



Corporate Social Responsibility – Statement of Principles

(February 2017)

As a publicly-funded organization, the Canada Council for the Arts is mandated to provide programs and services that benefit the lives of Canadians. Our work contributes to a diverse and excellent arts sector that engages Canadians, enriches their communities and reaches markets around the world.

What's more, we are committed to carry out our [role and mandate](#) in a way that is guided by Corporate Social Responsibility. This means we ensure we conduct our work in a socially, ethically and environmentally responsible manner, according to the values and principles outlined below. As such, we ensure that social, ethical and environmental impacts are considered in all our decisions, and we strive to be a leader in terms of social, ethical and environmental policies and practices.

Role and mandate

The Canada Council for the Arts is Canada's federal public arts funder, with a mandate "to foster and promote the study and enjoyment of, and the production of works in, the arts."

The Council champions and invests in artistic excellence through a broad range of grants, services, prizes and payments to professional Canadian artists and arts organizations. Its work ensures that excellent, vibrant and diverse art and literature engages Canadians, enriches their communities and reaches markets around the world.

The Council also raises public awareness and appreciation of the arts through its communications, research and arts promotion activities. It is responsible for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO which promotes the values and programs of UNESCO in Canada to contribute to a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable future. The Canada Council Art Bank operates art rental programs and helps further public engagement with contemporary arts.

Fundamental values

As an organization, the Canada Council:

- ❖ maintains an **arm's-length relationship** from government, which allows the Council to develop policies and programs and make decisions without undue political pressure or influence.
- ❖ supports **freedom of artistic expression** from control or dominance by external forces such as governments and markets, a value reinforced by the arm's-length relationship.

- ❖ believes in **government investment in the arts as a public good** enabling the arts to contribute to peoples' lives, encouraging arts development across Canada, and freeing art from complete reliance on the marketplace.
- ❖ seeks to **develop excellent art** in Canada by focusing on professional artistic activity by individuals and organizations, **respecting artistic excellence** as the primary criterion in providing grants, and relying on peer assessment as the best method for determining comparative merit in a national context.
- ❖ believes in the **value of a national perspective of the arts**, to enrich knowledge within the Council and the arts community, foster attitudes inclusive of all art forms and artistic traditions, and provide national and international leadership.
- ❖ respects Canada's **official languages** and recognize the need to support professional artistic activity by both French- and English-speaking Canadians. It recognizes the distinct contribution that Canada's two official languages, and its official language minority communities, make to the diversity and richness of the arts in Canada.
- ❖ respects the **regional diversity** of Canada and recognizes the need to support professional artistic activity in all parts of the country.
- ❖ respects the histories, traditions, languages and contemporary practices of Indigenous **Peoples** and seeks to foster the development of Indigenous artists and organizations.
- ❖ respects the cultural diversity of Canada and seeks to support artists and arts organizations from **diverse ethno-racial backgrounds**, their artistic practices and cultural perspectives.
- ❖ respects the diverse perspectives of **artists who are Deaf and/or have disabilities** and seeks to support the artistic practices and arts organizations from these communities.

Principles

The Canada Council's commitment to social responsibility incorporates 5 principles:

1. Business Ethics

- ❖ The Canada Council conducts its business with honesty, integrity and fairness, and ensures ethical considerations and implications are embedded in all decision-making processes (e.g., procurement, partnerships, etc.)

2. Community Investment

- ❖ The Canada Council works with and is inspired by the community that it serves – Canadians, as a whole. It strives to enrich the lives of Canadians through a vital and diverse arts sector and cultural engagement.

3. Employee Engagement

- ❖ The Canada Council strives to provide an organizational climate that encourages well-being, and stimulates and supports employee performance and development.

4. Environment

- ❖ The Canada Council is forward-thinking and proactive in reducing its environmental footprint, and incorporates environmental sustainability considerations into all its activities.

5. Transparency

- ❖ The Canada Council recognizes the importance of public accountability and open communications, and it conducts its business in a transparent manner in order to maintain the trust and confidence of its stakeholders.