 2 – Support for projects

- a) organization of one-off events
- b) circulation of works in Québec and abroad
- c) reception of foreign programming
- d) publication of works that document practices in different disciplines

Note: Only section 2 (a to d inclusively) of this program is also intended for independent curators. Section 1 (operational support) is intended solely for organizations and is not examined in this brochure. Organizations must submit their applications in French in conjunction with the *Programme de subventions en arts médiatiques*:

www.calq.gouv.qc.ca/organismes/arts_mediatiques.htm

Submission of the application

An organization or an curator wishing to register for this program must fill out the appropriate application form and be sure to submit all of the documents demanded, including a copy of the model contract with the artists and curators.

Application forms are available upon request from the Conseil. They may also be downloaded from the page of the program to which they pertain on the Conseil's Website.

A single copy of the registration file and the registration form must be submitted in 21.6 cm x 27.9 cm format (8½" x 11"). To facilitate photocopying, do not staple or bind the documents.

The Conseil is not responsible for the loss of items submitted with the application or damage sustained by such items during shipping. Applicants are urged to avoid sending the originals of items or supporting documents, with the exception of financial statements.

Only visual material, sound recordings and publications are returned to applicants within 90 days of the announcement of the results.

Subject to provisions in the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information*, the Conseil respects the confidentiality of the documents and information in its possession and of those sent to it.

Place of registration

Applications must be submitted to the Conseil office in Québec City or Montréal.

Registration deadlines

March 15, 2008

September 15, 2008

If the registration deadline falls on a weekend or statutory holiday, it moves to the next business day. The postmark will be regarded as proof of the date on which the application was mailed.

Applications received after the registration deadline or which are deemed to be incomplete will not be submitted for evaluation.

Response time

If the application is complete, the Conseil will inform the applicant of its decision following the evaluation of the application within roughly five months of the registration date in the case of an application for operational support and roughly four months in the case of an application for project support.

Applications that are deemed to be ineligible are submitted to the manager of the sector concerned and a letter indicating the reasons for which the application is ineligible is sent to the applicant. These applications are not submitted to the advisory committee.

Evaluation of grant applications

Grant applications are initially analysed by the Conseil's program managers in light of eligibility criteria and the program's general objectives.

Applications that are deemed to be eligible are submitted to the advisory committee that is set up pursuant to the Conseil's *Policy governing juries, committees and assessors*. The members are individuals recognized for their competence in the field concerned who possess a sound knowledge of the organizations and their impact on the artistic milieu.

The advisory committee evaluates on their merit applications according to program evaluation criteria and takes into account the Conseil's guidelines. At the conclusion of its deliberations, the committee makes recommendations to the Conseil.

The advisory committee's recommendations and the analyses conducted by the specific discipline sector are then submitted to the Board of Directors, which makes a decision. The Board of Directors may accept the recommendations or make any other decision that it deems appropriate. The Board of Directors' decision in this respect is final and without appeal.

The Conseil's *Policy governing juries, committees and assessors* is available at its offices and on its Website.

The *Peer evaluation information guide*, which is available from the Conseil and on its Website, describes the application evaluation process.

Conditions governing the awarding of a grant

Conditions governing the awarding of a grant are described in a letter of agreement that must be signed by the duly authorized representative of the organization or the independent curator, as the case may be.

The Conseil's grant must complement other sources of revenue. When the applicant knows the amount of the grants being obtained from the Conseil and other public agencies, the applicant must, if need be, prepare a revised, balanced budget for submission to the Conseil.

The grant awarded may be applied to part or all of the activities described by the applicant in the application. If the applicant is unable to carry out part or all of the activities covered by the grant, the grant recipient must immediately inform the Conseil accordingly. The Conseil may, consequently, adjust the amount of the grant and the applicant may be required to repay part or all of the grant.

Organizations or independent curators receiving a grant must abide by the Québec legislation that applies to them, including the *Act respecting the professional status and conditions of engagement of performing, recording and film artists* (R.S.Q., c. S-32.1) and the *Act respecting the professional status of artists in the visual arts, arts and crafts and literature, and their contracts with promoters*, in particular by concluding a written contract with the artist concerning the six items mentioned in section 31 of the Act (R.S.Q., c. S-32.01). The Conseil may, at any time, demand copies of contracts signed by the organization and the artists.

