



## MANDATE

**The British Columbia Arts Council supports the arts and cultural community by providing financial assistance, policy research, advocacy, and public education.**

## MISSION AND CORE VALUES

The mission of the Council is to engage all British Columbians in a healthy arts and cultural community that is recognized for its excellence. In pursuing this mission, the Council is guided by six core values:

1. The value of a vibrant arts and cultural community in the creation of a healthy society.
2. The value of artistic excellence in all art forms.
3. The value of inclusiveness and the fullest possible reflection of the province's Aboriginal and cultural diversity.
4. The value of encouraging artistic practice from traditional to experimental and established to emerging.
5. The value of administrative and adjudication processes which are transparent and that adhere to the principles of accountability, independence, recognition of merit, and equality of opportunity.
6. The value of defining clear goals, developed in consultation with the arts and culture community, to guide long and short-term operations.

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## Project Assistance for Visual Artists

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**This program assists professional visual artists, craft artists and independent critics and curators towards creation of specific projects. Applications may be made by individuals or a collaboration of two or more practitioners who share creative control of a project.**

## ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

All artists and practitioners strive for excellence in their work. The assessment of artistic excellence is central to the evaluation of requests for funding. The fact that everyone experiences artistic work in his/her own way makes the assessment of artistic quality difficult to discuss.

The Council's approach is to consider three dimensions of artistic work:

1. Idea – the intention or artistic impetus behind the work.
2. Practice – the effectiveness of how the work is put into practice and the impact it has on those experiencing it.
3. Development – the contribution the work makes to the development of the artist, the art form and the arts more widely.

All applicants to the British Columbia Arts Council are encouraged to submit concise, realistic requests, responding fully to the assessment criteria.

An essential element of any application is insightful, critical self-reflection. The Council believes that artists and arts organizations are well placed to assess the quality of the work they produce. Members of advisory committees and juries want to hear the applicant's own assessment of the problems faced and the creative solutions under consideration.

BC Arts Council programs are accessible to aboriginal artists or arts organizations and artists or arts organizations from diverse cultural and regional communities of British Columbia.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Under normal circumstances, to be eligible, an applicant must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident and have lived in British Columbia for one year immediately prior to application.
- Be a professional visual or craft artist or independent critic or curator, who has completed basic training and is no longer enrolled in full-time studies.
- Have completed two or more years of artistic practice subsequent to basic training, and, as a visual or craft artist, had two or more professionally curated exhibitions; or, as an independent curator or critic, curated two or more exhibitions or professionally published two or more works of critical writing.
- Be applying for a new project or re-applying for the first time, or, if the applicant has applied for the same project twice before, include substantial changes in the proposal.
- Have final creative control over the proposed work.
- Have completed and submitted final reports for any previous awards provided through the BC Arts Council.

For collaborative applications, each individual applicant must meet these eligibility criteria.

For independent curators and critics, awards are available for those who develop their practice independently from art organizations or institutions. Applicants may investigate the visual and media arts as well as museum practice.

### **Categories**

There are two categories of awards in this program:

Category 1: Awards up to \$5,000

Category 2: Awards up to \$10,000

Applicants are encouraged to apply to either category based on the scale and scope of their project.

### **Eligible Expenses**

Under normal circumstances, awards are available for:

- Subsistence (recipients of awards are expected to devote the majority of their time to their practise for the duration of the project).
- Costs of materials of the proposed new work.
- Funds to be paid to other creative artists required for the project.
- Travel expenses (including economy airfare, accommodation, per diem, and shipping costs) for travel to the first exhibition of work created with the assistance of the program.

## **Exclusions**

Under normal circumstances, awards are not available for:

- The mass reproduction or exhibition expenses of existing works.
- Capital expenses.
- Promotional expenses.

## **Adjudication Process**

The BC Arts Council will convene a jury of individuals active in professional visual arts to assess applications and make recommendations for awards to the Council, based on the eligibility criteria, the quality of submissions, and the Council's priorities, set out above. The Council will notify applicants of final decisions approximately fourteen weeks after the application deadline.

The BC Arts Council is committed to active partnerships in the development and dissemination of arts and cultural activity in British Columbia. Merit-based, independent assessment is the primary method of evaluation.

While the Council makes every effort to respond swiftly to each application, in the interests of fairness, the following process is used to evaluate every application:

- The Council receives applications at any time, but adjudicates them only once each fiscal year.
- The Council acknowledges receipt of applications in writing.
- The Council's staff review applications to confirm the eligibility of applicants and projects and prepare materials to forward to the jury.
- The Council's staff convene a jury of professional visual artists to assess applications and decide on recipients of awards.
- The Council informs each applicant of the decision in writing.
- Awards are paid to applicants only upon receipt of a confirmed project schedule, and proof that other necessary sources of funding and resources have been secured.

