

# 2023 Venice Biennale of Architecture

## Call for expression of interest Guidelines and Application Form

The Canada Council for the Arts invites exhibition proposals for Canada’s official representation at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venizia, from May to November 2023. The exhibition will take place at the Canada Pavilion in the Gardini.

The Canada Council is looking for proposals with bold ideas that inspire, challenge, and respond to current realities through the lens of contemporary Canadian architecture. Each proposal must include, in addition to an on-site exhibition, a digital artistic element with functionality that is accessible and discoverable to a wide audience. Examples include, but are not limited to, livestreamed works/events, downloadable works, virtual performances, digital exhibition and curatorial works, interactive artistic experiences, and more.

The Call is open to Canadian organizations, institutions, or businesses who must assemble a cross-disciplinary team with expertise in contemporary Canadian architecture as well as experience in project management, curation, and exhibition design. Contributors and collaborators could include, but are not limited to, architects, artists, critics, curators, and designers. The selected team will be responsible for all aspects of the exhibition, from conception and design to production.

The Canada Council, as commissioner, oversees Canada’s official participation, advises the selected team, and contributes $500,000 towards the exhibition production.

The application process has two stages:

**Stage 1** Proposal submitted through Call for expression of interest

**Stage 2** Shortlisted candidates from the Call for Expression of Interest will be invited to fully develop their proposal and participate in an interview with the selection committee

### Deadline

Proposals (stage 1) must be received by **Monday, November 29, 2021, 11:59 pm Pacific Time** to [venicebiennale@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:venicebiennale@canadacouncil.ca).

The selection committee is comprised of the following members:

* **Brigitte Shim**,FRAIC, CM, RCA, Hon. FAIA, OAA, Architect, Principal, Shim-Sutcliffe Architects (Toronto) ǀ Professor, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, University of Toronto (Toronto)
* **Neeraj Bhatia**, RA, OAA, SM.Arch, B.Arch, B.E.S, Architect and Urban Designer, Principal, THE OPEN WORKSHOP (Toronto and San Francisco) ǀ Associate Professor, California College of the Arts (San Francisco)

**Annie Lebel**, MOAQ, LEED Green Associate, Architect, Principal, in situ atelier d’architecture (Montreal) ǀ Lead of Practical Training, Faculty of Environmental Design, Université de Montréal (Montreal)

**Alison Brooks**, RIBA, FRSA, RDI, Doc Eng (hon causa), Architect, Principal and Creative Director, Alison Brooks Architects (London, UK) ǀ Visiting Professor, Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid (Spain) and Loughborough University School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering (UK)

**Application limits** – you can submit 1 application to the Call for expression of interest.

**You cannot apply for** activities that are on the [general list of ineligible activities](http://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/guide/apply-to-programs/general-list-of-ineligible-activities).

### Applicants – Who can apply?

Applicants must be incorporated Canadian organizations, institutions, or a registered business. These include, but are not limited to, architectural firms, organizations and associations, schools of architecture, artist-run-centres, galleries and museums. The organization, institution, or business must be at least 75 percent Canadian-owned and have its head office and executive located in Canada.

### Application Assistance

If you are the lead applicant, you may be eligible for [Application Assistance](http://canadacouncil.ca/commitments/equity/application-assistance) to pay someone to help you with the application process if you are experiencing difficulty and self-identify as:

* Deaf, hard of hearing, has a disability or is living with a mental illness

First Nations, Inuit or Métis facing language, geographic and/or cultural barriers.

### Assessment – How are decisions made?

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following weighted criteria:

**Artistic merit (50%)**

* The artistic quality and rationale of your proposed exhibition

The architectural interest and relevance of ideas

**Impact (30%)**

The potential of your proposed exhibition to capture the attention of a wide range of visitors and generate a stimulating conversation about contemporary architecture, in Canada and abroad

**Feasibility (20%)**

* The team’s experience and capacity to undertake the proposed exhibition

### Key dates

The selection process occurs before the Biennale’s announcement of their lead curator and central theme for 2023. This is to allow a reasonable lead-up time for the selected team to undertake the project. Once the central theme has been announced, the selected team may adapt their exhibition accordingly.

**29 November 2021** Deadline for submission of expressions of interest

**December 2021** Shortlisted candidates notified and invited to develop a detailed proposal, budget, and presentation

**February 2022** Deadline for detailed proposal and budget

**March 2022** Shortlisted candidate’s presentation interview with selection committee

**March 2022**  Announcement of the selected team and proposal

### Venice Biennale

The Venice Biennale is, and has been, one of the most important cultural institutions in the world for over 120 years. The International Architecture Exhibition consists of a central exhibition with over 100 international participants, 60 national pavilions, and collateral events throughout the city. It is a prestigious exhibition and international platform that engages critical conversations about contemporary architecture that attracts 300,000 visitors annually - among them architects, artists, designers, critics, politicians, students, and cultural leaders from around the world.

### Canada Pavilion

The exhibition will take place at the Canada Pavilion which is owned by the National Gallery of Canada. Originally designed in 1956 by Enrico Peressutti of the renowned Milanese architectural studio BBPR (Banfi, Belgiojoso, Peressutti, Rogers), it was completely restored in 2018 by architect Alberico Barbiano di Belgiojoso, heir to the BBPR studio, working in close cooperation with Venice-based architect Troels Bruun of M+B Studio. The surrounding landscape has been revitalized by la Biennale di Venezia in collaboration with acclaimed Canadian landscape architect Cornelia Hahn Oberlander and Bryce Gauthier of Enns Gauthier Landscape Architects.

