

Code of Ethics

1. Preamble
2. The professional artist
3. The rights and duties of artist-run centers
4. Obligations to the artist
5. The public and the communities served
6. The security and sanitary conditions of the space
7. The personnel
8. The ethics committee

1. Preamble

1.1 Artist-run centers are non-profit organizations that group together a majority of professional artists and which are essentially self-governing. The member artists of artist-run centers are also the administrators of the production and dissemination services that they have created firstly for themselves, secondly for all the artists of their community and finally for the general public.

1.2 The main function of artist-run centers is to support the research, experimentation and development of contemporary art practices. The commercial value of an artist's production should not come into consideration. Artist-run centers play for emerging artists a role of integration into the system of contemporary art. They ensure a role of recognition of the continued creative evolution of artists throughout their entire careers. The development of artist-run centers is closely linked to the development of the careers of their artist members as well as of the artists of the community they serve.

1.3 Artist-run centers participate in the improvement of the conditions of artistic practice in two main areas. They pay fees to artists for the use of their works for

public presentation purposes in the form of exhibitions, publications or any other form of public diffusion. They contribute financially and technically to the creation of new works.

1.4 From the beginning, artist-run centers have focused on nearly every sector of artistic practice: visual arts, media arts, music, dance, theater, printmaking, sound art and literature. More recently, artist-run center activities have specialized according to the practices defined by the broader definition of the visual arts.

1.5 Artist-run centers support research, production, dissemination and residency activities by offering workshops and specialized equipment to selected or interested artists.

1.6 By providing curated exhibition and event activities, artist-run centers maintain a field of practice for professional artists, art historians and critics. They publish books, catalogs, monographs and critical essays in order to promote better understanding of artists' work and to disseminate it in broader contexts. They document and archive past works, the knowledge of which is essential for the development of practices.

1.7 Artist-run centers participate in the creation of a network which fosters the circulation of artists and the exchange of knowledge at local, national and international levels.

1.8 Artist-run centers produce and disseminate contemporary art practices throughout all the regions of Quebec.

1.9 Artist-run centers favour the management by the artists themselves of the technical and material conditions of art production, those of the production itself as well as of its use .

1.10 By disseminating contemporary visual art work, artist-run centers play an essential complementary role to the activity of exhibition centers, art museums and private galleries.

2. The professional artist

2.1 The artist-run center refers to the UNESCO text for its definition of the artist:

"Is considered as "artist" any person who creates or gives expression to, or recreates works of art, who considers his artistic creation to be an essential part of his life, who contributes in this way to the development of art and culture and who is or asks to be recognized as an artist, whether or not he is bound by any relations of employment or association."

2.2 For its recognition of the professional artist, the artist-run center refers to the rules provided by the *Act Respecting the Professional Status of Artists in the Visual Arts, Arts and Crafts and Literature, and their Contracts With Promoters* (R.S.Q., chapter S-32.01) :

Article 7. Every creator in the field of visual arts, arts and crafts or literature has the status of a professional artist if³ 1) he declares himself to be a professional artist;³ 2) he produces works on his own behalf;³ 3) his works are exhibited, produced, published, presented in public or marketed by a promoter;³ 4) he has been recognized by his peers as a professional artist by way of an honorable mention, an award, a prize, a scholarship, an appointment to an adjudication committee or an invitation to participate in a salon or by any other similar means.³

2.3 The artist-run center recognizes the right for the artist to have recourse to professional recognition with the purpose of claiming her/his rights and ensuring their protection.

3. The rights and duties of the artist-run center

3.1 The artist-run center is a nonprofit organization constituted and run by a majority of artists.

3.2 The artist-run center contributes to increasing knowledge about contemporary art, to its dissemination and to its production.

3.3 The artist-run center adopts statutes and regulations corresponding to its

purpose. It makes them accessible and decides how its members will govern and manage them.

3.4 The artist-run center privileges the original work of professional artists or of its sector of artistic practice and supports the exploration and the presentation of new forms of expression.

3.5 The artist-run center recognizes all of the practices encompassed by the visual arts and contributes to their influence at home and abroad..

