

Artists' groups

2008

2009

Circus arts

Production support
Grant program

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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* on the Conseil's Web site:

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

**Circus arts
Production support grant program
for artists' groups
2008-2009**

General information

Through this program, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec wishes to financially support professional circus arts organizations that create, produce and disseminate works on a regular or a one-off basis.

This program comprises two sections:
Section 1 - Support for production projects
Section 2 - Operational support

Note: Section 2 (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 du cirque* : www.calq.gouv.qc.ca/organismes/cirque.htm

General objectives of the program

By awarding grants to circus arts organizations, the Conseil is seeking to:

- support artistic excellence in the circus arts, the diversity of practice and creative renewal;
- encourage the creation, production and dissemination of Québec works;
- support revivals;
- foster the integration of young Québec artists and performers into a professional work environment;
- facilitate access throughout Québec to circus arts performances and broaden public exposure to such performances;
- develop and heighten audience awareness;
- contribute to the recognition of professional artists.

General eligibility criteria

This program is intended for professional circus arts production organizations. The circus arts encompass forms of expression in which the mastery of one or more circus techniques is essential and in respect of which the practice, language and works are aimed, first and foremost, at the renewal of this artistic discipline. Circus techniques eligible for this program are those widely recognized by professional circus arts schools.

The Conseil may grant circus arts organizations specific financial assistance to cover the realization of original production projects or performances that rely on new or barely explored techniques in the realm of contemporary or traditional circus arts.

An artists' group may also obtain support for a production project in conjunction with section 1 of this program.

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. The professional artist must be a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant as contemplated in section 2(1) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and in both instances must normally reside in Québec and have resided there over the past twelve (12) months.

Artists' group

An artists' group designates a group of artists, regardless of their number. Each member of the group must be a professional artist as defined above. One member must represent the group as coordinator. Moreover, the group must not have received collectively grants in respect of the same project under other programs offered by the Conseil.

The same coordinator must always represent permanent artists' groups unless exceptional circumstances arise.

Ineligibility

The program is not open to artists' groups registered with the Régistraire des entreprises du Québec as a general partnership.

Submission of the application

An artist or an artists' group wishing to register for this program must fill out the appropriate application form and be sure to submit all of the documents demanded.

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 complete application must be submitted (21.6 cm x 27.9 cm or 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 the 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 deadline

March 1, 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.

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.

Procedures for awarding grants

Procedures for awarding grants are described in a letter of agreement that must be signed by the coordinator of the artists' group.

The Conseil's grant must complement other sources of revenue. When artists' groups know the amount of the grants that they are obtaining from the Conseil and other public agencies, they must, if need be, draw up 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 artists' group in the application. If the artists' group 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 artists' group may be required to repay part or all of the grant.

Artists' groups must abide by 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 that sets forth 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 artists' group that 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 applicants initially completed and must contain all of the factual data.

An artists' group that receives in a given year one or more grants totalling \$50 000, up to a maximum of \$250 000, must submit a financial report on the use of the grant that satisfies the Conseil, prepared by a public accountant. An artists' group that receives in a given year one or more grants totalling \$250 000 or more must submit a financial report on the use of the grant that satisfies the Conseil, prepared and audited by a chartered accountant.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Conseil may verify the supporting documents and the information submitted by the artists' group that receives the grant to ensure compliance with the conditions governing the attribution of the grant.

The artists' group 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 artists' 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.

Section 1 Support for production projects

The Conseil may grant circus arts organizations specific financial assistance to cover the realization of original production projects or performances that rely on new or barely explored techniques in the realm of contemporary or traditional circus arts.

An artists' group may also register in this section.

To be eligible for this section, an artists' group must satisfy the program's general eligibility requirements, outlined earlier.

An artists' group made up mainly of the same people who are working in another artists' group or an organization submitting an application may not submit more than one application.

A project involving the revival of a performance is eligible for this section.

An artists' group may submit only one grant application per year. However, the Conseil may, under exceptional circumstances, support for a period of two years projects that display artistic promise.

Evaluation criteria

Grant applications in respect of production projects are subject to an evaluation of merit focusing primarily on the projects' artistic quality and potential influence and the realism of the budgets submitted. The evaluation also takes into account the specific niche in which the artists' group is working. The evaluation criteria are indicated below.

Artistic quality of the project (60 %)

- the quality and artistic interest of the project;
- the quality of the organization's previous achievements;
- the quality of the artistic work of members of the artists' group associated with the project;
- mastery of one or more circus techniques.

Impact of the project (20 %)

- the project's contribution to the development and renewal of the discipline;
- the project's contribution to the region's artistic development;
- the extent of the dissemination planned (number of performances and spectators in light of the nature of the project).

Management of the project (20 %)

- the project's feasibility, the realism of budget estimates, and financial equilibrium;
- the remuneration of artists, performers and cultural workers.

Exceptionally, when the type of project warrants doing so and the artists' group 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%.

Maximum amount of the grant

The maximum amount of the Conseil's grant to support projects may not exceed 75% of the cost of the project. Project grants are specific in nature and are not renewable.

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 2

Operational support

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 du cirque* : www.calq.gouv.qc.ca/organismes/cirque.htm

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