

assistance are required to have been in operation for at least a year (two in the case of companies performing for young audiences). The Council also provides funds to service organizations and supports special projects such as playwriting workshops.

Visual arts, film and video

Grants are given to architects, painters, sculptors, graphic artists, photographers, film-makers, video-workers and actors, as well as to professionals in related areas. Council support is also available to public art galleries, galleries operated by professional artists, print workshops and independent producers of both film and television.

Art Bank

Works of contemporary Canadian artists are bought by the Art Bank and rented to federal, provincial and municipal government departments and other organizations such as hospitals, mainly for display in public places. The Bank distributes slides and information about the artists and their work and lends items from its collection to public galleries in Canada and abroad.

Touring Office

The Touring Office encourages tours by Canadian performing artists and companies by means of subsidies, technical assistance and support services. It also promotes the training

and professional development of tour sponsors, commercial agents and impresarios. Among its publications are the *Touring Office Bulletin*, *Tour Organizers' Handbook*, *Sponsors' Handbook for Touring Attractions*, and *Touring Directory of the Performing Arts in Canada*.

Exploration program

Investigation of new forms of expression and participation in the arts, inquiry into aspects of Canada's cultural heritage, and promotion of public awareness and enjoyment of artistic and cultural activities are encouraged by the "Explorations" program, which is open to any person, group or organization – professional or non-professional – wishing to undertake a project or study. Applications are judged by five regional juries.

Cultural exchanges

A number of small programs financed by the Federal Government or external sources are administered by the Canada Council. They include grants to Canadian cultural organizations for visits to Canada by distinguished foreign artists, grants for young Canadian artists wishing to study music, ballet or theatre in the U.S.S.R., and provision of studio spaces for Canadian visual artists in Paris and New York.