

## SUMMARY

# Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) Information Session – Individual Artist Programs

October 26, 2016

MAI Café – 3680 Jeanne-Mance, Montreal

Presenter: Laurent Rozenchwajg

CALQ Program Officer – Digital arts, cinema and video

More than 80 artists representing a diversity of artistic disciplines were present. Their questions enriched the presentation and are incorporated in the summary.

The discussion has been edited and condensed, and answers have been paraphrased. The results have been reviewed for accuracy and approved by CALQ.

Text from the original presentation slides appears in blue. Audience questions appear in *italics*. Answers and other supplementary information appear in black.

The original slides are available at <http://quebec-elan.org/portfolio-item/calq-slides/>. Slide numbers are provided for cross-referencing.

Time markers are provided for cross-referencing with the audio recording, available at <http://quebec-elan.org/portfolio-item/calq-full-audio-2016/>. Please note that there are interruptions from 10:50 to 11:55.

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2:00 Laurent encourages the audience to reach out to CALQ program officers who deal with specific disciplines if they have questions about a given discipline or its programs.

2:30 **SLIDE 2** – Laurent will address the following topics:

1. Who can apply at CALQ?
2. What grants and when to apply?
3. How does it work?
4. Who you can talk to?

3:10 **SLIDE 4 – GRANTS VS SUBSIDIES:**

- Grant programs are for artists (individuals)
- Subsidy programs are for non-profit organizations

3:40 **SLIDE 5 – GENERAL ELIGIBILITY:**

- The applicant must be a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant as contemplated in section 2(1) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. In both instances they must normally reside in Québec and have resided there for at least the preceding 12 months.
- The applicant is a professional artist

If an artist has been away from Quebec for 2+ years they can still apply, but they must prove a fiscal link with Québec through their Carte soleil (health care card).

4:08 **SLIDE 6 – PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:**

- They create work or practice an art on their own account or offer their services for remuneration especially in the fields under the responsibility of CALQ.
- They have gained the recognition of their peers.

- They disseminate or publicly interpret their works in places and/or contexts recognized by their peers.

5:20 *Q: What about recently graduated students?*

A: To be admissible, a student or recent student must have produced at least one work independently of their studies. The work can be produced while they are studying, but they must provide a note from the educational institution stating that the work is not part of the program of study.

### 6:33 SLIDE 7 – GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- The artist must have participated in **at least one production outside of their training or subsequent to it**, in a professional context recognized by their peers.
- If an applicant submits a project in a discipline other than the one in which they normally pursue their career, **the project must satisfy the eligibility criteria for the new discipline** in which the applicant is applying for a grant.

In the latter case, the artist will still have to have produced at least one project in the new discipline before they can apply for that discipline.

7:35 *Q: Does the production have to happen in Quebec?*

A: No.

7:45 *Q: Would Fringe productions count as professional productions?*

A: The Fringe would count as long as the work was produced independently of one's studies. The main concern is that it was presented in a context recognized by one's peers.

### 8:15 SLIDES 8-9 – TWO CATEGORIES OF ARTISTS:

- **Emerging Artist:** The applicant must have **a maximum of five years** of professional artistic practice at the time of filing the application.
- **Development:** The applicant must have **a minimum of two years** of professional artistic practice at the time of filing the application.

Professional artistic practice is considered to begin starting with the first work produced independently. Artists who have between 2 and 5 years of practice can apply to both categories.

9:04 *Q: What about artists who've been working for a long time, 10-15 years?*

A: They are considered to be artists in development.

9:30 *Q: What if an artist takes a hiatus from an artistic domain before doing another project in that domain?*

A: If an artist was working on a project in 2010, then stopped, and wants to apply now, they would be considered in development.

10:57 *Q: Is experience counted once you start working on a project, or once you start disseminating it?*  
A: In cinema the year that counts is the year when the work is publicly shown. You can work for 5 years on a film, but the year when you present it is when the count starts. For a musical album, the count would start when the album is released.

11:55 *Q: When I perform but am not paid, is that considered "professional"?*  
A: Yes, as long the performance occurs in a context recognized by your peers.

12:10 *Q: Are educational videos counted as a context recognized by peers?*  
A: Educational videos, YouTube videos, etc. are not admissible. The focus is on contexts where your work is chosen among others through an editorial process.

13:00 *Q: If you're a writer on a film, does that count as an experience?*  
A: Yes, but to apply for a grant in cinema you have to have directed at least one film.

