
PROJECT ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

TOURING INITIATIVES

2020/21

About the BC Arts Council: New Foundations

The BC Arts Council is an agency of the provincial government established by the *Arts Council Act*, for the purposes of:

- Providing support for the arts and culture in British Columbia;
- Providing persons and organizations with the opportunity to participate in the arts and culture in British Columbia; and
- Providing an open, accountable and neutrally administered process for managing funds for British Columbia arts and culture.

In July 2018, the BC Arts Council released [New Foundations: Strategic Plan for the British Columbia Arts Council 2018-2022](#), which articulates the following vision:

“Artists and cultural organizations in British Columbia are well-supported, thriving, and able to reach their full potential under principles of equity, diversity, accessibility, and reconciliation. Arts and culture are seen as fundamental to developing vibrant and resilient communities, where the people of British Columbia are highly engaged in the province’s unique arts and culture sector recognized for its innovation and leadership in Canada and abroad.”

Strategic Directions

The new strategic plan lays out four new strategic directions for the BC Arts Council, intended to facilitate more equitable access to arts funding and informed by the current context facing the arts and culture sector in B.C.:

- Sustainability and Creative Development
- Equity, Diversity and Access
- Indigenous Arts and Culture
- Regional Arts and Community Arts

Values

The BC Arts Council’s values guide all decisions and activities, from program design to the peer review process. We strive for constant improvement under these values in how we serve artists and cultural organizations throughout B.C.

- Artistic Development and Achievement
- Indigenous Engagement and Cultural Vitality
- Equity, Access and Diversity
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Engagement and Participation
- Recognition and Promotion
- Fair and Transparent Governance

About Project Assistance – Touring Initiatives

Touring Initiatives supports B.C. artists and arts organizations undertaking touring activities outside the province that will lead to enhanced professional and artistic opportunities. Funding is provided for projects that are scheduled as part of significant national or international cultural events or that take advantage of significant market and audience development and touring opportunities. Priority will be given to professionally organized tours for which artists are receiving fees.

There are two categories of Touring Initiatives grants:

Category A: Representation at a Significant National or International Exhibition or Event

- Intended to support representation at or participation in an exhibition or event that is a significant opportunity, providing long-term benefits for the organization or artist(s) and for the development of arts and culture in British Columbia.
- Applicants must be able to articulate the significance of the exhibition or event within the context of their own artistic discipline and practice.

Category B: Market and Audience Development or Touring Opportunity

- Intended to support:
 - the development of a significant national or international market, proven or potential, for the work of the organization or artist(s);
 - touring activity that provides a significant opportunity to increase knowledge, appreciation and awareness of the applicant's work or to impact the applicant's own practice and artistic development.
- Applicants must be able to articulate the significance of the opportunity within the context of their own artistic discipline and practice.

Application Deadline and Submission

The deadlines for Project Assistance – Touring Initiatives applications are:

- April 1, 2020
- August 15, 2020
- December 1, 2020

Applications are accepted for activity taking place after the date of submission

Applicants need to register on the new online system before submitting an application. Please note that approval of a new registration request may take up to 4 business days. New registrants will be notified of approval and access to grant applications. Applications by mail, email or fax will not be accepted.



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Eligibility Requirements

Both the applicant and the proposed touring activity must meet the eligibility criteria outlined below.

Assistance through this program is available to readily identified professional B.C. arts organizations; independent artists; collectives, groups, or ensembles.

Applicant Eligibility – General Criteria

An eligible applicant must:

- Be based in British Columbia and conduct ongoing public programming activity in B.C.
- Engage competent and appropriate artistic/curatorial and management leadership as demonstrated by previous achievements, collaborations, partnerships, relationships, etc.
- Compensate artists and arts and cultural professionals at industry standards and adhere to international intellectual property rights standards and cultural ownership protocols.
- Not have received an award through this program in the current government fiscal year (April 1- March 31). Applicants cannot submit more than one application per intake.

Applicant Eligibility – Specific Criteria

Professional Arts Organizations

In addition to the General Eligibility criteria, a professional arts organization must:

- Be an organization registered and in good standing as a non-profit society in the Province of British Columbia for at least one year.
- Provide financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year (see Financial Statements section).
- Have operated and offered public programming for a minimum of one year as a non-profit society.

