

Centre for Sound Communities Priorities of Use Policy

The Centre for Sound Communities is a CBU research institute that fosters research involving interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement on sound, movement, and performance. The Centre also maintains technology and expertise to support digital research initiatives. In particular, the Centre supports:

- Arts-based research (applied theatre, dance, sound and movement), research creation, research that includes artistic components (e.g dissemination)
- Performance studies, including the performance of living, oral practices, storytelling, traditional knowledge practices, and ceremony
- Research into community identification, resilience, practices, and engagement, particularly as evidenced or facilitated through various modes of creative practice or performance

Research is the generation of new knowledge through critical inquiry and experimentation. Research undertaken in or through the Centre is frequently emergent in process and/or outcomes (that is, involving practices, goals, and expectations that develop and shift throughout a project); we welcome experimentation, adaptation, and flexibility in research design as a means of engaging with community members, innovating practice, and creating new knowledge. The Centre prioritises research creation, which is “an approach to research that combines creative and academic research practices, and supports the development of knowledge and innovation through artistic expression, scholarly investigation, and experimentation. The creation process is situated within the research activity and produces critically informed work in a variety of media (art forms)” (SSHRC Definitions of Terms).

The Centre maintains a research consortium (a list of potential research collaborators who are interested in working with the Centre for Sound Communities). In addition to opportunities for collaboration and training, consortium members can request access to the Centre’s space (studio, media lab, work stations, meeting room, kitchenette, and storage) and digital equipment (video cameras, 3D printer, laptops, ipads, long term digital storage, etc), as well as opportunities to train research assistants in the technologies in use in the Centre. The Centre’s space can be used for project development (workshops, rehearsals), community engagement (meetings, consultations), and knowledge transfer and mobilization (performances, presentations, symposia). In return, members will consider the Centre’s equipment, staffing, and needs when applying for grant funding. For example, members may request funds to help upgrade equipment or offset the Centre’s staffing costs as part of a grant application. Consortium members can list Centre’s space and resources as in-kind contributions on grant applications.

Priorities for Use

All use of the facility depends on staffing and financial resources to maintain facilities and equipment. Provided these are in place, priorities for use are as follows:

First priority: individuals/groups engaged in the research described above. Should there be competition for access to the space and/or resources under these parameters, members of the Centre's research consortium will generally have priority over non-consortium members. The ability of an individual/group to contribute financially to the Centre's maintenance and staffing will also impact ranking within the first priority group.

Second priority: individuals/groups from the university community engaged in activities related to the research mandate but not conducting research. Examples include rehearsals, performances, student presentations, and courses focused on artistic praxis. These activities represent communities of practice that support the Centre's research mandate. Within this category, individuals/group who have need of the Centre's purpose-built resources will have priority over those who can use other spaces or resources available on campus. These bookings depend on availability and may be cancelled if the Centre's resources are needed to support research activities.

Other members of the university, local, and academic communities may request access to the Centre's space and resources. Commercial use of the space charged rental rates and should inquire regarding insurance coverage.

For information about bookings or consortium membership contact the Centre's co-directors, Marcia Ostashewski (Marcia_Ostashewski@cbu.ca) or Sheila Christie (Sheila_Christie@cbu.ca).