



Call for Applications - Summer 2026 Activate Arts Rentals at the County Arts Lab

We are currently seeking applications for summer 2026 arts activity rentals at the [County Arts Lab](#)! Please visit our [Activate Arts rental program page](#) for photos of the space, and [click here](#) for a floorplan and full list of amenities.

There are two spaces available for rent:

1 - Main Space: \$750 per week - This is a 1500 square foot space with track lighting and moveable walls (plinths also available).

2 - Project Space: \$250 per week - This is a 150 square foot space with clip-on lighting and a separate entrance from the Main Space. The renter can also use the adjacent hallway/entry space.

Possible Uses: We will take applications for exhibitions, rehearsal space, studio space for a specific project, or any other use that is either public or private and doesn't charge an entry fee. One slot will be reserved for a non-exhibition use. For non-exhibition uses, chairs, tables, an 8' x 12' stage and basic sound & lighting equipment are also available.

The available dates for summer 2026 are:

- July 28-August 2 (Project Space only)
- August 4-10 (Project Space only)
- August 11-17
- August 18-24 (Main Space only)
- August 25-31

Notes on Timing:

- In the application form, please select your first and second choices for dates.
- Full week rentals are required (no partial dates).
- Please note that the start and end dates for each weekly rental period are fixed.
- For exhibition uses, the ideal schedule is: Tuesday = Install Day, Wednesday = Opening Day, Monday = Load Out Day.

What will the application assessment process look like?

Applications will be assessed using this [Evaluation Rubric](#). Following the initial assessment, the following factors will also be considered in the selection process:

- If the top two candidates receive identical scores and reside in different regions, priority will first go to PEC residents, then to residents of the Bay of Quinte region.

- The application form has an optional Self-Identification Survey. For more information on how this information may be used in the assessment process, see description in the form and our Voluntary Self Identification Framework and Equity Priority Policy [linked here](#).
- For exhibitions, applications from artists running their own exhibitions may be prioritized over those from commercial gallery owners.
- Applications from/involving New Generation Artists may be prioritized.
- If activities are open to the public, activities that are low-cost or offer sliding scale entry may be prioritized.
- Applications from County Arts members in good standing will be prioritized - joining is easy, learn more on our [Membership Page](#)!
- The selection process may take into account the intent to support as broad a range of artistic disciplines/practices as possible.

FAQs - Exhibition Use

1. I would require additional financial assistance to cover the rental costs. What options do I have?

The Ontario Arts Council's exhibition assistance grants program is now accepting applications. You can apply to one of the "Recommender" galleries in our region (Agnes Etherington, Modern Fuel, Artspace, Art Gallery of Peterborough) for a grant to cover expenses associated with an exhibition, such as printing and framing, renting of space, and paying for an installer. These grants are relatively easy to get and the application process is minimal. [Click here](#) to see the Kingston and Peterborough based (Zone 4) Recommender deadlines, and [click here](#) for information on the OAC's Exhibition Assistance program.

2. What kinds of exhibitions / projects are you looking for?

The County Arts Lab is an artist-centred space focused on experimentation and creation. We are especially interested in applications that reflect our aim to unlock the full creative potential of our arts community, including by providing opportunities for artists to create new work and bring relevant, thought-provoking, and innovative arts experiences to new audiences.

3. For exhibitions, do you staff the space?

Depending on availability, we may be able to provide staff to sit/staff your show during weekday open hours. Weekends will be your responsibility to staff.

4. Does County Arts hang the work?

No, you are responsible for installing and de-installing the work. If you require assistance, we have a professional installer who can offer their services for an extra fee.

5. Does County Arts take a portion of sales?

No, we don't take a cut from our summer renters. We want you to benefit from any artwork sales you make. We also encourage exhibitions of non-commercial works which are not for sale.

Requirements of Renters:

Renters are required to sign an agreement with County Arts, which will outline various provisions in exchange for access to the space. Requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Abiding by the County Arts [Inclusivity, Diversity & Equity Policy](#).
- Ensuring that rental activities do not appropriate or disrespect other cultures. We encourage artists to learn about the harmful impact and effects of cultural appropriation and, with this in mind, evaluate and critically reflect on their own practices. Helpful resources include this Canada Council for the Arts [Context Brief](#) and those listed in [this article](#) from the Canadian Crafts Federation.
- Adhering to fire & safety regulations as outlined in the building's Fire Plan Handbook.
- Adhering to building opening hours and other tenant requirements.
- Maintaining a clean space.
- Working respectfully with other artists using the space, if applicable.
- Returning the space in the condition it was found, including cleaning and repairing any damages at the Artist Resident's expense and according to building management specifications.

TO APPLY, please complete the [Application Form linked here](#).

If you would like assistance developing your application or for alternative application methods, please contact our Programs Manager Sarah Burtscher at sarah@countyarts.ca.

Application Resources:

- Our Creation Grants 101 information session with former County Arts Programs Director Stacey Sproule on our [Vimeo page here](#). Stacey is an artist with experience applying for and being awarded artist opportunities including grants and residencies, and offers helpful insights to help you describe the intent, plan, and impact of your project. She also touches on Artist CVs, bios, and Artist Statements. We highly recommend watching the video before preparing your application.
- [Exhibition Proposal Example](#)