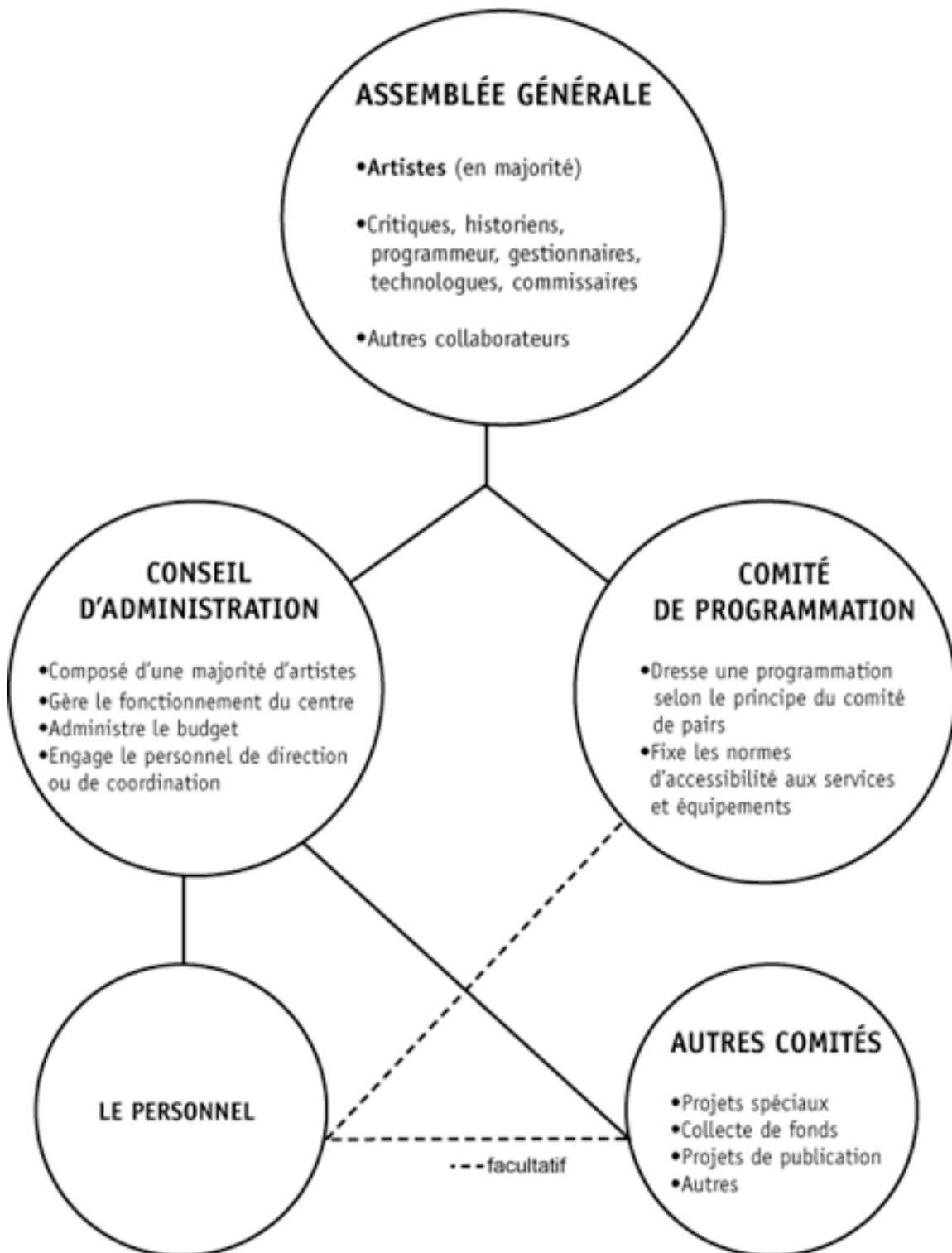
3.6 The artist-run center determines and makes known its specific areas of interest (a.e.: video, printmaking, installation, photography, sculpture, etc.) as well as its preferred directions of development (a.e. women's' art, intervention, digital dimensions in art, etc.) and its artistic orientations.