Professional Independent Artists

In addition to the General Eligibility criteria, a professional independent artist must:

- Have worked in their discipline as a professional practitioner for at least two years following completion of basic studies and have a demonstrated body of previous work.
- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and have lived in British Columbia for at least twelve months immediately prior to application.

Professional Collectives, Groups or Ensembles

In addition to the General Eligibility criteria, under normal circumstances, a collective, group or ensemble must:

- Be readily identified as a professional B.C. collective, group or ensemble.
- Apply under the name of an individual member of the collective, acting as a key contact person and listed as the submitting officer, who meets the eligibility criteria for Professional Independent Artists. The key contact person will be held responsible for the application and subsequent report. If the application is successful, this person will receive payment of the award on behalf of the group.

Eligible Activity

Only activity taking place after the application is submitted will be eligible for support.

Direct touring costs will receive priority. Costs associated with tour planning, pre-production or remount expenses will receive lower priority.

In addition to the applicant eligibility criteria above, activity funded by the Touring Initiatives program will meet the following criteria:

A. *Representation at a Significant National or International Exhibition or Event:*

- The exhibition or event must take place outside of British Columbia.
- The exhibition or event must be professionally curated or programmed, with a clearly articulated process or rationale for the selection of work.
- An invitation to participate, including a written offer of exhibition or performance fee, must be provided.

B. *Market and Audience Development or Touring Opportunity:*

- The touring activity to be funded must take place outside British Columbia.
- The tour must have a minimum of three distinct venues in three different population areas outside B.C. Written confirmations from the hosting organizations, including venues, dates and fees to be paid, are required. Payment of any award may be conditional upon receiving all three written confirmations.

Note: Applications may be submitted for tours with fewer than three confirmed engagements but will be assessed as a lower priority for support. Applications with less than two confirmed engagements will be disqualified at the time of adjudication.

General Exclusions

- Operating costs
- Project phases that have begun prior to the date the application is submitted
- Fundraising
- Conferences or competitions
- Travel to international symposia
- Subsistence to artists or curators
- The creation or preparation of performances for competitions
- Projects that are secondary to other purposes (e.g. fundraising events, conventions, or family, religious or community celebrations or anniversaries)
- Cost of producing recordings or publications
- International travel costs of foreign artists visiting B.C.
- Capital expenses

Grant Amounts

Grant amounts for Project Assistance – Touring Initiatives will not exceed 50% of eligible project costs.

Assistance through this program is possible only once per BC Arts Council fiscal year (April 1-March 31).

Application Requirements

All applicants, especially new applicants to this program, are urged to discuss their request with their program officer prior to submission.

Applicants with anticipated requests of \$25,000 or greater must inform the program officer as soon as possible (preferably 18 months in advance of the project start date).

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure applications are complete. The BC Arts Council will not contact applicants to address errors or to request missing application requirements, including support material. Eligible applications will be assessed as they have been submitted.

All applicants must create an Applicant Profile by registering with the new online system before they can submit an application and should ensure all information and documentation in their online Profile is up-to-date with each subsequent application.

Applicants must submit a complete online application including a budget and all requested information and support material. All support materials must be submitted via the online system unless otherwise indicated.

Other than significant updates regarding the project submitted after the deadline, any material submitted in excess of or that does not meet the application requirements will not be submitted to the jury for review.

Support materials to be included in the online application:

- A balanced project budget, using the budget table provided in the online application. Please provide notes to the budget and indicate whether revenues are confirmed or pending.
- For applicants that have not previously received funding through this program: two letters of reference from established arts professionals familiar with the collective's or organization's work.
- An operating budget(s) for the fiscal year(s) in which the proposed project takes place (organizations only).
- A maximum 250-word bio for each member of the project's creative team. Please do not submit CVs.
- A tour itinerary.
- Written confirmations of engagement from the hosting organizations including fees/guarantees, dates and other information on venues.
- A list of confirmed or invited contacts or presenters attending the performances or exhibitions, if applicable.
- A résumé of the artist/organization's representative, if applicable.