An organization or an independent curator who receives a one-time grant in respect of a project must submit within four months of the completion of the project an activity report and a financial report concerning the use of the grant. The reports must be submitted on the grant application form that the grant recipient initially completed and must contain all of the factual data.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Conseil reserves the right to verify the supporting documents and the information submitted by the organization or the independent curator receiving the grant to ensure compliance with the conditions governing the attribution of the grant.

The applicant obtaining the grant must comply with standards governing the use of the Conseil's logo, as described in a document available from the Conseil or on its Website.

Failure to comply with the conditions governing the awarding of a grant and the specific conditions pertaining thereto and non-compliance with the applicable legislation may compromise the organization's or the independent curator's subsequent eligibility for Conseil programs.

Review process

The decisions reached by the Conseil's Board of Directors regarding a production support grant are final and without appeal.

The review process is intended solely for organizations that obtain operating grants.

Glossary

International event

An international event is one that hosts significant numbers of Québec, Canadian and foreign artists and specialists in a specific field whose activities can give rise to exchanges and reciprocal agreements.

The event must be supported by an extensive promotional plan that makes provision, in particular, for participation by domestic and international media that may disseminate the event or publicize it at home and abroad.

Partnership

A partnership is any form of cooperation between legal and natural persons aimed at carrying out a project through the pooling of physical, human or financial resources.

Professional artist

The *Act respecting the professional status of artists in the visual arts, arts and crafts and literature, and their contracts with promoters* (R.S.Q., c. S-32.01) defines a professional artist as "every creator who declares himself to be a professional artist, produces works on his own behalf, whose works are exhibited, produced, published, presented in public or marketed by a promoter, and has been recognized by his peers as a professional artist by way of an honourable mention, an award, a prize, a scholarship, an appointment to an adjudication committee or an invitation to participate in a salon or by any other similar means. Moreover, every artist who is a professional member of an association recognized under the Act or forming part of a group recognized under the Act is presumed to be a professional artist."

The *Act respecting the professional status and conditions of engagement of performing, recording and film artists* (R.S.Q., c. S 32.1) defines a professional artist as "any natural person who practises an art on his own account and who offers his services for remuneration, as a creator or performer," especially in the fields under the responsibility of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

Professional media arts organization

A professional media arts organization is one whose main mission is to support, promote and disseminate the work of professional artists in the realm of the media arts through activities and services offered regularly to artists and the public. Media arts organizations include, in particular, artists' centres, organizations responsible for events, and service organizations. Depending on the organization's specific mandate, the activities can include access to specialized resources and production equipment, the reception of artists in residence, exhibitions, screenings, lectures, workshops, performances, publications, training, documentation, and so on. The activities that are an integral part of the organization's mission demand precise artistic guidelines and adequate resources and artistic skills. The organization must assume responsibility for artistic choices and financial risks and must, among other things, oversee all facets of the presentation to the public of artistic works.

A service organization is one that satisfies specialized needs in an artistic field. It offers artists and organizations support for professional artistic practice through initiatives focusing on supervision, management, promotion, recognition, documentation or distribution.

Professionals in the media arts

Professionals in the media arts include independent curators, art critics and cultural workers with the appropriate experience. Curators must have demonstrated their skills in research and the organization of at least one dissemination and promotion initiative in a professional context. Critics must have published texts in magazines, newspapers, exhibition catalogues or activity programs. Cultural workers must have occupied a position as a coordinator, a manager or an artistic director in a professional organization.

Province-wide event

A province-wide event is one that has significant impact on the development of a discipline. Depending on the nature of the event, the programming must include the creation of works or the presentation of unpublished works and must take into account new trends in a specific field.

Participation in the event by Québec artists and specialists must be predominant.

The event must be supported by a promotional plan that makes provision for province-wide activities, and participation by the domestic media that may disseminate the event or publicize it at the provincial level.

Section 1

Operational support

Note: This section is intended solely for organizations and is not examined in this brochure.

