

Xpace Cultural Centre Open Call: Frequently Asked Questions

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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 within group or solo exhibitions, 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. Although we hold a designated OCAD U Grad Residency every fall, our programming is for everyone, and not limited to solely OCAD U 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 refer to the [TAC Equity Priority Groups](#) page. Xpace Cultural Centre is partially funded by the TAC and therefore operates in accordance with their commitment to supporting marginalized communities.

GALLERY LOGISTICS

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

The following is **not** permitted in the gallery:

- Racist/homophobic/ableist artworks that demean/degrade and or target specific marginalized groups. Xpace operates 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.
- Installations that have unstable materials on the floor.
- Installations of works placed in areas that block fire/exits and pathways for access.

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.
- No drilling into the ceiling is permitted
- Xpace has track lighting, and light may be added or removed at the artist / curator's request.

Where can we find Xpace's floor plan and space measurements?

- You can visit <http://www.xpace.info/resources> (bottom of page) 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 **not** 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.
- Garbage is not permitted in the gallery as artwork.

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. At any given point in the year staff are juggling multiple projects and may not have the capacity to accept live contributions.

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 to ask gallery staff if we have the specific piece of equipment you are looking for 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 within your proposal). If selected, curators are given the option of hosting a call for submissions specifically for their exhibition.
- Main Space curators are asked to organize an additional piece of programming. Generally this would take the form of a guided curatorial tour, however we are open to proposals. Participants will be paid fees in accordance with CARFAC rates.

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

- Site specificity is key! Works proposed for the Window Space should consider the nature of an exhibition space with 24-hrs, 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,
- 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.
- Printed images and artworks using light sensitive materials may fade.

- 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 (3 artist max) may apply.
- 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.

Is there anything about applying to Special Projects I should know before submitting?

- The aim of Special Projects is to respond to or reflect on the thematic of the exhibition round through an event based artistic contribution.
- Examples could be a guided slow listening of a sound piece, a screening of a media work, or a performance.
- Consider how you will support your audience in experiencing your work.
- The event will need to be able to accommodate approximately 50 people in the gallery space.
- You will need to be able to set up for your event, host your event, and strike in one day. Staff will be present to support you.
- Xpace will be able to provide chairs, as well as support in set up and take down as needed.
- All artists/collaborators involved with your special program will be paid a CARFAC fee.

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, pending capacity of gallery staff. As Xpace Cultural Centre is mandated to support Toronto and GTA based emerging artists they will be given priority.

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 looser 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 offers a proposal writing tips and tricks video as an evergreen resource that can be accessed virtually. View the three part video series on our Youtube channel: youtube.com/@xpacecc

If you still have outstanding questions about your submission, we ask that inquiries be sent to us via email to opencall@xpace.info ONLY. We do not respond to inquiries asked through direct message, text, Instagram or Facebook messenger.

ALTERNATIVE PRESENTATION STRATEGIES

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.

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. We will schedule a phone, video call or in-person meeting to go through the application questions orally. This will be recorded and shared with the rest of the Programming Committee members.