For *Category B: Market and Audience Development or Touring Opportunity* applicants only (in addition to the above):

- The tour's marketing, market development, or public programming/outreach plan.

Portfolio Support Material Requirements for Touring Initiatives

Where available, submitted documentation should be for the work to be toured. Support material will not be returned.

For all applicants:

- Up to five pages of relevant press or critical documentation.

For Performing Arts applicants:

- No more than two contrasting audio or video recordings, to a maximum combined duration of three minutes.

For Visual Arts, Museums and Media Arts applicants:

- One catalogue of a recent exhibition (url or electronic file). Applicants may submit a hard copy catalogue only if unavailable as an electronic file; see online application for details.
- Audio-visual support material consisting of:
 - No more than two contrasting audio or video recordings, to a maximum combined duration of three minutes.

OR

- A maximum of five images with accompanying list.

For Literary Arts, Creative Writing and Publishing applicants only:

- Writing sample to a maximum of six pages.

Incorporated organizations must provide the following documentation through their Organizational Profile in the online system:

- A list of the organization's current board of directors, including their occupations and start dates.
- A list of current administrative and artistic/curatorial staff or significant contractors, giving name and title or responsibility (indicate if permanent/seasonal and full-time/part-time).
- One copy of the organization's most recent Financial Statements, in accordance with requirements outlined below.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Statements must include:

- a Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Notes;
- an itemized list of grants identified by funder, either in the income statement or in an attached schedule;
- a breakdown of operating net assets, distinguishing between unrestricted net assets and capital assets.
- two (2) comparative fiscal years;
- signature of the auditor/bookkeeper/accountant;
- signatures of two (2) board members of the organization, demonstrating board approval.

The type of Financial Statements required is based on the recipient's last BC Arts Council award (prior to the current fiscal year); in the case of new applicants, internally prepared financial statements are acceptable. Council staff reserve the right to request audited Financial Statements if deemed appropriate, regardless of the amount of the applicant's last award.

BC Arts Council Grant for last fiscal year	Minimum Required Documentation
Up to \$10,000	Internally prepared Financial Statements signed by two board members
\$10,001 - \$25,000	Independently prepared “Notice to Reader” Financial Statements
\$25,001 - \$100,000	“Review Engagement” Financial Statements
Greater than \$100,000	Audited Financial Statements

Considering Cultural Context

In [New Foundations: 2018-2022](#), the BC Arts Council has made a commitment to principles of equity, diversity, accessibility and truth and reconciliation in all of its programs and processes. In its own operations and in the funding and support it provides for arts and culture in the province, the BC Arts Council administers its activities in accordance with the [BC Human Rights Code](#) and strives to foster cultural safety and safe and respectful workplaces for all artists, arts workers and cultural practitioners.

The BC Arts Council is committed to the standards and principles of the [United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(the Declaration\)](#) and the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#). We support the Province of British Columbia in its commitment to fully adopt and implement both of these important documents.

The BC Arts Council acknowledges the cultural, geographic and regional diversity of the province, and recognizes the distinct and varied contexts of Indigenous, cultural and regional communities.

In consideration of these commitments, all applicants and assessors should contemplate a variety of factors around cultural context when submitting a proposal. Not all considerations will apply to all applications.

- Consider issues around cultural appropriation and ownership if using the cultural expressions, aesthetics or iconography of various communities removed from their social, political and cultural roots. Cultural appropriation can also occur when there is insufficient credit given to the sources of artistic and cultural work. Cultural appropriation diminishes access and reduces the opportunity for artists from Indigenous and diverse cultural communities to tell their own stories.
- If working with Indigenous peoples, communities, culture or intellectual property (including but not limited to stories, songs, dance, designs, art, traditional knowledge or other cultural expressions), consider the principles outlined in the [United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(the Declaration\)](#). The Declaration affirms that Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination and the right to practice and revive their culture and traditions. As stated in Article 11 of the Declaration this “includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.”
- Consider the reciprocity of relationships with the various communities and cultural practices represented in your application, and whose voices and perspectives are being included.