Organizations must submit their applications in French in conjunction with the *Programme de subventions en arts médiatiques* :
www.calq.gouv.qc.ca/organismes/arts_mediatiques.htm

Section 2

Support for projects for independent curators

Through this section, the Conseil intends to make available to the professional arts community resources that foster the development of the discipline, the impact that artists have in Québec and elsewhere, the advancement of knowledge and the broadening of public awareness.

This support is intended for organizations and independent curators recognized in the realm of the media arts. The applicant and partner organizations must clearly demonstrate that the project is a specific one that is being undertaken in addition to their regular activities.

This component of the program comprises the sections indicated below.

Section 2a – Organization of one-off events

Section 2b – Circulation of works in Québec and abroad

Section 2c – Reception of foreign programming

Section 2d – Publication of works that document practices in the discipline

Objectives of project support

By granting funds for non-recurring projects, the Conseil is seeking to:

- encourage the emergence of projects or initiatives that are essential to the discipline's development;
- foster partnership projects aimed at the comparison of artistic practices and viewpoints through the organization of original initiatives devoted to reflection and exchanges;
- support awareness, promotion and dissemination initiatives that advance knowledge in media arts practices that broaden the public's appreciation of them;
- encourage new forms of cooperation from an artistic standpoint, in particular by means of partnership agreements;
- emphasize the presence of artists and the circulation of their works in Québec and elsewhere.

Eligible applicants

Professional organizations

A professional organization must be a legally constituted non-profit corporation whose head office is located in Québec that presents professional artistic activities and the majority of whose members or administrators are Canadian citizens normally resident in Québec or landed immigrants as contemplated by section 2(1) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* normally resident in Québec.

Independent curators

An independent curator must have demonstrated his skills in research and the organization of at least one dissemination and promotion initiative in a professional context.

He must be a Canadian citizen normally resident in Québec or a landed immigrant as contemplated in section 2(1) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* normally resident in Québec and who has resided there for the past twelve (12) months.

Specific eligibility criteria

In the case of organizations that are already receiving operating support from the Conseil, only partnership projects are eligible for this section. The Conseil defines a partnership as any form of cooperation between legal and natural persons aimed at carrying out a project through the pooling of physical, human or financial resources.

The partners must submit a letter of interest or a letter of commitment. The payment of the grant is subject to the confirmation of the partners' contribution.

This section of the program is intended solely to promote and disseminate the works of living artists.

Organizations that obtain operating support from the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles, the ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine and the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport are ineligible for this section.

Maximum amount of the financial assistance

A maximum of \$40 000 per fiscal year may be awarded to support projects, irrespective of the section. The total amount of assistance requested at the time of registration in respect of section 2 overall may not exceed the maximum amount granted per fiscal year.

If the actual cost of carrying out the project exceeds the scale respecting the maximum amount of the grant, the Conseil may demand the repayment of the surplus amount.

Section 2a Organization of one-off events

This type of support is intended for organizations and independent curators.

Eligible projects include artistic events such as exhibitions, symposia, colloquia, performance programs, media arts programs, lecture series, public experimentation workshops, thematic meetings or any other similar initiative that promotes public dissemination of works, exchanges and the expression of viewpoints.

The applicant and the partner organization must clearly demonstrate that the event is not part of their regular activities whether or not the Conseil subsidizes the organization.

Evaluation criteria

Project grant applications are subject to an evaluation of merit that focuses primarily on the artistic quality, impact and management of the project. The evaluation centres on the following criteria:

Artistic quality of the project (60 %)

- clarity and originality of the project;
- choice of the artists, curators, authors and other professionals associated with the activity;
- relevance of the partners and reception structures, as the case may be.

Impact of the project (20 %)

- conceptual rigour of the project;
- spin-off for the artists and partners;
- quality of the communications plan;
- quality of initiatives pertaining to mediation with audiences, as the case may be.

Management of the project (20 %)

- realism of the budget estimates;
- ability of the applicant to successfully carry out the project;
- effort devoted to the payment of exhibition rights, fees and royalties;
- diversity of sources of revenue and size of the partners' contribution.

Exceptionally, when the type of project warrants doing so and the applicant makes such a request by checking off the appropriate box on the form, the Conseil will attach greater importance to the criteria concerning the project's impact. In this instance, the project's artistic quality will account for 50% of the weighting, its impact for 30% and its management for 20%.

