

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### **CURATOR for EXHIBITION focused on CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEME ÂJAGEMÔ EXHIBITION HALL JUNE 2018 to DECEMBER 2018**

The Canada Council for the Arts is seeking proposals from individuals to curate an exhibition for its [Âjagemô hall](#) from June to December 2018 (approximately).

Âjagemô is a 3000 sq. ft. public space located on the ground floor of 150 Elgin Street in Ottawa. An Algonquin word signifying 'crossroads', Âjagemô is used to feature exhibitions, events, and performances of contemporary art by artists from across Canada.

#### **Overview**

To date, Âjagemô has featured exhibitions linked to artistic practices supported by Council, including visual art, Indigenous arts, music and literature and in the near future, *Constructed Identities*, curated by Tangled Art+Disability. Each exhibition has engaged the public through curatorial tours and online content.

Dance is one of the many art forms that the Council supports. Contemporary dance in Canada is rich in diversity. The curator will have the opportunity to explore significant milestones in the evolution of contemporary dance and its impact on the broader arts sector. The curator may also consider the future of Dance in Canada. The Curator will have access to the Canada Council's Art Bank collection but is not limited to this source, in addition to material drawn from additional collections including videos, photography, costumes and maquettes that focus on the dynamism, diversity and impact of contemporary dance in Canada.

The curator will lead the creation and implementation of the exhibition, using the Canada Council Art Bank collection, with the option of utilizing additional institution collections:

- Dance Collection Danse (Toronto): <http://www.dcd.ca/whatwedo.html>
- Bibliothèque de la danse Vincent Warren (Montréal) :  
<http://bibliodanse.ca/Main.htm?context=0>
- Fondation Jean-Pierre Perreault (Montréal):  
<http://espaceschoregraphiques2.com/fr/mediatheque/>
- Bibliothèque et archives nationales du Québec (Montréal) :  
[http://pistard.banq.qc.ca/unite\\_chercheurs/prc\\_validation](http://pistard.banq.qc.ca/unite_chercheurs/prc_validation)
- Library and Archives Canada
- National Arts Centre

The successful candidate's responsibilities include:

- Develop a curatorial premise and framework for the exhibition, including a title;
- If drawing upon Art Bank collection, the final selection will be based on availability of works and done in consultation with Art Bank staff;
- In collaboration with the Manager, Exhibitions and Outreach, contribute to the development of a production timeline including design, web, and promotional materials and the selection and installation of works;
- Propose a budget with outlined parameters (including shipping, CARfac payments and framing);

- Provide written text for web & other needs, as well as in-gallery didactic materials;
- Work with the project team to identify loans. Loan agreement documentation, insurance coverage specifics, and shipping arrangements to be handled by the Canada Council project team;
- Propose live events or animation for the space over the course of the exhibition (launch event, artist talks, performance, etc.);
- Propose a complementary online component that extends or supplements the gallery experience;
- Lead a curatorial walk-through of the exhibition.

The curator is welcome to work in English and/or French.

### **Guidelines**

- The proposed exhibition should provide various levels of entry into the material, or various layers of content and meaning;
- Exhibition should engage the audience through a call to action, an exchange, or an interaction of some kind; this could include audiences leaving their mark or imprint upon the exhibit, signing a guestbook or taking a photo; it could mean posing a question;
- Materials must be suitable for display in a public space and appropriately protected;
- Content must be suitable for all ages, since Âjagemô is in a public building (guidelines will be provided to the successful candidate);
- All didactic materials must be in French and English (Council to provide translation, design and installation services);
- Any materials displayed on the floor of the hall need to be easily moved, as there will be events in the space during the exhibition that may require the full floor space;
- The exhibition should be aligned with the Canada Council's brand personality attributes of 'open, vibrant and connected'.

### **Budget**

The proposed budget for the exhibition is no more than \$40,000 which includes the associated fees:

- \$5000 curator fee
- Travel expenses for research as well as to install the exhibition and attend the vernissage
- Artist fees including loans, exhibition, reproduction and performance fees in accordance with disciplinary standards
- Restoration or framing
- Construction of exhibition or display cases/stands if needed
- Installation fees
- Shipping
- AV costs related to promotion and documentation of exhibition as needed
- Public programming

The following fees are not included in the budget above (they will be covered separately):

- Translation, design and installation of didactic panels, promotional material including web content.

## **Proposals**

Please submit a brief proposal (no more than three pages) outlining your curatorial premise, a list of suggested Art Bank artworks and other content (explore the collection on [artbank.ca](http://artbank.ca)), ideas for public programming and describe your expertise or suitability for this contract. Please include a recent CV outlining your previous curatorial experience and the names and contact information of two references. The deadline for receipt of proposals is **3:00 pm Eastern Time on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.**

Proposals can be sent by email ([amy.jenkins@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:amy.jenkins@canadacouncil.ca)) or post to:

Amy Jenkins  
Head, Art Bank  
Canada Council for the Arts  
P.O. Box 1047  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5V8

Please submit any questions in writing, via email, to the contact below and the Council will respond accordingly. To ensure that all firms receive equivalent information, the Council will post applicable clarification questions and responses on MERX. Deadline for submitting questions is December 22, 2017 at 3:00 pm EST (Ottawa local time).

Enquiries concerning any aspect of this RFP can be directed to:

**Contact Name:** Martha Young

**Contact Title:** Art Bank Operations and Marketing Coordinator

**Email:** [artbank@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:artbank@canadacouncil.ca)

**\*\*Please note that the Canada Council offices will be closed for the holidays from noon on December 22nd, 2017 and will reopen on January 3rd, 2018.**