- Consider how you have addressed cultural protocols and/or received permissions where required, including appropriate community consent, support, advice and/or collaboration.

Assessment Criteria

The four areas of assessment are set out below, along with their relative weighting.

Throughout the application and assessment, applicants and the Jury should consider and discuss how the project fulfills the applicant's artistic objectives in each area of assessment

All applicants should:

- Discuss how the project addresses the applicant's mandate, mission and values in each area of assessment.
- Discuss how the project fulfills the applicant's artistic objectives in each area of assessment.

The Jury will consider a number of possible criteria under each area of assessment; not all will apply to every applicant but rather, they are aspects that will be considered and should be addressed in the application if relevant to the applicant and its work. Additionally, some criteria may have implications in more than one area of assessment.

Applications are judged against these criteria alongside a number of equally eligible applications.

In each area of assessment, the Jury considers the applicant's reflection on both past achievement and proposed plans. Applicants are encouraged to critically assess the challenges faced and the creative solutions under consideration.

ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTION AND SIGNIFICANCE (40%)

Applicants should define and demonstrate their artistic activity, showing how the proposed touring initiative will provide opportunities for artistic development and advance the art form or practice that is central to the work of the artist, collective, ensemble, group or organization. Jurors may consider the following points:

- Clarity, focus and vitality of the proposed project.
- Artistic/curatorial risk or challenges inherent in, or tackled by, the proposed project.
- The strength of the artistic intention in the work, the quality of the practice, and the development of the art form.
- Ability to realize the project artistically, based on previous successes and support material.
- Previous achievements of the artistic participant(s) individually and/or as a collective, ensemble, group or organization.
- The applicant's artistic/curatorial practice in the context of B.C.'s geographic, Indigenous and cultural diversity.
- Clear statements about compensation to every professional artist, curator or professional practitioner participating in the project including levels of professional fees.
- The significant and/or unique nature of the opportunity presented by the event/tour.
- The potential benefits to the development of the applicant, its artists and the professional arts community in B.C.
- Commitment to the development of B.C. artists and cultural practitioners.
- Consideration of cultural context in the artistic activity.

ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT (25%)

All projects are devised to involve particular artists, audiences, publics and/or communities. Applicants should identify the particular artists, audiences, publics and/or communities involved and show how the project will offer stimulating and varied forms of engagement. Engagement may include performance, exhibition or other presentation, artistic development, participation, discourse, outreach and/or education activity. Jurors may consider the following:

- Knowledge of the project's audience plus insight and strategies that will lead to further audience development.
- Commitment to work created by B.C. artists.
- The project's level of engagement in the context of B.C.'s geographic, Indigenous and cultural diversity.
- The inclusion of and engagement with appropriate protocols and practices, particularly in regard to Indigenous artists and communities.
- Risk-taking with regard to public engagement.
- Consideration of cultural context in engagement activity.

FEASIBILITY (25%)

This area of assessment considers the achievability of the project. Applicants should present the related past achievements and current practices and plans in place that the achievability of the project. Jurors may consider the following:

- Abilities in project management, including planning, audience development, marketing, communications (e.g. with collaborators, funders, media, peer artists) and financial management.
- Demonstrated capacity to realize the project, including presentation of realistic budget assumptions and projections.
- The diversity and appropriateness of the project's proposed budget, with appropriate levels of funding from sources other than the BC Arts Council, including earned revenues, federal and local government support, private funding, and in-kind support, as applicable.
- The overall suitability of the event/tour to the applicant's stated artistic and/or market development goals.
- The quality of working conditions for artists and cultural workers, including the commitment to cultural safety.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND AGILITY (10%)

This area of assessment considers the applicant's ability to work respectfully, knowledgeably and effectively with artists, practitioners and communities from a diversity of cultural backgrounds. Cultural competency and agility have particular implications in considering reconciliation and the cultural safety and self-determination of Indigenous peoples. Jurors may consider the following:

- Commitment and ability to foster cultural safety.
- Capacity to acknowledge, negotiate and respect differing cultural perspectives, worldviews and values.
- Reciprocity in artistic, cultural and community relationships.
- Ability to question organizational assumptions in a cultural context and willingness to learn in unfamiliar cultural situations.
- Ability to address cultural protocols and permissions where required, including appropriate community consent, support, advice and/or collaboration.
- Ethical use of material, including issues of cultural appropriation and ownership.
- Recognition of the impact of proposed artistic activity, including who will benefit from it.