3.7 The artist-run center offering specialized services to its members or to any other clientele determines a price scale which takes into account the community it serves. It provides its clients with the necessary resources for the use of its services.

3.8 The artist-run center assumes the responsibility of documenting every artistic proposition which it presents and of preserving this documentation in its archives. Any reproduction of this documentation must be made available to the artist.

3.9 The organization chart which follows shows an organizational structure suitable to putting into use the afore mentioned principles.

ORGANIGRAMME TYPE D'UN CENTRE D'ARTISTES AUTOGÉRÉ



*Les centres d'artistes acceptent la contribution des personnes qui offrent bénévolement leurs compétences.

4. Obligations to the artist

4.1 For any participation in an exhibition, a performance, a video work or any other art form, the artist-run center must sign with the artist, or anyone who leads a workshop or participates in a round table, a residency or any other form of expression, a contract in accordance with the *Act Respecting the Professional Status of Artists in the Visual Arts, Arts and Crafts and Literature, and their Contracts With Promoters*.

4.2 The artist-run center commits itself to respect the Copyright Act by following - when appropriate and as much as possible - a payment policy in accordance with the fee schedules recommended by the Regroupement des artistes en arts visuels du Québec (RAAV).

4.3 The artist-run center commits itself to pay for every professional activity by an artist which was agreed upon by a contract. In case of cancellation of the contract between the artist and the artist-run center for other reasons than force majeure and if these reasons fall under the responsibilities of the center, the latter agrees with the artist upon suitable compensation.

4.4 The artist-run center commits itself to assume all or part of the following costs: transportation costs, accommodation costs, set-up and dismantling costs, publicity and promotional costs, insurance costs, opening reception costs and documentation costs.

4.5 The artist-run center commits itself to adopt a policy for the hosting of artists in residence - as to accommodation, production and compensation - which supports research and professional development. The artist-run center commits itself to remain attentive to evolving artistic expressions and to compensate them according to the same equity principles.

4.6 The artist-run center can collaborate in any transaction involving an artist and a buyer, a promoter or a distributor. It can determine the conditions of such a transaction and ensure that these become the object of a written contract.

5. The public and the communities served

5.1 The artist-run center is intended without any discrimination other than positive, according to the terms of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms³, for the entire community in general and the artistic community in particular.

5.2 The artist-run center commits itself to make its services, activities, and space accessible according to determined schedules of which the target public is informed.

5.3 The artist and the artist-run center commit themselves to guarantee the origin and the authenticity of the artistic propositions presented to the public.

5.4 The artist-run center makes all information useful for the understanding of the work and of the practice of the artist accessible.

6. The security and sanitary conditions of the space

6.1 The artist-run center adheres to rules that ensure the security of its employees, invited artists, users, and public, as well as the sanitary conditions of the space. It makes sure to offer its public the best conditions of well-being during its visits of the space.

7. Personnel

7.1 The artist-run center respects the obligations dictated by the *Act respecting labour standards*.

7.2 The artist-run center commits itself to respect the obligation of a written contract to be signed with each of its employees.

7.3 The artist-run center commits itself to adopt a salary policy which favours professional development and recognition, and which follows the principles of equality and equity.

7.4 The artist-run center supports the exchange of ideas and consultation; it recognizes the contribution of its personnel.

7.5 For each new employee, whether temporary, permanent or volunteer, the artist-

run center ensures the necessary training and support for the learning of her/his duties and for her/his insertion within the work team.

8. Code of ethics committee

8.1 Any complaint against an RCAAQ member center as to the present Code of Ethics must be submitted to the board of directors of the Regroupement des centres d'artistes autogérés du Québec which is situated at 3995, rue Berri, Montréal, Québec, H2L 4H2.

Special thanks

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1 Recommendation relative to the Draft Recommendation on the Status of the Artist from 27 October 1980 by UNESCO.

2. This can refer to the rental of equipment or of a studio, to the services of a technician, to training, to the sale of tools, to advisory services or any other service related to its mission.

3 Section 15. (1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.8(2) Subsection (1) does not preclude any law, program or activity that has as its object the amelioration of conditions of disadvantaged individuals or groups including those that are disadvantaged because of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.