



2026 Nuit Blanche North Open Call for Proposals

The Huntsville Festival of the Arts invite artist proposals for the 14th annual **Nuit Blanche North**: a bold interactive multi-arts street festival in downtown Huntsville Ontario on July 18, 2026.

Submission Deadline: April 24, 2026

General Information and Event History:

Nuit Blanche North will be held in Huntsville Ontario on **July 18, 2026**. From 8pm to 2am, the streets will come alive with an exciting program of free artistic works that take place in unconventional places in and around Huntsville's downtown core. Participating artists will create works of art and performances that encourage audiences to explore, discover, debate, and participate in contemporary art and the public spaces that surround them. Any venue in the downtown core is possible, and we encourage local businesses, cultural and religious institutions to participate by opening their doors and offering free access to contemporary art and performances.

In 2025, Nuit Blanche North presented the work of 110 different artists, and welcomed over 3,000 visitors. This event is inspired by the Nuit Blanche event originally presented in Paris, France in 2002. The international success of Nuit Blanche continues to build each year and has expanded its reach beyond Paris to 25 different cities across the globe – each offering its own version of the all-night art extravaganza.

Submission Criteria:

We encourage artists of all disciplines and levels of experience to apply. All proposals must meet the criteria outlined below and will be reviewed by a committee before official acceptance into the overall event. **You must meet all of the following criteria:**

- You are **an individual artist or collective**. Artists and collectives can be based anywhere. There are limited funds to assist visiting artists with their travel expenses.
- You agree to create a site-specific project located within **Nuit Blanche North's Exhibition Site responding to the curatorial vision**.
- You will offer **access to your project from 8pm to 2am that is free of charge to the public**

- You are willing to **make the commitment required** (personnel and otherwise) in order to bring the project to fruition.
- Insurance costs will be covered by the Huntsville Festival of the Arts. Depending on the activities in your proposal, additional **Insurance coverage** may be required, to be determined in consultation with the Huntsville Festival of the Arts and the Town of Huntsville.
- Your project must be installed in a safe manner, and **abide by all by-laws, laws, and safety standards**, to be assessed and evaluated in consultation with the Town of Huntsville (for example, no noise violations, all electrical devices must meet code, etc.).

Areas of Assessment:

Projects will be assessed by the selection committee with the following criteria in mind:

- **Artistic merit** based on your Project Proposal and supporting material. If the project involves an exhibition of previously created work, how will you present it differently than in the past, and explain why you want to do that.
- How the project relates to the **Curatorial Theme**
- The **feasibility** of the project
- The **history** of the applicant as a professional artist
- If the project proposal exceeds the intended Open Call scale / budget, how will the artist cover the additional expenses or modify the project so that **it remains within budget?**
The success of projects should not be contingent on grants or third-party funding.

Curatorial Theme & Boundaries

Theme:

This year's theme, *Into the Wild*, considers "wild" as both landscape and state of being. It invites artists to explore the untamed—within nature, within ourselves, and within the spaces we inhabit—blurring the line between control and chaos, restraint and release, and the forces that pull us between order and freedom. We are particularly interested in projects that involve participation of community members or visitors to the event. Priority will be given to those projects which explore this theme in relationship to the Muskoka/Parry Sound region.

Boundaries:

Projects can take place along Main St. between the swing bridge and Centre St. and bounded by Minerva St. to the South and River Mill Park to the north. Projects which involve activities in an offsite venue are eligible as long as the work can be accessed at a venue within the boundaries outlined above.

For a street view of the River Mill Park visit

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=1+Queen+Street,+Hunts

[ville,+Ontario,+Canada&aq=0&sl=45.32701,-79.216687&sspn=0.003311,0.009645&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Queen+St,+Huntsville,+Muskoka+District+Municipality,+Ontario,+Canada&ll=45.327236,-79.218013&spn=0.003281,0.009645&t=h&z=17&layer=c&cbll=45.327275,-79.217901&panoid=9KpWelNzp1q5-FSgMlqz8w&cbp=13,11.36,,0,16.63](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=74+Main+Street+East,+Huntsville,+Ontario,+Canada&aq=&sl=45.32701,-79.216687&sspn=0.003311,0.009645&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Queen+St,+Huntsville,+Muskoka+District+Municipality,+Ontario,+Canada&ll=45.327236,-79.218013&spn=0.003281,0.009645&t=h&z=17&layer=c&cbll=45.327275,-79.217901&panoid=9KpWelNzp1q5-FSgMlqz8w&cbp=13,11.36,,0,16.63)

For a street view of Main St. Huntsville visit

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=74+Main+Street+East,+Huntsville,+Ontario,+Canada&aq=&sl=45.323216,-79.225931&sspn=0.001641,0.004823&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=74+Main+St+E,+Huntsville,+Muskoka+District+Municipality,+Ontario,+Canada&ll=45.326799,-79.217294&spn=0.003281,0.009645&t=h&z=17&layer=c&cbll=45.326701,-79.217532&panoid=Af222E453Tek-ftGrqcX9g&cbp=13,41.67,,0,5

Benefits of Participation:

Projects receive:

- An artist honorarium between \$200-\$3,000 dependent on project (limit of 2-3 major projects only may qualify for funding in the \$2-\$3,000 range)
- A limited amount of financial production support up to \$1,000.00 CAD based on needs and assessment (please note: receipts are required for reimbursement and expenditures must be pre-approved)
- Inclusion in the print guide.
- Recognition on the Nuit Blanche North & HfA website.
- Production support including:
 - assisting in securing access to venues when possible
 - assisting with permits and other permissions (e.g. access to public space, health & safety) when possible
 - technical consultation
 - assistance with sourcing technical equipment if required
- Where possible, we will make arrangements for access to power during the event. Please note that power is limited at venue locations – usually one or two, 15 Amp, 120 volt circuits maximum.
- For out of town artists, we will assist in finding billeted accommodation during your stay in Huntsville.