

ART GALLERY OF REGINA ETHICS POLICY

The purpose of this statement is to outline the code of ethics maintained by the AGR in its exhibition programming, public outreach, workshops, residency programs, and all other programming. This code of ethics is provided to all artists, who must affirm that they are working ethically within their practices.

The structure of this policy is informed by the University of Regina's ethical research policy, which follows the national standards articulated in the second edition of the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*.

The AGR is committed to ensuring that all staff, exhibiting artists, instructors, and other program leaders adhere to and understand ethics in research and creation practices. This policy defines research ethics and research with humans, animals, insects, and the land as related to its programming and exhibiting artists, and lays out specific guidelines that artists/project leaders/programmers must adhere to.

When humans, animals, insects, or land sites are used in the course of research or creation of art, it is mandatory that the rights of the participants are respected and protected and that the procedures followed comply with current academic standards within Canada. The AGR supports creative freedom in all of its programming and does not seek to censor artists: this freedom is complemented by the requirement that all participants (human, animal, insect, land, etc.) be engaged with in a way that respects their rights and does not cause harm.

Research ethics are moral principles that guide researchers to conduct and report research without deception or intention to harm the participants of the study or members of the society as a whole, whether knowingly or unknowingly.

All projects must meet the core principles of the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*:

- **Respect for persons** - This includes the recognition of the intrinsic value of human beings and respect for the autonomy of research participants. Respect for autonomy is normally reflected in the requirement to seek free and informed consent from participants both prior to and during their participation in a research project.
- **Concern for welfare** – This is broadly construed to mean all aspects of a person's life, including their physical and mental health, spiritual well-being, and other elements of their life circumstances. Concern for welfare includes respect for the person's privacy and confidentiality and requires that [...] researchers adopt an attitude that aims to protect the welfare of research participants, minimize foreseeable risks to those participants and their communities, and inform research participants of those risks.
- **Justice** – This principle requires that people be treated equitably and fairly. The principle of justice takes into account the vulnerability of the person, the difference in power between participant and researcher, and seeks to equitably distribute the risks and benefits of research participation.

In addition to these, the AGR also requires that any work with living beings (such as but not limited to animals, insects, plants etc.) as well as land-based projects must adhere to the same standards, not causing damage, harm, or destruction to these beings.

As members of Treaty 4 Territory, the AGR is committed to ensuring that all of our projects respect and care for this territory.

Required Guidelines

The AGR requires all artists, contract staff, permanent staff, etc. to adhere to the following guidelines when working with the community, performing research, and in other AGR-programming related activities that involve people, animals, insects, land, etc.

- All participants have a right to say no or to leave a project at any time;
- No physical or mental harm may come to a participant;
- Relationships between all participants and the project leader must be professional in nature, with no inappropriate relationships or actions taking place during the project;
- In the case of land-based or site specific projects, no permanent damage should be done to the land and all activities must be undertaken with permission from the property owner, whether legal or hereditary;
- Participant and place privacy (such as property or sacred locations) must be respected, with names or identifiers only used with explicit permission;
- Participants must be made fully aware of the parameters of a project, who will be viewing it, how they will be credited, and how the project will be shared;
- Project leaders must be cognisant of current and past histories of appropriation, abuse, and misconduct towards marginalized communities from arts and research institutions. No project that objectifies, others, or otherwise contributes to an unequitable or exploitive program will be tolerated;
- Illegal activities will not be permitted;
- In the case of participants that are unable to consent (such as animals, insects, etc.), the project must engage with experts and/or owners and/or keepers to ensure that no harm is done to the participant and to ensure adequate understanding of participant needs.

The AGR reserves the right to request changes any project that violates these guidelines, and to end the project if the artist is working unethically.

Roles and Responsibilities

AGR

The AGR is responsible for providing the support, resources and education for project leaders to ethically undertake and implement their projects. The AGR is responsible for ensuring access to this policy, and for its maintenance.

The AGR is responsible for responding to and investigating any ethics complaints made towards a project, exhibiting artist, or other programming.

Researchers/Artists/Project Leaders

Researchers are responsible for understanding and complying with this policy and taking responsibility for their research.