

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS EXHIBITION & ARTISTIC MENTORSHIP

Mentorship period: Spring 2026

Exhibition dates: Summer 2026

Theme: Nature and 2ELGBTQIA+ Emerging Artists

As part of its 2026 season dedicated to queer communities, the Centre des arts actuels SKOL is launching a call for submissions for a collective exhibition bringing together 6 to 10 emerging 2ELGBTQIA+ artists (ages 18 to 35). Presented in summer 2026 (June–August), the exhibition will explore the connections between emerging queer identities and the natural world, with a particular focus on botanical, ecological, and territorial dimensions.

We welcome proposals that highlight the diversity of queer experiences and imaginaries in relation to the living world. Projects may address, among others:

- Intimate connections with nature, plants, forests, lakes, gardens, and ecosystems;
- Botany as a metaphor for queer identities, growth, and resilience;
- Rituals of care, healing, and transmission connected to the living;
- The impact of environmental upheavals on queer creativity and life;
- Nature as a space for grounding, resistance, and reinvention.

These themes are not restrictive — artists are invited to explore them freely or propose other directions relevant to their practices.

Approaches may take a variety of forms, including visual arts, installations, performances, digital arts, sound practices, archives, contextual interventions, and interdisciplinary practices, among others.

The exhibition will create opportunities for dialogue between SKOL's indoor gallery space and outdoor environments through off-site activities—interventions, exhibitions, public programs, and mediation—developed in collaboration with two partner sites: the Indigenous–Asian collective garden in Chinatown (Kahéhtaien-Lumb) and the vacant lot at 6919 Marconi in Petite-Patrie, as well as gardens, parks, and urban agriculture projects in Ville-Marie. Public off-site activities may begin as early as spring 2026.

ABOUT THE OFF-SITE PARTNERS

The Indigenous–Asian Collective Garden Kahéhtaien-Lumb in Montréal’s Chinatown

This 2,500-square-foot collective garden, located in Montréal’s Chinatown, provides an intergenerational and intercultural space grounded in decolonial values. Through the cultivation of Indigenous and Asian plants and vegetables, the garden fosters community-based activities and creates opportunities for marginalized communities—such as elders, Indigenous, and Asian people—to engage in the sharing of practical knowledge and experience.

The Vacant Lot at 6919 Marconi in the La Petite-Patrie Neighbourhood

This 1,800-square-foot open and unconventional site—unbuilt yet alive with ideas—serves as a space for experimentation where creation unfolds slowly, between reflection and spontaneity. It is a transitional space, both private and public, that invites visitors to imagine new ways of inhabiting, coexisting, and building together, where transformation occurs gradually, through thought and lived experience.

Gardens, Parks, and Urban Agriculture Projects in the Ville-Marie Borough

Through collaborations with community and collective gardens, public parks, and urban agriculture initiatives, selected artists will have the opportunity to develop artistic projects and public activities aimed at engaging with the residents of Ville-Marie, in the heart of downtown Montréal.

ABOUT SKOL

SKOL is a non-profit artist-run centre whose main mission is to support the creation, dissemination, and mediation of visual and interdisciplinary arts. All of its activities are free of charge and aim to promote artistic experimentation, critical engagement, and public appreciation of the arts.

Supported by all three levels of government—the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, and the Conseil des arts de Montréal—SKOL has, since 1986, provided a space for research, production, and dissemination for both emerging and established artists. The centre places a strong emphasis on intergenerational, intercultural, and interdisciplinary exchange. Its activities include public exhibitions, artist residencies, educational workshops, seminars, and cultural mediation projects. Through these initiatives, artists are able to refine their skills and gain professional tools, while the public is offered meaningful opportunities for learning, dialogue, and awareness of contemporary art.

Eligibility

- Identify as a 2ELGBTQIA+ artist
- Be an emerging professional artist recognized by peers and publicly presenting their work (as defined by the [CALQ](#))
- Be between 18 and 35 years old
- Hold Canadian citizenship or permanent residency
- Reside in Québec

General Conditions

- **Research–Creation–Production–Training Fee:** \$3,500 per artist.
- **Mentorship:** [Training and support in artistic entrepreneurship, focusing on career development and cultural mediation for selected artists.](#)
- **Exhibition Fees:** \$550 per artist (according to CARFAC/RAAV rates for a group exhibition of 6 to 10 artists).
- **Presentation Fee:** \$400 per artist for a mediation activity (talk, workshop, or public encounter).
- **Artistic, logistical, and technical support:** Provided by SKOL's programming team, executive direction, and programming committee.
- **Professional documentation** of the exhibition.
- **Accessibility:** SKOL is committed to collaborating with artists to adapt production and presentation conditions according to specific needs.
- **Travel and accommodation:** SKOL is committed to financially supporting artists for interregional travel and to providing free or low-cost housing options, particularly during the installation and opening of the exhibition.

Environmental Responsibility

Artists are invited to consider the environmental impact of their projects (reuse of materials, dismantling plan, etc.).

Application components

- **Project Description** (2,000 characters / approx. 300 words)
- **Artist Statement** (2,000 characters / approx. 300 words)
- **Curriculum Vitae** (artistic)
- **Visual Material** (up to 15 captioned images, or links to videos of max. 10 minutes)
- **Technical Requirements and Exhibition Plan** (optional)
- **Environmental Considerations** (optional)

Timeline

- **Application opening date:** Thursday, October 23, 2025, at noon
- **Application deadline:** Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.
- **Eligibility jury:** December 8–20, 2025
- **Announcement of eligible artists (preselection):** Late December 2025
- **Verification of professional artist status:** January 1–11, 2026
- **Announcement of selected artists:** Late February 2026

Submission Guidelines

- Applications must be submitted via the wiin.io form.
- For any questions or assistance, please contact: programmation@skol.ca
- SKOL is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and encourages applications from artists of all backgrounds, identities, and abilities.