

The Langley Arts Councils Art in Found Spaces Jurying Process for 2025

This document is reviewed and updated annually.

The Langley Arts Council has a responsibility to the artist to ensure that the jury process is conducted professionally and employs the highest standards. To construct this document, the Arts Council looked to other Arts Councils jurying packages, private galleries submission packages, online artist forums for artist feedback on the artists submission process, and scholarly articles on the topic of art. From the Art Council's perspective, a jury should give each artist applicant an equitable and equal chance for invitation into one of our exhibitions, as well as at prizes (if they are offered.) The Arts Council promises to work hard to maintain a fair and knowledgeable jurying process. This document was created to inform all artists who apply to our gallery on what to expect from the submission process.

Jurying Process For Group Exhibitions

1. The call for submission is created and posted on the 'Calls to Artists' page at langleyarts.ca
2. Artists are invited to participate and given the exhibition subject/theme, provided important dates, and a LAC jurying process package to look over.
3. Submission deadline closes.
4. Gallery Coordinator reviews submissions to ensure each:
 - a. The application is filled out completely and submitted prior to the call deadline.
 - b. Artwork images are cropped properly according to submission guidelines.
 - c. Have all of the correct information attached.
 - d. Fit within the restrictions indicated for that call for submission.
 - d. Fit the theme of the exhibition.

***Submissions that do not strictly adhere to the above submission guidelines will not be considered. All submission guidelines are provided on the call submission page.**

5. The artworks are then presented to the blind jury via private online link. The jurors will then judge each work a 5-point scale (jurors will be able to enlarge the images in order to study them more closely).
6. Once each juror has assigned their scores, they send those to the Gallery Coordinator who tallies up each of the votes to give each artist a total score.

Jurying Process For Prize-Winning Exhibitions

The Gallery Coordinator will complete bullet point 1 – 4 outlined above.

From there;

1. Three Jurors will be given a document that outlines the specifics of the call, theme, and exhibition details to give context to the show.
2. Jurors will view the works online, and in-person.
3. Jurors will score the works individually before meeting collectively to discuss their scores. This approach to this process limits the ability of one juror to influence another's opinion.
4. Conversation is facilitated between the jurors and the Gallery Coordinators to assign first; second, and third place (respectively) and honorable mentions.
5. Ties are broken through a re-jury process with our jurors.

How the Point Scale Works

Each juror will use a scale of 1 to 5 to evaluate the work in each of the preceding categories.

1 = Not Acceptable 2 = Shows promise 3 = Good 4 = Very Good 5= Excellent

Each jury member submits their scores to the LAC who tallies the results. Only the works scoring 50% or better (that is 50% of the total possible points) are considered to be approved and these artists will be notified of the acceptance via email.

Please note the LAC is NOT authorized to discuss scores with applicants, artists will NOT be informed as to the total score of their submissions.

The Jurors

The Langley Arts Council acknowledges that all jurors have inherent biases, recognized or not, and so we have chosen to use a collection of jurors with diverse backgrounds for each show in order to help counterbalance those biases and offer a more objective and fair assessment.

Jurors are chosen based on their skill, experience, and areas of expertise. Our jurors are known local artists, teachers, curators, gallery directors, art gallery facilitators, and art historians. We strive to create a well-rounded jury and consider the work they create in their professional practice, their knowledge of art forms, their experience, and their years of practice when inviting their participation.

Furthermore, our jury changes from exhibit to exhibit, as do the themes themselves. Because of this, it is possible for an artwork to not be accepted into one exhibit and then be accepted into another.

Criteria by which the artwork will be judged

The following criteria are what we ask our judges to consider when jurying:

- Interpretation and clarity of the exhibit theme through the work.
- Creativity and originality.
- Concept: is the artist doing something fresh? Something innovative? Something important?

- Visual Impact and overall impression of the art. What is the effect of the artwork in general and as a whole? Does the artwork stand on its own as a complete and outstanding work of art?
- Ability to express something deeper with the work. The juror will try to understand what the artist was after, the reason for the work itself. Some reasons for making work may be that it connects the artist or viewer to something meaningful, pulls us toward growth, guides us in some way, or helps us experience emotions, wonder, or beauty.
- Quality of artistic composition, taking into account:
 - Overall Design; is the composition interesting and does it work? Is the eye being led around the painting, or is it getting stuck? Is there an establishment of a center of interest, a focal point or does the painting feel lost or off balance?
 - Technical Reading; is it technically skillful? Is there an understanding of materials and quality mark making? (if the piece is meant to be representational, are its shapes and angles accurately rendered?)
 - Values; are the values creating an interesting design, and, in a representational painting, does the sense of light read correctly?
 - Colour; is colour intentionally used to create impact (for example, a balance of neutral verses saturated colours, warm verses cool)
 - Paint Application; does the artist demonstrate a command of their medium? A confidence in how paint is applied? A variety of mark making?
 - The technique is at its best when it serves the goal – the vision, the inspiration – for the work of art. It is after all, not the subject of the painting.

Requirements for LAC jurors

- Each must commit to professional and objective assessment of the artworks. This is done not based on preference (whether or not they “like” the art), but on measurable aspects like composition, originality, creativity and skill in representing an image.
- In the spirit of objectivity, a juror may excuse themselves from judging a work by an artist they know personally. Doing so will NOT threaten the overall score of the work, as the other scores will hold more weight to compensate.

Why we do not release the names of our jurors

Contrary to the popular practice of building excitement for a call for entry by virtue of the name of a celebrity juror, we believe it is important to our process and the outcome of each exhibition that the LAC jurors remain anonymous. Our practice of utilizing a collection of jurors (versus one) further neutralizes the impact of any particular juror’s inherent biases relative to the project outcome.

We will always strive ensure a fair; respectful process that genuinely benefits the artists involved.

Reasons work may not be accepted

1. Poor image quality.

Regardless of the quality of the art itself, if it is obvious to us that an image is not accurately representative of the original artwork (for example perhaps the colours are washed out, the image is too dark or light, or is blurry) it will not be accepted. Keep in mind that the work is bound for our online gallery regardless of whether or not it is for a brick-and-mortar exhibition and must be presented professionally. Please refer to "How to Document Your Artwork with Jannette Maedel" by the Surrey Art Gallery https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOAAmoZp_kg&feature=youtu.be to assist you through this process.

2. Sloppiness.

We cannot accept images where the photo is showing the frame or the background behind the art, or where the art is crooked, or where watermarks or over-sized artist signatures obscure the art. Regardless of the quality of the art itself, these works will end up being rejected as they are not suitable for the online gallery.

3. Incomplete or poorly written submission materials.

If we receive submission forms that are incomplete, poorly written or need to be updated or summarized, generally these submissions will be rejected as they are not professional and cannot be used.