Xpace Cultural Centre

2-303 Lansdowne Ave
Toronto ON M6K 2W5
416 849 2864
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6
www.xpace.info

Open Call For Submissions 2022 / 2023: Submission Guidelines + FAQ:

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REQUIREMENTS

Xpace Cultural Centre accepts proposals of all media from emerging and student artists, curators and cultural workers. Exhibitions are selected by our Programming Committee which is composed of the Xpace staff, OCAD Student Union representatives and a member of the Toronto arts community. There is no fee to apply, and all selected applicants and participants are paid a project fee of **CAD $431**. This Open Call covers all exhibition spaces from **September 2022 through July 2023**.

The 2022-2023 Call for Exhibition Submissions deadline is May 31, 2022 @ 11:59 PM

Applicants are asked to provide the following items:

1. Artist Bio (150 words max): 2-3 sentences describing who you are. This can include the city you're based in, education, recent professional experience (if applicable), and/or awards.

2. Artistic Practice Statement (500 words max): The Artistic Practice Statement should give a description of your overall art practice (ie) themes, issues, processes you're currently exploring and interested in.

3. Project Description (500 words max): The project description should give a clear and concrete description of the work you are proposing for Xpace. Please specify which exhibition space you intend the work to be exhibited in and why your project suits it specifically. (ie) sound installation, series of sculptures, projections, etc. If you are a curator, please outline the curatorial theme and selected artists (if confirmed).

3. Install/Technical Description (250 words max): The technical description should include: tentative install plan/schedule, equipment, tools and materials required for install, installation assistance or shipping (if needed), and any associated expenses.

4. **Alternative Presentation Strategies (250 words max):** Due to the unpredictability of COVID-19, please list alternative methods to present your proposed project virtually (or otherwise) in the event that Xpace is closed to the public during your exhibition. Xpace staff will be on hand to support you with contingency plans should your proposal be accepted. To request feedback on any potential ideas please contact opencall@xpace.info.

5. CV (Max 3 pages): Your CV should include education and exhibition history, as well as any relevant experience you'd like us to know about. Please note: formal education is not mandatory to apply. Xpace only shows work from emerging artists/curators/cultural workers and/or students. Mid-career and established artists will not be accepted. If you are unsure if you fall within our mandate, please ask opencall@xpace.info.

6. Visual Support Material (5-10): Images must be in JPG format. You may include links to video and/or audio files. These should be a maximum of 3-5 minutes in total. If there is a specific portion of a longer video you would like the Programming Committee to watch, please indicate it on your support material list.

7. Support Material List: State what each file is and its relation to your proposal. (1-2 sentences per file).

If you have any questions about the proposal process that are not outlined in our FAQ below please contact Xpace staff at opencall@xpace.info **before 1pm on May 26th, 2022.** **Please note that due to high interest it might take up to 3-5 days to get to your question. We do not respond to last minute requests, texts or direct messages sent on social media.**

Xpace recognizes the importance of oral culture in the transmission of language, history, knowledge and practice. **We will accept oral submissions for the Call for Exhibitions application, when accessibility and/or oral culture is relevant to the project or artistic practice.** Oral application requests will be evaluated on a case by case basis. If you'd like to request one, please write opencall@xpace.info **before May 24th, 2022.**

DUE TO HIGH INTEREST, WE ONLY ACCEPT SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED THROUGH SUBMITTABLE.

THOUGH STAFF IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK AT ALL MOMENTS OF THE SUBMISSION PROCESS, WE DO NOT RESPOND TO INQUIRIES ASKED THROUGH DIRECT MESSAGE, TEXT OR FACEBOOK MESSENGER. WE ASK THAT APPLICANTS RESPECT THIS BOUNDARY AND REACH OUT THROUGH EMAIL ONLY.

LATE OR INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THEIR PROPOSAL STATUS WITHIN 3 MONTHS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR PROPOSALS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST :)

EXHIBITION SPACES

All exhibition archives and floor plans can be viewed here: www.xpace.info/archive

WINDOW SPACE

The Window Space looks out onto Lansdowne Avenue and is visible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Works proposed for the Window Space should consider the site-specific nature of an exhibition space with 24-hour access, and its location and presence as a window facing out onto the street. Solo or collaborative works may apply.

