

January 22, 1974.

Mr. Lanny Beckman
Research Coordinator
Mental Patients Association
1982 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver 9, B.C.

Dear Mr. Beckman:

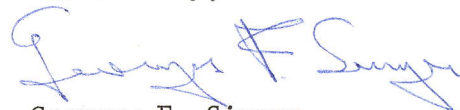
We have received your request for information and application form for the Explorations Program. In view of our coming deadline for our next competition, June 1st, please find enclosed a note on publishing and a brochure regarding the Explorations Program.

I should like to mention that the costs relating to the preparation of a manuscript may be considered but not printing or publishing costs, this assistance being reserved for professional publishers under another program of the Canada Council.

Should you wish to submit an application, we would ask you to send us a brief description of your project before we forward our application form.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Yours truly,



Georges F. Singer
Explorations Program.

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Encl.

Explorations

Explorations

The *Explorations* program offers grants to encourage new and developing forms of creativity, research, participation and diffusion of the arts, humanities and social sciences. This program replaces and extends the scope of the *Canadian Horizons* program.

Unlike other Canada Council programs, *Explorations* is not directed exclusively towards specialists and professional artists. Grants may be made to any applicant whose proposed project is judged to be deserving of assistance.

Eligible Projects

Projects must concern Canadian situations or subjects, or have implications for Canada. Outlined below, by way of illustration only, are some types of projects which would be considered eligible:

- explorations of new forms of expression, participation, communication and diffusion
- sociocultural projects or activities directed by competent persons
- multidisciplinary research and experimentation related to both the arts and sciences
- work in the field of popular culture
- work in any medium on Canada's historical or cultural heritage (the history of a region, community or institution, personal memoirs, facets of contemporary Canadian life).

Undertakings of an essentially commercial nature are *ineligible* for assistance. Nor may grants be obtained from the *Explorations* program for new projects of the types illustrated, innovative or not, if they are eligible for assistance under another Canada Council program (for example, aid to writing, aid to the publication or translation of books, awards to artists and university students, aid to university research, operating grants to established arts organizations, etc.).

Eligible Applicants

Applications for grants may be submitted by:

- Canadian citizens
- landed immigrants who have resided in Canada for no less than 3 years
- Canadian organizations.

Amounts of Grants

The amount of a grant will depend on the duration and cost of the project submitted, and will not be subject to any ceiling. However, as the program budget is limited, competition for grants will be rigorous. Applicants are advised to exercise moderation in determining the scope of their projects and to present a realistic project budget.

Selection Process

Taking into consideration the objectives of the program, the principal criteria of evaluation will be the quality and potential appeal of projects, and the ability of applicants to carry them out. Selections will be made through competitions (three of which are scheduled for 1974-75) involving two stages. Applications will first be sorted according to the areas from which they originated (the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies, and British Columbia) and sent to five regional juries, who will make an initial selection. In the second stage, all the recommendations of the regional juries will be reviewed by a committee composed of the chairmen of these juries. Within the limits of available funds, this committee will make a final selection and submit its recommendations to the Canada Council. The results of each competition will be announced four months after the deadline for applications.

The Canada Council reserves the right to interpret the conditions of the program and how they apply to specific cases.

How to Apply

Special application forms must be used. On these forms, the applicant is asked for a detailed description of the project and a proposed budget. When asking for application forms, it is important to specify whether the grant is being requested by an individual or an organization.

The next deadline for applications is June 1, 1974.

Further information and application forms are available from:

Explorations

The Canada Council

P.O. Box 1047

Ottawa, Ontario

K1P 5V8

Telephone: (613) 237-3400

The offices of the Canada Council are located at 151 Sparks Street, Ottawa.

The Canada Council was created by Parliament in 1957 as an independent body responsible for promoting the arts, humanities and social sciences. Its major programs are described in the following brochures, which may be obtained on request:

- Aid to Artists
- Aid to the Humanities and Social Sciences
- Aid to Publication and Translation
- Art Bank

December 27, 1973

Explorations Program
The Canada Council
P.O. Box 1047
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V8

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing three recent editions of our organization's newspaper, In a Nutshell. This is to familiarize you both with MPA and with our publications. We are interested in expanding the scope of our publications to include books, monographs and a quarterly journal, and are hopeful that the Canada Council might provide funds to support such a program.

MPA is a democratically-run, self-help group composed primarily of mental patients and ex-patients. Since our inception three years ago, the organization has developed at a very rapid pace, which we take to be a sign of the serious need in the mental health field for non-professional, self-governing service agencies. We currently operate five residences with a bed capacity of 45 and a drop-in/crisis center which furnishes a broad range of services and activities to people who have recently been discharged from psychiatric institutions. It is fairly widely recognized that MPA is the most successful organization on this continent in what is loosely called the "mental patients liberation movement." Our programs and methods are highly innovative in a highly uninnovative field.

To this point, our publications have been of a "popular" nature, directed mainly to a general, lay audience. While there have been a few exceptions to this rule--for example, we have re-written the Mental Health Act of B.C. and submitted it to the provincial government--it is true to say that we have produced few documents which deal in-depth with the complex theoretical and intellectual issues in our field of endeavour. In fact, the mental health field is almost totally dominated by the professional literature and the professional point of view, a perspective which is quite unidimensional and which in many instances ought to be challenged.

MPA's research program has been in operation for two years now, and has generated a good deal of original data which deserves broader exposure, particularly to professionals, government officials and the intellectual community--sectors which often adopt a complacent attitude in the face of circumstances badly in need of reform.

Having developed a solid and viable service program, we feel it is appropriate for us to begin making an intellectual contribution through the publication of books and journals.

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Without going into detail in this letter, we should say that we have one book in final manuscript form and another which is in the early stages of being drafted. Within two to three months, we will be in a position to publish the first issue of a journal.

We have developed close working relationships with several local resources in the publishing field and thus have access to the technical expertise required for the publications envisaged in our plan. The only thing holding us up at this point is funding.

We believe that the Canada Council is the most likely source for securing this funding, and would appreciate any information and materials you might send us regarding application procedures. If the funding of publications in the field of psychology/mental health does not fall specifically within your section, would you kindly pass this letter and the enclosed newspapers on to the appropriate person in the Council.

Finally, because we do have material waiting to be published, we would appreciate an early reply.

Thanks very kindly for your attention in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Lanny Beckman
Research Coordinator

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Encl.