Eligible expenses

- the payment of fees and royalties (exhibition, reproduction, publication, communications, public relations, and so on);
- the cost of promotional and advertising material directly related to the project;
- the travel and living expenses of artists and other participants;
- the cost of transporting art works;
- the cost of renting space and equipment related to the realization of the activity;
- certain travel costs and professional or contractual fees such as those of consultants, technicians or any other specialist who provides specific expertise.

Maximum amount of the grant

A maximum of \$30 000 may be granted per registration period in this section. The grant may not represent more than 75% of the total cost of the project.

If the actual cost of carrying out the project exceeds the scale respecting the maximum amount of the grant, the Conseil may demand the repayment of the surplus amount.

Section 2b

Circulation of works in Québec and abroad

This type of support is intended for organizations and independent curators.

Eligible projects include exhibitions, media arts programs, performance programs, market exploration missions, or any other similar activity that involves the presentation of works and travel in Québec or elsewhere.

In conjunction with this program, recognized sites refer to sites and organizations devoted primarily to dissemination. Participation in events or festivals at which professionals in the media arts select the works and participants is also recognized.

Applicants who submit a grant application under this section must submit written confirmation (a contract, a letter of invitation, intent or commitment, proof of registration, space rental or other proof) from the dissemination site concerned by their project and the conditions pertaining to it. Payment of the grant is subject to this confirmation.

In the case of projects carried out in Québec, the Conseil may grant financial assistance for the presentation of works at several recognized sites.

In the case of projects carried out elsewhere, the Conseil may grant financial assistance for the presentation of works at one or more recognized sites.

Evaluation criteria

Project grant applications are subject to an evaluation of merit that focuses primarily on the artistic quality, impact and management of the project. The evaluation centres on the following criteria:

Artistic quality of the project (60 %)

- clarity and originality of the project;
- choice of the artists, curators, authors and other professionals associated with the activity;
- relevance of the partners and reception structures, as the case may be.

Impact of the project (20 %)

- conceptual rigour of the project;
- spin-off for the artists and partners;
- quality of the communications plan;
- quality of initiatives pertaining to mediation with audiences, as the case may be.

Management of the project (20 %)

- realism of the budget estimates;
- ability of the applicant to successfully carry out the project;
- effort devoted to the payment of exhibition rights, fees and royalties;
- diversity of sources of revenue and size of the partners' contribution.

Exceptionally, when the type of project warrants doing so and the applicant makes such a request by checking off the appropriate box on the form, the Conseil will attach greater importance to the criteria concerning the project's impact. In this instance, the project's artistic quality will account for 50% of the weighting, its impact for 30% and its management for 20%.

Eligible expenses

- the payment of fees and royalties (exhibition, reproduction, publication, communications, public relations, and so on);
- the cost of promotional and advertising material directly related to the project;
- the travel and living expenses of artists and other participants;
- the cost of transporting art works;
- the cost of renting space and equipment related to the realization of the activity;
- certain travel costs and professional or contractual fees such as those of consultants, technicians or any other specialist who provides specific expertise.

The maximum amount of the grant for a market exploration mission depends on the destination:

- Québec, Ontario and the Maritimes: \$750;
- Nord du Québec, other regions of Canada and New England: \$1 000 ;
- Other regions of the United States, Europe and Mexico: \$2 000;
- Africa, Asia, Oceania, Central America and South America: \$2 500.

Up to \$200 in communications expenses are eligible.

Applicants must justify their eligible expenses.

Maximum amount of the grant

A maximum of \$30 000 may be granted per registration period in this section. The grant may not represent more than 75% of the total cost of the project.

If the actual cost of carrying out the project exceeds the scale respecting the maximum amount of the grant, the Conseil may demand the repayment of the surplus amount.

It should be noted that the Conseil will not subsidize projects that have already been carried out. However, it may accept exceptionally a circulation project submitted outside the registration deadline provided that the project is submitted four weeks prior to the circulation activity. These applications will be examined during the subsequent registration period planned in conjunction with this program.

Section 2c

Reception of foreign programming

This type of support is intended for organizations and independent curators.

