

The Articipate Endowment Fund was established in 2007 by Arts Ottawa (formerly Arts Network Ottawa) in partnership with the City of Ottawa to support artistic programming in professional spaces at the Shenkman Arts Centre. Arts Ottawa is the steward of the Fund and is responsible for its promotion, administration.



In April 2026, Arts Ottawa brought together Resident Art Partners and ARTicipate grant recipients at the Shenkman Arts Centre (SAC) to reflect on their experiences with the funding program.

The goal of this session was to better understand consistent benefits and challenges within the funding model and identify priorities in redesigning ARTicipate granting processes. This feedback will directly inform the focus and responsibilities of the new Artist in Residence role within the ARTicipate grant program.



HERE'S WHAT WE HEARD



Key Challenges and Barriers

COMMUNICATIONS and OPERATIONS

- Knowledge and understanding of Endowment Fund investment, annual disbursement policies and rationale.
- Clearer alignment and shared understanding of the fund's goals and desired impact.
- Desire for ongoing, re-around dialogue
- Timelines and scheduling of applications, assessment, and release of funds to support projects.
- Barriers in access or inclusion. Facility can be intimidating for marginalized or emerging artists to engage.
- Inconsistent availability of desired spaces and dates within the Shenkman Arts Centre.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT and IMPACT

- Limited guidance on budgeting, reporting, marketing, and project management for first-time applicants or emerging artists.
- Lack of pathways to continue engaging with the Shenkman Arts Centre or longer-term growth or development of practice within the region.
- Barriers in audience development and engagement for grant recipients new to the region, including audiences regularly attending events at the facility.

Key Opportunities & Areas for Exploration

COMMUNICATIONS and OPERATIONS

- Ensuring artists are aware of the resources available within SAC and clearly defining what it means to "activate" space.
- Clarification of roles, expectations, and levels of involvement from all parties.
- Aligning project-funded outcomes with goals of the Shenkman Arts Centre and Endowment Fund.
- Explore different models of participation, decision-making, and investment within the Endowment Fund and Resident Arts Partners.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT and IMPACT

- Mechanisms for mentorship and knowledge-exchange: Supporting grant recipients in navigating SAC systems and providing guidance on production, marketing, and project development.
- Strengthen marketing capacity and audience development, particularly within the region of Orleans.
- Exploring partnerships and longer-term funding stability.

These areas and opportunities will continue to be shaped by community input.

TAKE THIS SURVEY TO OFFER YOUR FEEDBACK