MAIN SPACE

The Main Space hosts group exhibitions organized around a connecting theme or idea. You may apply as a curator or as an artist collective. Proposals should emphasize the ways in which the artists and artworks relate to the theme. Curators may apply with works already selected, or with a theme only (please include examples of artists/designers and/or the type of works you are interested in). In the case of an artist collective or group of artists, the role of the curator(s) must be clearly defined.

PROJECT SPACE

The Project Space is intended for installation-based practices. Site-based exhibitions, experimental installations and immersive works will be given priority. Solo or collaborative works may apply.

EXTERNAL SPACE

The External Space is a multi-site space hosted onsite at the Xpace Zine Library, offsite at the OCAD University Learning Zone, and online on our website and Youtube. The External Space shows single channel media-based works, with an emphasis on video and animation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

What is Xpace Cultural Centre's definition of "emerging"?

We do not define emerging artists by age, formal education or set number of years out of school. As long as applicants do not have extensive experience with opportunities in museums or large arts institutions, they are eligible to exhibit with us. No previous exhibition history or formal education is required to submit.

Do I have to be a current OCAD University student or alumni to exhibit with Xpace?

No. Through Xpace is partially funded by the OCAD Student Union, our programming is for everyone, and not limited to solely OCAD students and graduates. As long as you identify as an emerging artist, you are welcome to participate and submit to our programming!

What constitutes an artist being a member of a marginalized community?

Xpace prioritizes submissions from applicants who are Black, Indigenous, people of color, women, 2SLGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and/or are members of other marginalized groups. For more information about these communities, please visit this informative resource put together by our friends over at The Margin of Eras, a former art gallery of CUE Art Projects, which you can learn about here.

2. **GALLERY LOGISTICS**

Are there any physical limitations of Xpace's gallery spaces?

The following is <u>not</u> permitted in the gallery:
- Racist/homopohobic/ableist artworks that demean/degrade and or target specific marginalized groups, Xpace operated within an anti-oppression framework and these proposals will not be accepted or tolerated.
- Hanging objects from the ceiling.
- Fire or highly flammable materials
- Highly fragrant scents or materials,weapons, sharp or hazardous objects
- Food or non-perishable items that may rot or attract rodents/insects

Please keep in mind:
- For proposals involving large objects, ensure that it can fit through our front or back doors which are both 34 inches wide and 8 feet tall.
- Vinyl on the floor and on the interior of our Window Space is accepted, but no drilling or painting of the floors is permitted in the rest of the space.
- Xpace has track lighting, and light may be added or removed at the artist / curator's request.

Where do we see Xpace's floor plan and space measurements?

- You can visit http://www.xpace.info/resources to access PDFs that include: gallery floor plans, measurements and photos of our Main, Window and Project spaces.

Can my proposed project involve food, plant life and/or other organic materials?

- Food materials are <u>not</u> permitted in the gallery.
- Plant life is permitted in the gallery, but due to the absence of natural light in the space, all plants require grow lights or other means of keeping them alive during an extended exhibition run. The curator/artist is responsible for scheduling and overseeing maintenance of plant life.

Can my proposed project involve live interaction or contributions from the general public?

Projects of this nature are permitted, as long as applicants provide a clear plan for how to supervise, facilitate and/or manage live interactions. Xpace staff will help facilitate this if it is within our capacity, but please keep in mind that this may be additional labour for our programming team.

Does Xpace have the technical equipment needed for my proposed project?

Xpace Cultural Centre has a selection of media equipment to choose from, however please check in at opencall@xpace.info prior to submitting your application. If we do not have the equipment you need, please provide places to rent or source it.

Is there anything about the Main Space I should know before submitting?

- You may apply as a curator of a group exhibition (4 - 5 artists max) or as an artist collective or group of artists (3-5 participants max).
- Curators may apply with works already selected, or just with a theme (please include examples of artists and/or the type of works you are interested in). If selected, curators are given the option of hosting a call for submissions specifically for their exhibition.
- Please note: if you are submitting with artists who are making new works or works that have yet to be completed, please give yourself some extra time while planning.
- Main Space curators are encouraged to organize an additional piece of programming . All participants will also be paid fees in accordance with CARFAC rates.

