



**Independent
Media Arts Alliance**
**Alliance des arts
médiatiques indépendants**

January 27, 2011

Youssef El Jaï
Head, Media Arts Section
Canada Council for the Arts
350 Albert Street, P.O. Box 1047
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V8

Dear Mr. El Jaï,

On behalf of the IMAA board and membership, I wish you and the media arts team the very best for the New Year. Attached is a report outlining a summary of the feedback that we received from the IMAA membership regarding the new program *Grants to Media Arts Organizations: Multi-Year Operating and/or the Grants to Media Arts Organizations: Initiatives programs*.

While the general consensus is that this move is a positive one, there are certain areas that could be improved or clarified.

The most pressing concern is the uncertain timeframe in which operating funds will reach the centres. While some members are under the impression that the grant results and accompanying funds will arrive in early April, others fear that their operating funds will not arrive until May or June. As you most likely are aware, for some members, this is a hindrance making it challenging to confirm contracts with artists, plan for programming activities and pay staff. For many others this could seriously jeopardize their organizations.

The IMAA strongly recommends that the Canada Council release the funds in early April or propose another solution, such as issuing 50% of the amount that an organization received in the last cycle and the balance when it is available. Given that there is a lot of confusion over this, we would like to request that our members receive a formal announcement from the Canada Council to clarify when they can expect to receive their funds so that they can plan accordingly.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dorner, National Director

Cc: Michele Stanley, Program Officer, Media Arts Section, Canada Council for the Arts

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