#### 13:22 SLIDE 10 – TWO CATEGORIES OF ARTISTS:

- **Emerging Artist:** An applicant cannot submit more than one application per section in the Emerging Artist category in the same fiscal year.
- **Artist in Development:** An applicant can submit no more than five separate applications and can receive a maximum of five grants in any given fiscal year for the CALQ

An emerging artist can apply only once per fiscal year for a research and creation grant, once for professional development, once for travel, etc. An artist in development can submit no more than five applications across all CALQ grants (research and creation, professional development, travel, etc.).

14:05 *Q: As an artist in development, can you have one application in, then submit a second application for a different project without having received a response on the first grant?*  
A: Yes.

#### 14:40 SLIDE 11 – OTHER CONDITIONS:

- For open applications with no set deadlines, an application must be submitted **at least four weeks prior to the project start date** to be deemed eligible.
- An applicant who has already received financial support under a CALQ grant program, regardless of the section, is **obliged to produce a Report on the use of the grant**.

If an applicant has an active grant-funded project, they can continue to apply for other grants up to the project end date. However, after the project end date, the applicant cannot apply for additional grants until the final project report has been submitted for the active grant-funded project. Laurent suggests adding a two-month window at the end of a project timeline to account for this.

## 16:38 SLIDE 12 – DISCIPLINES

Circus  
Multidisciplinary arts  
Digital arts  
Visual arts

Chanson  
Cinema and video  
Dance  
Literature

Arts and crafts  
Music  
Architectural research  
Theatre

Note, chanson is a specific genre. The word does not have a direct equivalent in English.

- 17:15 *Q: What about collaborations? e.g. a collective that works in multimedia, music, and digital arts.*  
A: Depends on the project. In this specific case the program officers would discuss which jury should evaluate the project. It depends on how the disciplines are combined. However, only one person from the collective could apply. That person would receive the money and be in charge of dividing the money between the collective members, as well as sending the final report.
- 18:48 *Q: For visual arts, if you have a painting in a collective show, does that apply for travel grants?*  
A: Yes, if you're invited by the exhibition. Travel grants work if you have an invitation from an organization – you need an invitation letter.
- 19:28 *Q: Where does performance art fit?*  
A: Laurent's first intuition would be that it could be in visual arts, because that encompasses video, photography, illustration. But it really depends on your practise and where you come from.
- 20:20 *Q: To fund a collective project, should a representative of a collective apply as an individual artist or a member of that collective?*  
A: As an individual artist. They'd be the head of the collective but they could write their application as "we" e.g. "we want to do...". CALQ simply wants to deal with one person.
- 21:20 *Q: For music, for travel grants, how many invitations are required to apply for travel grants to fund a tour with multiple destinations?*  
A: It depends. You can combine different destinations, but you'll need an invitation to justify each one.
- 22:10 *Q: For visual artists, if you rent a gallery space, there's no selection process – you're paying money to show your art. Does that count?*  
A: Contact the specific discipline program officer for visual arts to confirm.
- 23:00 *Q: If you rent a space to disseminate sound art, does that count as a professional showing?*  
A: There would be a discussion between the program officers to determine this. It will always depend on the context of your presentation. Email or phone your discipline's program officer for details.

23:50 *Q: Maximum 5 applications per year, is that project and travel cumulative?*

A: Yes, that's all categories cumulative.

24:04 *Q: Most theatre practitioners work under a company name, not their own individual name. In those cases, should they apply as an individual artist or an organization?*

A: That would need to be discussed. Individual artistic grants in theatre are mostly intended to cover the writing of a piece rather than production. There are programs for production companies under organizational subsidies. An individual could work for a company, but could still apply for their own projects. If you're a director working for a company, your experience counts towards applying for creation as an individual artist.

26:05 *Q: Do artists need to be paid a certain amount for an engagement in order to receive a travel grant?*

A: No. CALQ prefers if artists are paid, but for the travel grant, what's admissible is your travel fees, per diem, and accommodations. If you get a per diem or other payment for going abroad, even better.

27:05 *Q: What if you're traveling for research, not a residency or a show?*

A: Those fees are admissible in the research and creation grant, not the travel grant. Travel grants are intended for disseminating your work, acting as a resource person for a seminar, etc.

## 27:56 SLIDES 14-15 – TRAVEL

### **Application deadline: Anytime**

Support for professional artists and writers to travel to accept invitations to participate in activities related to their artistic disciplines or career development.

