

Vancity Call to Artists Canada Council for the Arts: guidelines for defining a professional artist



Please note Vancity does not require applying artists or artist teams to meet all of the listed the criteria. The Canada Council for the Arts definition will be used as a reference and guideline for artist submissions.

Canada Council's definition of a **professional artist** is an artist who:

- has specialized training in the field (not necessarily in academic institutions)
- is recognized as a professional by his or her peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition), and
- is committed to devoting more time to artistic activity, if financially possible.

To meet the definition of a professional visual artist, you must also have:

- produced an independent body of work
- had at least three public presentations of your work in a professional context over a three-year period, and
- maintained an independent professional practice for at least three years.

The Visual Arts Section recognizes collaboration (artist team) as two or three professional visual artists working together on a long-term basis to develop a collaborative artistic practice. To meet the definition of a collaboration:

- each member of the collaboration must meet the definition of a professional visual artist;
- it must have had at least three public presentations of its collaborative work in a professional context over a three year-period.