**Key Considerations for Arts Organizations Engaging a Mitacs Researcher**

These considerations are based on Mass Culture’s experience working with eight different Mitacs researchers. We’d be happy to share more insights with you if you’d like, but for any formal inquiries, please contact Mitacs directly.

**Research Alignment and Expectations**

* The Mitacs opportunity should not be viewed as a grant to bring on an individual to conduct research on behalf of your organization. Instead, it is an opportunity to support research in the arts that aligns with both the organization's needs and the researcher's area of interest.
* Keep in mind that the research may not always align with your advocacy needs or expectations. It’s important to be prepared for findings that might challenge your assumptions. How you manage and share the research outcomes should be discussed in advance to ensure clarity on how to handle unexpected results.
* To ensure clear communication and set expectations with both the institution and the researcher, a signed Terms of Engagement letter is essential. Mass Culture provides a template for both parties to formalize these agreements. See Terms of Engagement Mitacs Templates.

**Researcher Responsibilities and Application Process**

* The research project should align with the researcher's interests, so they are responsible for completing the Mitacs application. While it's important for you to set aside time to review the application, the researcher should take the lead in writing it. There are sections in the portal that will require your input, but overall, the application should be primarily authored by the researcher.

**Intellectual Property and Co-Creation**

* The research is the intellectual property of the researcher. If the research is being co-created with your organization, a formal agreement should clearly outline which aspects of the research can be credited and shared. Mass Culture provides an [Intellectual Property partnership template](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LEzOp7Xjzjo-OqLJ2YWHy9cyYT-a9I0l/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=105564345826300710857&rtpof=true&sd=true) to help guide these decisions in advance.

**Research Funding and Expenses**

* Mitacs can provide funding to cover research expenses, such as honorariums for interviews and travel. These funds are held by the institution, so it's important to clarify and earmark them in advance. If the arts organization has additional budget available to supplement these costs, you can use Mass Culture’s [Compensation Chart for Research Participation](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nAdJarewyVG-mZfZJZtgx6MbWAhLAE0o549vplPtE2A/edit?usp=sharing) to ensure fair payment.
* Upon confirmation of your Mitacs application, you will receive an invoice from Mitacs, which should be paid promptly. Keep in mind that Mitacs needs to send the funds to the institution to pay the researcher, and any delays in this process will impact the timing of the researcher’s payment.

**Research Ethics and Timeline**

* The researcher will likely need to submit an REB (Research Ethics Board) application, which can take anywhere from two to six months. This process can cause delays, and research cannot commence until the REB has been approved.

**Selecting a Researcher and Mitacs Advisor**

* Mitacs may involve students at various academic levels. Please be mindful that full-time students (such as those in Master's or PhD programs) typically have a heavy course load, so their availability may need to be coordinated around their academic schedule. Postdoctoral researchers, while not enrolled in courses, may have other professional commitments to consider.
* If you have a research project in mind but haven't yet secured a researcher, please don't hesitate to reach out to Mass Culture. We can help promote your call for a researcher and support you in finding the right fit. Just send your call to info@massculture.ca
* Before applying to Mitacs, it is essential to have identified the researcher. You and the researcher should meet with a Mitacs advisor in advance to discuss the research and confirm the researcher’s eligibility. Contact:
Sarah Fairlie
Senior Advisor, Social Innovation
Email: sfairlie@mitacs.ca
Phone: 647-231-3378

**Supervisor Support and Collaboration**

* It’s also advisable to meet with the researcher’s academic supervisor beforehand to ensure they are on board to provide the necessary support for the researcher. There may be questions specific to the academic institution that the supervisor can better address.

**Practical Application and Collaboration**

* To ensure that the research has practical applications for the arts sector, commit to meeting regularly with the researcher, connecting them with relevant stakeholders, and working together to determine how the research will be shared. For support in crafting a knowledge mobilization strategy, feel free to reach out to Mass Culture’s Director of Programming and Research: robin@massculture.ca