The Pavilion’s architecture may not be significantly altered or concealed in any way. Any changes to the Pavilion must be reversible at the end of the exhibition. Permission to use the grounds surrounding the Pavilion is subject to the approval by appropriate Italian authorities (Municipality, Soprintendenza and/or Biennale).

The Pavilion is shaped like a faceted half-donut or nautilus shell with a small, glazed interior courtyard. There is a sizable tree growing in the middle of the pavilion and another in the courtyard. This unique space needs to be taken into consideration from the onset because it usually requires creativity and custom-built solutions for displaying works.

Interiors walls are mainly plastered masonry and glazing. No holes may be made in the floor or in ceiling. The exposed ceiling joists offer the option of inserting custom-built elements for suspending works and exhibition structures.

The expansive amount of glazing on the inner wall can present challenges for the incorporation of projections. An exterior blackout-out shade system is available to block light from the glazing. This system will be visible from the exterior so will affect the appearance of the building. An alternative is to build temporary walls to section off a portion of the space.

### Resources

* Previous exhibitions, visit: [www.canadacouncil.ca/initiatives/venice-biennale](http://www.canadacouncil.ca/initiatives/venice-biennale)
* Venice Biennale, visit: [www.labiennale.org](http://www.labiennale.org)
* Images and architectural drawings of Canada Pavilion, visit: [www.canadacouncil.net/en/initiatives/venice-biennale/canada-pavilion](http://www.canadacouncil.net/en/initiatives/venice-biennale/canada-pavilion)

#### For more information:

If you have any questions or need advice, write to us at [venicebiennale@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:venicebiennale@canadacouncil.ca) before submitting your application.

# Canada Council Logo

# 2023 Venice Biennale of Architecture

## Call for expression of interest

## Identification form

Complete the following application form and submit it by **Monday, November 29, 2021, 11:59 pm Pacific Time** to [venicebiennale@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:venicebiennale@canadacouncil.ca). Applications are limited to a single PDF document, 8 ½ by 11 format, and maximum of 5 megabytes. Incomplete applications will not be assessed.

The information that you provide on this identification form will not be submitted to the assessment committee.

### Identification of applicant

#### Name of applicant organization, institution or business

(registered name if incorporated)

Complete mailing address

Telephone

Email Website

#### Name of person responsible for the submission

Title

Telephone Email

I prefer to communicate with the Canada Council in:  English  French

### Declaration

**As a representative of the organization, institution or business, I confirm that:**

* I have carefully read the eligibility criteria for the 2023 Venice Biennale in Architecture and confirm that the organization I represent meets the eligibility criteria.
* I understand that all Canada Council decisions are final. I agree to abide by the Canada Council decision.
* As a representative of the organization, I will keep the other participants informed of the contents and outcome of the 2023 Venice Biennale in Architecture.
* I am aware that the Canada Council is subject to the [*Access to Information Act*](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-1/index.html) and [*Privacy Act*](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/P-21/FullText.html)*.*

I am authorized to sign this application on behalf of our organization.

**I confirm that:**

* I agree with the statements above.

The statements in my application are complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge.

Name Date

Personal information collected on this form will be stored in the Personal Information Bank for the appropriate program   
CC ART 202. Protected when completed.

# 2023 Venice Biennale of Architecture

## Call for expression of interest

## Application form

The information that you provide from this point onward will be submitted to the peer assessment committee.

### Applicant

1. Name of applicant organization
2. Provide your organization’s mandate and a brief organizational history. Include any past international projects, if applicable. (approximately 500 words)

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1. Tell us why you are interested in this opportunity (approximately 250 words)

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### Proposal

1. Working title for your proposed exhibition

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1. Describe the artistic concept of your proposed exhibition and how it will be presented (approximately 500 words)

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1. Describe the digital artistic element of your proposed exhibition and how it will be discoverable to a wide audience. (approximately 250 words)

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1. If your proposed exhibition touches upon Indigenous traditional knowledge, linguistic or cultural intellectual property, please describe your relationship to this content and how appropriate protocols are/will be observed or addressed. (approximately 100 words)

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1. List 3 things that visitors could learn from your proposed exhibition (approximately 100 words)

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### Team members and roles

This includes, but is not limited to, architecture firms, visual arts organizations, schools of architecture, architects, artists, critics, curators, writers, researchers, and designers.

### Project management

1. Provide the names and short biographies or CVs (showing relevant experience) of the team members responsible for project management.

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### Curation

1. Provide the names and short biographies or CVs (showing relevant experience) of the team members responsible for the exhibition’s curation.

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### Exhibition design

1. Provide the names and short biographies or CVs (showing relevant experience) of the team members responsible for the exhibition design.

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### Contributors / collaborators

1. List the names of key contributors / collaborators to the project and provide short biographies for each.

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### Support material

1. Provide support material and descriptions of 3 of your previous projects and/or exhibitions completed in the past 10 years. You may also submit support material illustrating your proposed exhibition.

Support material can be in the form of digital images and/or videos. For videos, please provide web links for viewing.