EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CURATOR for EXHIBITION OF ART BANK ARTWORKS
To celebrate the Canada Council Art Bank’s 50th anniversary

ÂJAGEMÔ EXHIBITION HALL
June 2022 – January 2023

The Canada Council for the Arts is seeking proposals from individuals interested in curating an exhibition from approximately June 2022 to January 2023 in our Âjagemô exhibition space. This physical exhibition will be complemented by an online exhibition on the Âjagemô website.

The Art Bank will prioritize proposals from curators who self-identify as Indigenous, Black, racialized, Deaf, or with disabilities for this opportunity.

Âjagemô is a 3000 sq. ft. public space located on the ground floor of the Canada Council’s head office at 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
In 2022, the Art Bank celebrates its 50th anniversary. Milestone anniversaries represent an opportunity to recognize the organization’s history and success coupled with the potential to reposition for the future.

In alignment with the Council’s Strategic Plan, Art, now more than ever, as the Art Bank celebrates its 50th anniversary it will reposition itself as innovative, sustainable, resilient and an integral part of the Council’s efforts to bring the arts to life. It will voice its intention to build a more equitable and inclusive collection, one that fosters the emergence of new voices and makes a place for youth. This includes future purchases that will enable the Art Bank to contribute to a renewed, dynamic collection, with artworks by artists from Indigenous, Black, racialized, Deaf, disability and 2SLGBTQ and gender-diverse communities, women and artists at intersections of these identities.

Beginning in the spring of 2022, the Art Bank will launch a series of vignettes that focus on the unique role the Art Bank plays in making artworks accessible to Canadians in public spaces and offices, with exhibitions, loans and outreach activities both physical and virtual. Stories will also highlight the impact the Art Bank has had on the visual arts milieu, how it has benefited clients in workplace settings, and what representation in the collection means to artists. A selection of stories will be included in the exhibition.

As this eventful year approaches, we are seeking a curator to create an exhibition that will highlight and celebrate the past, present and future of the Art Bank collection and the role of the visual arts in the lives of Canadians. The curator will have access to the Canada Council’s Art Bank collection to explore significant milestones in the Art Bank’s evolution, its impact on the visual arts sector and consideration for its future.
The curator will lead the development, creation and implementation of the exhibition in close consultation with the Art Bank leadership. They will also collaborate with the Canada Council’s Communications Section who are accountable for all the Council’s external communications, to develop products and activities that adhere to the Council’s brand, guidelines and values and complement the exhibition. The proposal should include elements of public programming that reach a wide audience and contribute to online growth and engagement of visitors outside of the National Capital Region, while also promoting the importance of the Art Bank collection itself. The curator will be asked to incorporate a selection of anniversary vignettes into the exhibition content.

For thematic inspiration, curators are requested to consult the Canada Council's 2021-26 Strategic Plan, *Art, now more than ever*.

The successful candidate will be responsible to:

- Develop a curatorial premise and framework for the exhibition, including a title for consideration
- Propose a budget with outlined parameters (including CARfac payments).
- Propose artists/artworks to be included in the exhibition that meet the chosen theme. Curators can use [www.artbank.ca](http://www.artbank.ca) to make a preliminary selection of works. The final selection will be based on the availability of artworks and done in consultation with Art Bank staff.
- Provide a curatorial statement for the physical and digital exhibition for consideration, as well as in-gallery didactic materials.
- Develop the content for the complementary online component that extends or supplements the gallery experience according to the Canada Council’s guidelines and standards.
- Collaborate with Canada Council’s project team and Communications Section to develop a production timeline including content, design, web, promotional materials and to coordinate the selection and installation of works.
- In consultation and direction from Canada Council staff, including the Head of the Art Bank and the Director of Communications, develop and implement live events or animation for the space over the course of the exhibition (launch event, artist talks, public programming, etc.). Lead a public tour 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, and various layers of content and meaning.
- The exhibition should engage the audience through a call to action, an exchange, or an interaction of some kind; this could include audiences leaving a physical mark or imprint, participating through social media, or other.
- Materials must be suitable for display in a public space and appropriately protected.
- Content must be appropriate for all ages, since Ájagemô is in a public space.
All programming and didactic materials must be in French and English (the Council will provide writing, editing, translation, design and installation services).

Any materials displayed on the floor of the hall must 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’ and the values of its strategic plan, Art, now more than ever.

**Budget**

The total budget for the exhibition is no more than $50,000, which includes the associated fees to be managed by the curator:

- $6,000 curator fee
- Travel expenses for research as well as to install the exhibition and attend the vernissage
- Artist fees including exhibition and reproduction fees in accordance with disciplinary standards
- Restoration or framing
- Construction of exhibition or display cases/stands if needed
- Installation fees
- Documentation of the work including hiring photographer/videographer
- Public programming

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

- Writing/editing, translation, design and installation of didactic panels and 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 works/content, ideas for public programming and describe your expertise or suitability for this contract. Please include a recent CV outlining previous curatorial experience and the names and contact information of two references.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is 5 pm Eastern Time on Thursday, January 6th, 2022. Proposals can be sent by email to Amy Jenkins, Head, Art Bank at amy.jenkins@canadacouncil.ca

If you have questions please contact Martha Young, Operations and Marketing Coordinator, by email (martha.young@canadacouncil.ca) or by phone (800) 263-5588 or (613) 566-4414 x 4442.