### **Maximum allowable amount - determined by the destination**

- **\$750:** Québec (except Îles-de-la-Madeleine), Ontario and the Maritimes (except Newfoundland)
- **\$1000:** Nord du Québec (except Nunavik), Îles-de-la-Madeleine, other provinces of Canada and New England
- **\$2000:** Nunavik, United States (except New England), Europe and Mexico
- **\$2500:** Africa, Asia, Oceania, Central America, South America

## 29:07 SLIDES 16-17 – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **Application deadline: Anytime**

Support for artists to participate in internships, workshops, seminars or conferences to expand their knowledge, invigorate their artistic approach and acquire greater mastery of their art.

### **Maximum allowable amount – \$9,000**

### **Eligible projects:**

- Participation as a resource person in workshops or specialized events in or outside Québec
- Travel upon an invitation from inside or outside Québec to enable the applicant to present and expand the influence of his artistic work

- Travel to engage in a research and creative residency

Both Travel and Professional Development grants are available for emerging artists and artists in development.

31:00 *Q: For a creative residency, would you have to be the mentor or could you apply as a mentee?*

A: Both are admissible.

### 31:30 SLIDE 19 – RESEARCH, CREATION AND EXPLORATION

**Application deadline: Anytime (Emerging Artists only)**

Support for research, creation and exploration intended to help launch an artist's professional career and foster his integration into professional circles engaged in the arts and literature.

**Maximum allowable amount – \$15,000**

CALQ does not finance a first work – you need to have produced a first work in order to apply.

32:15 *Q: Let's say you're a painter with 10 years' experience, and you decide to start doing cinema. Are you an emerging artist in cinema?*

A: No, you're in development. The only exception is for writers. If you have 10 years' experience in cinema and you begin writing, you'll be considered an emerging writer.

33:12 *Q: For writers, does publication in newspapers and media count as recognition by your peers?*

A: Ask the literature program officer to be sure. Publishing in a literary or artistic publication counts.

### 34:07 SLIDE 20 – RESEARCH AND CREATION

**Application deadline: Anytime (Development artists)**

Support for research, writing, the creation of works and the realization of projects that nurture the evolution of an artistic or literary approach.

**Maximum allowable amount – \$25,000 | \$50,000 (cinema, video, and digital arts)**

In cinema, this grant covers a project from research until the zero copy. In other disciplines, it covers the research and development of a project. You can divide your project into phases and submit different applications for each, e.g. writing, production, and post-production. Marketing and promotion are not admissible fees in this grant.

### 35:42 SLIDE 21 – PROMOTION

**Application deadline: Anytime (Development artists)**

Support for the production of promotional tools to expand an artist's career or their work's influence in order to broaden their dissemination network and diversify financing sources.

**Maximum allowable amount – \$20,000 – arts and crafts, digital arts, cinema and video, visual arts**

The purpose of this grant is to allow artists to work on their portfolio or have a critical view on their art corpus. To apply, an artist needs to work with a commissaire or a critic to have an analysis of their work.

36:23 *Q: Would an illustrated book fit in that category?*

A: It depends. If you want to work with a literary or visual art critic on your work, that would fit.

### 36:49 SLIDE 22 – COMMISSIONED WORKS

#### **Application deadline: Anytime**

Support for projects realized in collaboration with an organization that commits to contribute to the production and dissemination of an original work, either in the context of a host facility or not.

#### **Maximum allowable amount – \$15,000**

*arts and crafts, digital arts, cinema and video, visual arts, architectural research*

37:15 *Q: If it's an open call, like a public art commission, and the budget is set, and you receive the commission, can you still apply to this grant to increase the budget?*

A: Yes.

37:30 *Q: Would the \$15,000 cover elements of the project like production costs, or just the artist's fee?*

A: You can spend it the way you want. When you apply at CALQ you can't allow yourself an artistic fee. You can only allow yourself a subsistence fee of max. \$1700 per month. Otherwise, if you apply and get the grant, you can decide to apply part of the amount to subsistence fees, and part of the amount to the production costs.

38:28 *Q: I lead cultural mediation projects, inviting citizens to help paint murals. Am I considered the artist?*

A: Cultural mediation is not admissible at CALQ. However, if you apply to work on a mural as a specific piece of artwork, that could be admissible. Then, afterwards, you could create the cultural mediation project around the artwork and apply for other (non-CALQ) grants to run those activities.

40:23 *Q: If you got a commission to do a backdrop for TV, is that an artistic work?*

A: Contact the visual arts program officer to verify this.

40:49 *Q: What percentage of applications to CALQ are approved?*

A: The acceptance rate is currently 23%. Last year it was 15%. It is usually between 15% and 20%.