Eligible projects include exhibitions, media arts programs, performance programs that include the presentation of artists' works that are produced by organizations or curators established elsewhere in Canada and abroad.

Applicants who submit a grant application under this section must submit written confirmation (a contract, a letter of invitation, intent or commitment, proof of registration, space rental or other proof) from the dissemination site concerned by their project and the conditions pertaining to it. Payment of the grant is subject to this confirmation.

Only programming produced abroad or coproduced with many foreign resources is eligible.

Evaluation criteria

Project grant applications are subject to an evaluation of merit that focuses primarily on the artistic quality, impact and management of the project. The evaluation centres on the following criteria:

Artistic quality of the project (60 %)

- clarity and originality of the project;
- choice of the artists, curators, authors and other professionals associated with the activity;
- relevance of the partners and reception structures, as the case may be.

Impact of the project (20 %)

- conceptual rigour of the project;
- spin-off for the artists and partners;
- quality of the communications plan;
- quality of initiatives pertaining to mediation with audiences, as the case may be.

Management of the project (20 %)

- realism of the budget estimates;
- ability of the applicant to successfully carry out the project;
- effort devoted to the payment of exhibition rights, fees and royalties;
- diversity of sources of revenue and size of the partners' contribution.

Exceptionally, when the type of project warrants doing so and the applicant makes such a request by checking off the appropriate box on the form, the Conseil will attach greater importance to the criteria concerning the project's impact. In this instance, the project's artistic quality will account for 50% of the weighting, its impact for 30% and its management for 20%.

Eligible expenses

- the payment of fees and royalties (exhibition, reproduction, publication, communications, public relations, and so on);
- the cost of promotional and advertising material directly related to the project;
- the travel and living expenses of artists and other participants;
- the cost of transporting art works;
- the cost of renting space and equipment related to the realization of the activity;
- certain travel costs and professional or contractual fees such as those of consultants, technicians or any other specialist who provides specific expertise.

Maximum amount of the grant

A maximum of \$30 000 may be granted per registration period in this section. The grant may not represent more than 75% of the total cost of the project.

If the actual cost of carrying out the project exceeds the scale respecting the maximum amount of the grant, the Conseil may demand the repayment of the surplus amount.

Section 2d

Publication of works that document practices in the discipline

This type of support is intended for organizations and independent curators.

Eligible projects focus on the publication of printed or electronic works intended to document and promote an artistic event or the work of an artist or an artists' group. Such works are intended to heighten public awareness and may take the form of exhibition catalogues, media arts programs, monographs or the proceedings of a symposium.

The applicants must submit a promotion and dissemination plan, a distribution plan, technical specifications and a budget in respect of the projects.

Publishers, author's editions and organizations supported by the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles, the ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine and the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport are ineligible for this section.

Evaluation criteria

Project grant applications are subject to an evaluation of merit that focuses primarily on the artistic quality, impact and management of the project. The evaluation centres on the following criteria:

Artistic quality of the project (60 %)

- clarity and originality of the project;
- choice of the artists, curators, authors and other professionals associated with the activity;
- relevance of the partners and reception structures, as the case may be.

Impact of the project (20 %)

- conceptual rigour of the project;
- spin-off for the artists and partners;
- quality of the communications plan;
- quality of initiatives pertaining to mediation with audiences, as the case may be.

Management of the project (20 %)

- realism of the budget estimates;
- ability of the applicant to successfully carry out the project;
- effort devoted to the payment of exhibition rights, fees and royalties;
- diversity of sources of revenue and size of the partners' contribution.

Eligible expenses

- the payment of fees and royalties (reproduction, publication, and so on);
- the cost of promotional, advertising and distribution material directly related to the project;
- graphic design fees and the cost of the printed or electronic production of publications;
- certain professional or contractual fees such as those of consultants or any other specialist who provides specific expertise.

Maximum amount of the grant

A maximum of \$20 000 may be granted per registration period in this section. The grant may not represent more than 75% of the total cost of the project.

If the actual cost of carrying out the project exceeds the scale respecting the maximum amount of the grant, the Conseil may demand the repayment of the surplus amount.

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The masculine form of pronouns is used in this document and designates without discrimination both women and men.