Is there anything about the Window Space I should know before submitting?

- Site specificity is key here! Works proposed for the Window Space should consider the nature of an exhibition space with 24-hours, 7 days a week access, and its location and presence as street-facing vitrine.
- Solo or collaborative works may apply. (2 artists max)
- Artists are allowed to paint the walls and the floor of the space, as long as they commit to restoring it to its original state during de-install, Note: Outlets need to be covered when painting during install.
- Artists are allowed to paint on or otherwise utilize the interior of the window glass, as long as they test it beforehand and commit to restoring it to its original state during designated de-install times.
- Projects involving plant life are most successful here.
- Printed images and artworks using pencil crayon used in previous exhibitions have been known to fade during the show run.
- Monitors and digital screens are not permitted in the Window Space as images are near imperceptible in the sunlight.

Is there anything about the Project Space I should know before submitting?

- Site-specific exhibitions and installations that emphasize experimentation will be given priority.
- Solo or collaborative works may apply.
- Projects involving plant life are not successful here, as the Project Space is located at the back of the gallery and receives no natural light.
- Artists are allowed to paint the walls of the space, as long as they commit to restoring it to its original state during deinstall. (Outlets need to be covered and not painted over during install).
- If you are using painting materials please cover the floors (tarps are provided).

Is there anything about the External Space I should know before submitting?

- The External Space is a three-site space located in the gallery's Zine Library, OCAD University Campus in the Learning Zone and online on our website and Youtube.
- The External Space showcases single channel media based works, with an emphasis on video and animation.

Can you cover transportation or shipping costs?

No. It is the artist/curator's full responsibility to coordinate the logistics, shipping and handling of artwork. If you anticipate needing shipping within Toronto or Ontario, please specify and include an estimate in your budget so we can assist you in sourcing external funding (i.e grants) for this with enough time.

3. **PROPOSAL WRITING**

Can I submit multiple proposals?

Yes, applicants may submit multiple exhibition proposals. However, the programming committee will only accept one proposal into our programming year.

Do my Artistic Practice Statement and Project Description need to be formally written or can they be poetic?

Submissions may be freer in form as long as the language used is accessible and can be clearly understood by the programming committee. Please keep in mind that you are introducing yourself and your art to an audience for the first time!

How can I receive feedback for my submission?

Xpace will host a proposal writing workshop on **Friday, May 13th from 6 - 8PM.** Xpace staff will lead the workshop, giving participants tips & tricks on writing a successful submission. There will be a Q&A.

If you are unable to attend, you may request a recording or feedback from us opencall@xpace.info at any point in the application process **before 1PM on May 24th, 2022.**

We do not respond to inquiries asked through direct message, text or Facebook messenger. We ask that inquiries be sent to us via email ONLY.

4. **ALTERNATIVE PRESENTATION STRATEGIES**

For the 2022 / 2023 programming year, site-based exhibitions, experimental installations and immersive works will be given priority, but we also encourage applicants to think creatively about alternative ways of showcasing their work in the case that Xpace needs to close to the public again due to COVID-19. Xpace staff will be on hand to support you with these contingency plans should your proposal be accepted.

Examples of alternative presentation formats:

- Video walkthroughs of the exhibition (with or without an artist / curatorial voiceover)
- Recorded performances/activations within the exhibition
- Time-based documentation (time-lapses or livestreams)
- Documentation of public/outdoor interventions and installations
- Reading groups, seminars, screenings or other events/adjacent programming
- Digital publications, creative syllabi, or other platforms to share research
- Interactive websites, social media takeovers, or use of other digital platforms.

If you have questions or would like feedback on any potential ideas you may have please contact opencall@xpace.info.

5. **ORAL APPLICATIONS**

Can I submit an oral application instead of a written proposal?

Yes. Xpace recognizes the importance of oral culture in sharing language, history, knowledge and practice. We will accept oral submissions for the Call for Exhibitions application, when accessibility and/or oral culture is relevant to the project or artistic practice.

If you'd like to request an oral application, please write to us at opencall@xpace.info or call 416-551-5564 by **May 24th, 2022**. We will schedule a phone, video call or in-person meeting to go through the application questions orally and this will be recorded and shared with the rest of the Programming Committee members.