41:32 *Q: Is there an advantage to applying for grants at the beginning of CALQ's fiscal year, versus the end?*

A: No. You can apply at any time. CALQ has internal rules and measures; there is always a set amount available per period. Whenever you apply, you get a response in 3 months maximum.

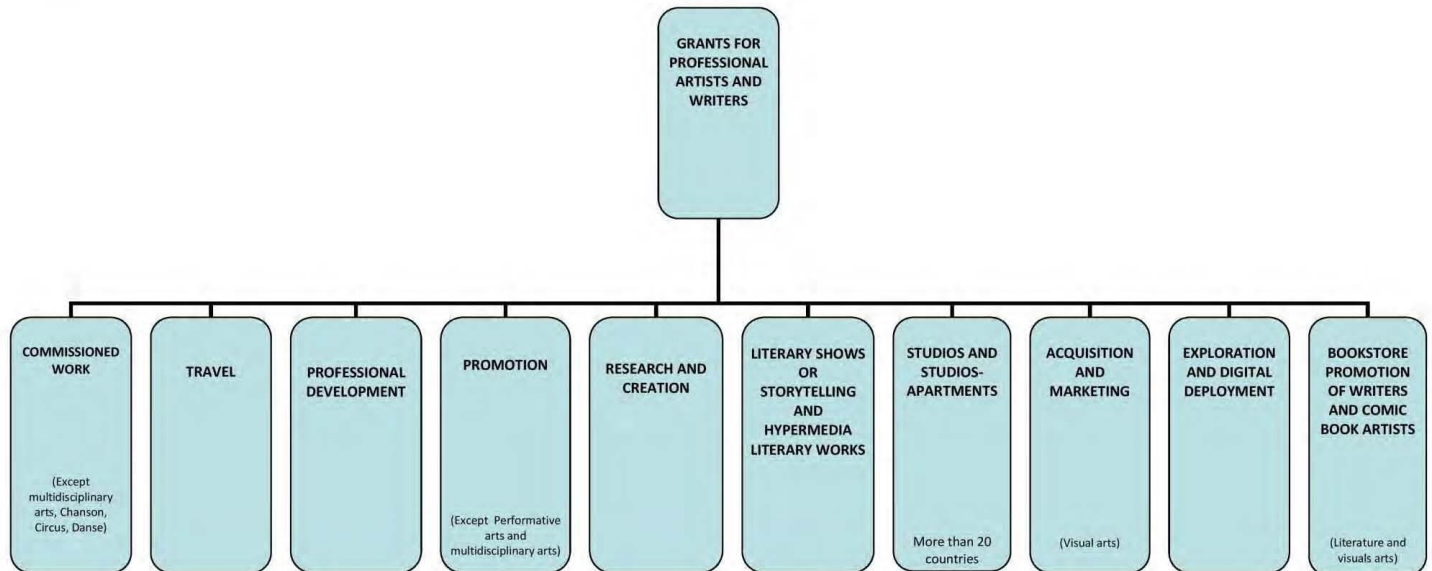
42:34 *Q: So there are no grants for production of a work in dance?*



A: The bursary in production is for organizations. You can apply as an individual for research and creation, up to the point of having a finished choreography. Production fees, materials, etc. would be admissible to the bursary for organizations. Contact the dance program officer for more information.

43:38 SLIDE 23 – VARIOUS GRANTS:

CALQ – October 26, 2016 – Grants for artists



44:12 Various grants:

- The grant for literary shows is open only to writers.
- For the studios grant, each studio has a specific due date; consult CALQ’s website for the list. Each studio is open for applications from specific disciplines.
- The Acquisition and Marketing program is for visual artists to apply to acquire material for their practice. That program was transferred recently to CALQ from SODEC.
- Exploration and Digital Deployment is a new program open to artists in all disciplines who integrate digital technology into their art. It’s a very open program; the main objective is to encourage artists to work with digital media. The due date is February 1, and the maximum grant amount is \$100,000.

46:34 *Q: Let’s say you’re a visual artist with an established practice who begins integrating digital technology. Do you have to make a first digital work before applying to the Exploration and Digital Deployment program?*

A: No. Each artist is admissible for this program. You just need to be admissible in your own discipline. You don’t need to have experience in digital arts to apply.

47:52 *Q: What kind of digital art is included? Games? Apps? Is it supposed to be experimental?*  
A: Yes. For instance, an ordinary web series wouldn't be admissible. The goal is to push the limits of digital arts, but the means of doing so can be games, apps... the sky's the limit.