## **Assessment Criteria**

In a competitive process, the Jury will consider each application according to three areas: artistic achievement, community engagement, and feasibility.

### **Artistic Achievement**

This criterion encourages applicants to define and demonstrate excellence in their artistic activity, showing how the proposed project will advance the art form or practice that is central to the work of the artist or collective. Jurors will consider the following points:

- Artistic merit of the proposed project.
- Clarity, focus and vitality of the proposed project.
- Artistic risk or challenges inherent in, or tackled by, the proposed project.
- Ability to realize the project artistically, based on previous successes and support material.
- Previous achievements of the artistic creator(s) individually and/or as a collective.
- The applicant's artistic practice in the context of BC's geographic, aboriginal and cultural diversity.
- Clear statements about compensation to professionals participating in the project.

### **Community Engagement**

All projects are devised to involve particular artists, audiences and/or communities. This criterion encourages the applicant to identify the particular artists, audiences and/or communities involved. Engagement may include artistic development, participation, discourse and/or education. Jurors will consider the following points:

- Commitment to work with BC and Canadian artists.
- The project's level of engagement in the context of BC's geographic, aboriginal and cultural diversity.
- Risk taking with regard to public engagement.

### **Feasibility**

This criterion considers the achievability of the project. Jurors will consider the following points:

- Abilities in project management.
- Abilities in financial management including feasibility of planned expenses and viability of proposed revenues including, as applicable, a diversity of sources of revenue.

Juries base decisions on the written proposal and the visual support material the applicant provides. Although no specific weighting is given to these materials, applications that are funded usually have strong elements in both areas.

### **Application Requirements**

Applications require detailed submissions, and must include:

- A signed, completed Project Assistance for Visual Artists application form.
- A detailed description of the proposed work (2-4 pages).
- A résumé of the applicant that lists professional training, significant exhibitions and shows, and related artistic activities (maximum 3 pages).
- A budget listing realistic expenses and sources of other funding (confirmed or unconfirmed where appropriate) for the proposed work.
- Documentation of recent completed work:
  - Visual and Craft Artists:**
    - a maximum of 19 images (slides, photographs, jpgs) or
    - video documentation (maximum 10 minutes, ½" VHS, 16mm film, or DVD)
  - Independent Critics and Curators:**
    - clear photocopies of three published texts, articles or catalogues and/or
    - up to 15 images documenting the work of the artists who will be the focus of the research or project.
- A list of support materials (aka "slide list").
- A self-addressed, stamped envelope, for return of support materials, (or materials will be discarded post-adjudication process).

Optional:

Applicants may submit two letters from recognized arts professionals that assess the proposed project and the artist's ability to carry it out. Letters are optional but recommended, particularly if members of the jury may be unfamiliar with an applicant's work. The applicant may submit these letters on "Letter of Assessment" forms which are available from the BC Arts Council website.

The BC Arts Council does not accept responsibility for loss of or damage to submitted materials. Applicants should label all submitted materials with their name and contact information. Printed materials

must be in black, double-spaced text and a single font no smaller than 12-point, on white, single-sided, letter-sized paper, suitable for photocopying. Do not staple or bind submissions, or affix materials to the application form. The Council will not accept written materials in other formats.

### **Recognition of Assistance**

All recipients must submit a final report and documentation of the completed work to the Council. Future applications will not be considered until the applicant meets all reporting requirements.

In recognition of funding, the support of the BC Arts Council and the Province of British Columbia should be acknowledged in all promotional materials. Approved acknowledgement, along with logo and graphics standards, are available online in a variety of ready-to-use digital formats at [www.bcartscouncil.ca](http://www.bcartscouncil.ca). The 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.

For information regarding the provincial logo, please contact the Public Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts.

Under normal circumstances, if a project is dependent on funding from other sources, approved awards will not be paid until funding from other sources is confirmed.

### **Maximum Assistance Levels for the Project Assistance Program**

Category I: up to \$5,000

Category II: up to \$10,000

### **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*. Your personal information will be used to administer the BC Arts Council Project Assistance for Visual Artists program and process your application. The names and locations of successful award recipients will be published along with the amount of the award in the Annual Report of the BC Arts Council. Social Insurance Numbers are provided to Canada Customs and Revenue Agency through the issuance of T4As.

### **Application Deadline**

Applications must be delivered or postmarked by the following deadline:

- November 15, 2009

Note: if the deadline falls on a weekend or statutory holiday, the deadline becomes the next business day.



For an electronic application form go to <http://bcartscouncil.ca> and select Logon to Apply Online. You will be prompted for a user ID and password. If you do not have a user ID and password, please contact the BC Arts Council at (250) 356-1718 or [bcartscouncil@gov.bc.ca](mailto:bcartscouncil@gov.bc.ca).

To download a printable version of the application form select Download printable form at <http://www.bcartscouncil.ca/guidelines/artists/visualartists/>.