Adjudication Process

Merit-based, independent assessment is the primary method of evaluation. All applications are assessed by peer review juries. Juries are comprised of individuals with expertise in particular artistic disciplines, genres or practices. When selecting jury and committee members, the Council considers broad professional knowledge, expertise, geographical representation and diverse aesthetic, institutional, and cultural viewpoints, including those from Indigenous perspectives.

The following process is used to evaluate every application:

- The British Columbia Arts Council receives applications via the online system.
- Council staff reviews applications for eligibility.
- The jury evaluates the applications using the assessment criteria outlined above and determines the level of funding and conditions on payment of awards.
- Council informs each applicant of the Jury's decision in writing.

Applicants are urged to contact their program officer for feedback on their applications.

Notification of Awards

Decisions will be made within sixteen weeks of the application deadline. Notification will be sent via the online system to the organizational and governance leadership contacts provided in the online application system (as applicable). Results will not be released by telephone or email.

Payment of Awards

All payments of grant monies to the grant recipient are subject to an authorizing appropriation under the Financial Administration Act.

Organizational grant recipients must promptly inform the BC Arts Council of substantive changes to the organization, including:

- Significant shifts in structure, staffing or activities;
- Major changes to proposed activities;
- Changes in legal status, ownership, corporate structure, name, or mandate;
- Danger of insolvency, bankruptcy, or credit protection;
- Legal proceedings that pose a financial or reputational risk.

The British Columbia Arts Council reserves the right to redistribute, delay or suspend payments if the recipient:

- Does not carry out its planned program of activities;
- Undergoes major changes in artistic or administrative direction;
- Does not meet its obligations as a grant recipient, including submission of final reports to the Council;
- Fails to comply with legal obligations;
- Fails to respect the commitment to provide a safe and respectful workplace free from harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct.

Final Reports

All recipients must submit a final report and requested documentation of the completed project to the BC Arts Council within 30 days of its completion date stated in the application for support. Final Report forms must be submitted through the [online system](#).

Future applications to project assistance programs will be ineligible if all reporting requirements are not met.

Confidentiality and Recognition of Awards

CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

The collection, use, and disclosure of personal information are subject to the privacy provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The applicant's information will be shared in confidence with members of the adjudication jury. The names and locations of successful award recipients may be published, along with the amount of the award, in the Annual Report of the BC Arts Council as well as in various communications and promotional vehicles of the BC Arts Council and Government of British Columbia. Social Insurance Numbers are provided to Canada and Revenue Agency through the issuance of T4As.

RECOGNITION OF ASSISTANCE

In recognition of funding, the support of the BC Arts Council and the Province of British Columbia should be acknowledged in all promotional materials, both hard copy and online. The approved BC Arts Council and provincial logo and graphics standards are available [online](#) in a variety of ready-to-use digital formats. The joint logo should be used on posters, brochures, print ads and programs and used where possible on media releases and signs related to the funded project.

As well, funded organizations with a website are encouraged to add a link to the BC Arts Council website.

Contact Information

The BC Arts Council is committed to assisting applicants present themselves as favourably as possible to the program juries. Ultimately, however, the responsibility for a complete and thorough application rests with the applicant.

All applicants are urged to establish their eligibility and discuss their proposal with the appropriate program officer prior to submitting an application.

Given the high volume of inquiries in the weeks before the deadline, please contact your program officer as far in advance as possible.

Additional information regarding BC Arts Council policies may also be found on the website or by contacting your program officer.

Contact Information:

Please visit the website for a [full list of program officers](#).

For general information or further assistance, please contact:

Telephone: 250-356-1718

or

Email: bcartscouncil@gov.bc.ca

**Program guidelines are reviewed annually.
Please ensure you are working with the most current program guidelines for each intake.**