48:44 *Q: It's not supposed to be a lucrative project, right?*  
A: Not necessarily. If it's lucrative for the artist, even better.

49:11 *Q: Does this include projection media, 3D mapping?*  
A: Yes.

49:21 *Q: For the acquisition program, would the purchase of computers or digital software apply?*  
A: Yes.

49:55 *Q: For the digital program, considering a project with dance and media arts, would you recommend applying for the new digital grant, or should you apply in the media arts program?*  
A: It depends on the project. If it pushes boundaries with media and digital arts, it would be a good idea to apply for this particular grant.

50:45 *Q: Would things like using sound software in a particular way – sound software or microphones – would that be considered digital?*  
A: Sound art is admissible for the digital art grant, but ultimately it depends on your project. If the project pushes boundaries and innovates, it could be a good fit for the digital exploration grant.

51:56 *Q: In certain research and creation grants, you're not allowed to apply for equipment, is that right?*  
A: You can apply for equipment, but you have to prove that the acquisition of the equipment is less expensive than renting it.

52:19 *Q: For the acquisition program, are other SODEC programs still at SODEC? Has it changed at all?*  
A: Other SODEC programs have not moved over to CALQ. Check the website or with the digital arts program officer to find out about any changes to the program details.

**53:20** **SLIDE 24** – Laurent encourages artists to use the CALQ website's Find A Grant tool to search by artist type, discipline, region, or type of grant.

Territorial grants: CALQ has partnerships with most territories in Quebec that provide specific grants to artists in those regions.

All information about grants – eligibility, presentation, required documents, evaluation, reporting obligations – is available on the CALQ website. Forms, including report forms, are listed under Tools and References, but artists are encouraged to use CALQ's online system. Eligibility information includes

eligible projects and expenses. Read this information before developing your application. Before submitting an application, phone your program officer and ask any questions you might have.

56:55 *Q: How long does it take to schedule a conversation? Can CALQ officers review an application in advance?*

A: CALQ staff try to respond as fast as they can. CALQ's role is to be neutral, so they cannot provide feedback on applications in advance beyond confirming that an application is clear and complete.

58:17 *Q: If something is missing from an application, it's automatically rejected, right?*

A: Not necessarily. The main reason an application is rejected is because the applicant lacks the profile for the discipline (first work produced already, etc.), because the project starts too soon (a problem for paper applications), or because the budget doesn't fit what is admissible. The program officer may point out certain elements that affect the application's admissibility, but applications are ultimately evaluated by the jury of peers.

## 1:00:15 SLIDE 26 – HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

### By mail:

- [Download form on CALQ's website](#)

### Online :

#### [Mon Dossier CALQ \(online\)](#)

- Grant applications
- Report on the use of a grant
- Update your personal data

There is no difference in evaluation between electronic and paper applications. You will receive an answer a bit faster if you apply online. You can update your data and report on previous grants online as well.

1:01:18 *Q: Can artists get feedback on unsuccessful applications?*

A: Only by phone.

1:01:45 *Q: What's a report on the use of a grant?*

A: After a grant project is complete, you have to report on how the money was used. You can download a paper form for the report on CALQ's website or you can do it through the online system.

1:02:14 *Q: If you received a grant before the online system was introduced, can you report on it online?*

A: Yes. You can create a Mon dossier CALQ account by going through CliqSecur (the Quebec government's system to verify your identity) and manage previous grants that way.

1:03:01 *Q: Are grants taxable?*

A: Yes. Every time you get a grant, you get a T4. Sometimes CALQ can schedule payment to fall in the financial year in which expenses will be incurred.

1:03:39 *Q: Are there any preferences as to the language of applications?*

A: No. French and English applications are treated equally. Jurors must be bilingual, but jury sessions are held in French. In cinema, 20-30% of applications are in English.

#### 1:04:39 SLIDE 27 – THE PROCESS

- Filing of applications
- Validation of the application
- Evaluation of the application by a jury of peers
- Decision
- Announcement of the results in writing (approximately three (3) months after the date of filing)

After an application is filed, the program officer validates the application. The peer jury evaluates the application; program officers do not comment on artistic merit.

#### 1:05:19 SLIDE 28 – Applications are evaluated by a jury of peers

- A jury of peers must consist of **3 to 5 people**, men and women, selected to reflect the diversity of practices, territorial representation, generational representativeness and the ethnocultural diversity of the population.

