



BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL

An agency of the Province of British Columbia

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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.

Project Assistance – Music Commissioning Awards

This program assists the creation and first performance of new works by British Columbia composers and commissioners.

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; and
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.

GUIDELINES

Eligibility Criteria

A. Applicant

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

- Be one of:
 - a music organization (symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra, chamber music group, opera company, choir, contemporary music group, music training organization that maintains full-time training ensembles, etc.) that has been operating as a non-profit society in good standing in the Province of British Columbia for a minimum of one year, or
 - an unincorporated musical artist or ensemble, or
 - a professional non-profit performing arts organization (dance company, theatre company, etc.) that has been operating as a non-profit society in good standing in the Province of British Columbia for a minimum of one year and wishes to commission functional music or sound design;
- Be permanently based in the Province of British Columbia, and have a history of developing and performing new works.
- Intend to present the commissioned work in public within two years of applying.
- Compensate composers by paying appropriate fees, and adhere to the *Canadian Copyright Act*; specifically, the applicant may contract for performance rights of the commissioned work, but may not infringe the composer's ownership of the work.

Note: An applicant/commissioner may submit up to two applications per year to this program.

B. Composer

To be eligible, an applicant must commission a work from a composer who is:

- A professional composer, i.e. one who has completed all basic training and has created a recognized professional body of work.
- Not a full-time student.
- Either a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident, and resident in British Columbia for at least 12 months immediately prior to the application.

Note: A composer may receive more than one award in this program in a year.

C. Costs

Awards under this program are for composers' fees and score copying. These costs must satisfy the following criteria:

- The composer's fee depends on the length of the composition, the type of orchestration (solo, symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra, choir, electro-acoustic music, etc.) and the number of musicians required. Although the composer's fee is a matter of negotiation between the composer and applicant, the fee schedule of the Canadian League of Composers should be used as a guideline for minimum payments under this program. When appropriate, librettist's fees for original work may be eligible.
- The composer is responsible for producing a readable and usable score. Eligible copy costs are for reproduction of two master scores and extraction of one full set of parts.
- Specific expenses related to electro-acoustic compositions may also be considered.

Exclusions

Works already completed, arrangements of existing works, film scores, and music for gallery installations are not eligible for assistance. Artistic and musical directors may not commission themselves. In addition, the following costs are ineligible: recording, promotional or production costs; instrument purchase or manufacturing; recopying of the original score; or revisions to the original score.

Application Procedure

All applicants must discuss their proposal with a program officer prior to submitting an application.

Applications require detailed submissions, and must include:

- A signed, completed Music Commissioning Awards application form that addresses all application questions and includes a description of the project, including the scheduled premiere date, a draft contract with the composer.
- Information about the composer, including the résumé of the composer, and a list of major compositions.
- Information about the applicant, including, as applicable, résumés of principal performers, names and titles of principal administrative and artistic staff, annual financial statements, and documentation of previous work.
- Three representative recordings of the composer's previous work, on an indexed and labelled compact disc, or on separate, cued and labelled audio cassette tapes, with the information indicating name of composer, order and title of works, year of composition, and instrumentation.
- Scores for the recordings.
- A letter (one page maximum) from the composer discussing the proposed commission and any special notes on the works being presented.
- A self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of scores and recordings.

Adjudication Process

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 for completeness and accuracy, and prepare an analysis of the applicant's administration, financial management, and sustainability.
- The discipline-specific Projects Jury then evaluates the applications on the basis of the assessment criteria, and determines the level of funding and conditions on the payment of awards.
- The Council informs each applicant of the decision. Applicants may seek feedback on their application from the program officer.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The Jury will consider each application according to three criteria: 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 commissioner and the composer. Jurors will consider the following points:

- Clarity and focus
- Originality and vitality
- 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 participant(s) individually and as a collective, ensemble, or organization
- Potential benefit to the professional arts community and the opportunities provided for professional BC artists, including aboriginal and culturally diverse artists
- Clear statements about compensation to every professional artist participating in the project
- Possibility of repeat performances

Community Engagement and the Development of Artists

This criterion encourages the applicant to show how the project will offer stimulating and varied forms of public engagement, primarily through performance but also through audience and artistic development, participation, discourse and education, or other opportunities. Jurors will consider the following points:

- Knowledge of the project's audience plus insight and strategies that will lead to possible further audience development
- Commitment to work created by BC and Canadian artists, new collaborations, including emerging or under-recognized artists, artistic practices, and forms
- Accessibility of the project to artists and audiences, including artists and audiences of Aboriginal, culturally diverse and/or regional communities
- Risk taking with regard to public engagement

Feasibility

This criterion considers the achievability of the project. The following points will be considered by the jurors:

- Abilities in project management, including planning, audience development, marketing, communications (e.g. with collaborators, funders, media, peer artists) and financial management
- Demonstrated capacity to promote this project
- Choice of venue

The jury's decisions will be made within approximately fourteen weeks of the application deadline. The Council will notify all applicants by letter, and will not release results by telephone.

Changes to Awards

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

- 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 regular submission of reports to the Council.

Recognition of Assistance

The commissioning artist(s) or organization, as the applicant for the award, is responsible for informing the composer of the conditions of the award, paying the composer, and for informing the BC Arts Council of the premiere performance date.

If the jury applies no conditions, the Council normally pays awards in full upon approval. However, the Council reserves the right to withhold a portion of the grant, payable upon completion of the work and filing of a final report.

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. 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 Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts' Public Affairs Bureau.

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 Music Commissioning Awards 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.

Maximum Assistance

Awards may assist with eligible project costs, to a maximum of \$7,500 per commission.

Application Deadline

- August 31, 2009



For an electronic application form or to download a printable version of the application form, go to: <http://bcartscouncil.ca/> and select [Online Applications](#).

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.