Most juries are 50-50 men and women. The jury has to reflect a diversity of practices (e.g. for cinema: animation, experimental film, installation...). Each jury must include at least one person from outside Montreal or Quebec City. CALQ has a diversity action plan that mandates the jury to include different ethnocultural backgrounds.

#### 1:06:54 SLIDES 29-31 – PROGRAM OFFICERS

##### André Boileau

Music and chanson

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##### Denise Denis

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##### Guillaume Thériault

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##### Marianne Thibeault

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All information in Laurent's presentation is also available on CALQ's website.

## VARIOUS QUESTIONS

1:08:30 *Q: If all juries are bilingual – what about literature?*

A: In literature, there is a jury specific for English literature. This is the only jury held in English, comprised of jury members who speak English as a first language.

1:09:10 *Q: Can you apply for a grant after you start work on a project?*

A: When you apply for a grant, you can have started work on a project. However, the schedule for admissible fees begins four weeks after your application. For example, if you've started the writing process but want to apply for writing grants, you can only apply to cover expenses incurred at least four weeks after the application is submitted.

1:10:19 *Q: If your application is rejected, can you resubmit?*

A: Yes. If it's the same project, however, you have to wait for the next fiscal year. If there are substantial changes to the project, you can reapply within the same fiscal year.

1:11:25 *Q: For a research and creation grant, if you apply to execute a certain project idea but make discoveries along the way which change the anticipated outcome, is that viewed badly?*

A: No, it's part of the creative process. If the project changes completely, there should be a discussion with the program officer to validate its admissibility. You will need to submit an accurate budget for your final report. You can apply for a grant for pure research and there is no obligation to produce a specific result. Either way, CALQ can only close your grant once they receive justifications for your expenses with your final report. Just explain your process and the expenses you incurred.

1:13:15 *Q: Does CALQ assemble juries at a certain time of year?*

A: The scheduling is internal to CALQ. You can apply whenever you want – it's the same available budget throughout the year.

1:13:55 *Q: How do you choose jury members?*

A: Two ways. First, when you apply, you exist in CALQ's database. For cinema, Laurent sometimes notes down the names of applicants whose work is interesting and asks them to sit on juries. Second, you can apply to sit on a jury through CALQ's website. You can be an evaluator and apply for grants, but not during the same period.

1:15:11 Laurent advises applicants to get as many people as possible to read their application. It's very important that the writing is clear and grammatically correct, because juries may know nothing about your work other than what's in your application.

1:16:12 There is no magic amount of money to request. It has to be realistic; your application will be judged on the schedule and budget. Ask for the amount you need, as long as it's justified in your application. CALQ cannot give you more than what you ask for.

1:17:00 *Q: If there are other sources of funding, does that become a conflict, e.g. crowdfunding?*

A: From a cinema and digital arts perspective, crowdfunding has become more popular. In cinema, you can use grants from SODEC, the Canada Council, crowdfunding, etc. to supplement your budget; that's no problem. For literature, theatre, etc. sometimes there can be a conflict if you charge two different sources of funding for your subsistence fees (e.g. Canada Council and CALQ). Otherwise, when you do your budget, you can include a personal contribution of money from you as the artist.

1:18:41 *Q: When does CALQ's fiscal year start?*

A: April 1 to March 31 of the following year. Every application received after January 10, 2017 will be considered as part of the next fiscal year.

1:19:01 *Q: Can you include living expenses in a grant?*

A: Yes. You don't have to include detailed justification for them when you submit a final report.

1:19:33 *Q: If you have a partner on your grant project, do you get only one set of living expenses?*

A: Living expenses are only for the artist applying for the grant. Collaborators are participants; they can receive fees as such and there is no strict limitation on that amount.

1:20:06 *Q: How do you estimate the odds of your application being accepted?*

A: The acceptance rate is currently about 23%. Last year it was 15-16%. CALQ can't project acceptance rates into the next fiscal year because it doesn't know its budget until June.

1:21:25 *Q: If you hire someone to write your grant application, is that fee admissible under the grant?*

A: No. Juries can usually tell when a grant has been written by someone other than the artist.

1:21:57 *Q: Can you apply to fund graduate studies?*

A: No. The professional development grant does not apply to college or university tuition.

1:22:20 *Q: Does it benefit an application to put your personal savings towards a project?*

A: It really depends on the project. In the evaluation process, 40% of the marks are awarded based on artistic skills and portfolio, 40% on the merits of the project, and 20% on the budget and schedule. The jury will evaluate whether the budget and schedule are realistic. Supplementing your budget with your own savings doesn't necessarily affect your chances of being accepted.