



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. Artistic excellence in all art forms.
2. Vibrant arts and cultural communities central to the creation of a healthy society.
3. Breadth of artistic activity - from emerging to established, from classical to experimental and from traditional to contemporary.
4. Inclusiveness, while respecting B.C.'s Aboriginal arts and culture.
5. Clear goals, developed in consultation with the arts and cultural communities, to guide short and long-term operations.
6. Fair and transparent administrative and adjudicative processes that adhere to the principles of accountability, independence recognition of merit, and equality of opportunity.

PROFESSIONAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE – PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE or DANCE)

Professional Project Assistance supports initiatives in the creation, development, production and/or live performance of classical, experimental, original and traditional art forms from all world cultures. Grants are intended to contribute to the successful realization of a single event or activity. The maximum contribution to a project in this program is 50% of the total budget of the project. Receipt of funding does not guarantee assistance in subsequent years.

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.

GUIDELINES

General Eligibility

An eligible applicant must:

- Be readily identified as a professional BC independent artist, collective, group or ensemble; or
- Be an organization registered and in good standing as a not-for-profit society in the Province of British Columbia and a professional performing arts organization; and
- Be based in British Columbia and working to develop audiences in BC.
- Employ competent artistic and management leadership as demonstrated in previous achievements, collaborations, partnerships, relationships, etc.
- Compensate artists by paying fees at industry standards and by adhering to international copyright law.
- Provide a project budget that demonstrates a diversified revenue base, with significant funding from sources other than the BC Arts Council, such as earned revenues, federal and local government support, and private funding.
- Have completed and submitted final reports for any outstanding project assistance provided by the BC Arts Council.
- Demonstrate the need for financial assistance, as defined by Council policy (see Essential Information).

Specific Eligibility Criteria

Professional Independent Artist

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

- Have worked in their discipline as a professional for at least two years following completion of basic studies.

Professional Collectives, Groups and Ensembles

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

- Have worked together for a period of at least two years, producing a recognized body of work.

Organizations Only

In addition to the General Eligibility an organization must:

- Provide externally prepared financial statements, either in the form of an audit or a review engagement (see Essential Information).

Exclusions

- Subsistence to artists.
- The creation or preparation of performances for competitions.
- Projects where the performance is secondary to other purposes (e.g. fundraising events, conventions, or family, religious or community celebrations).
- Cost of producing 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 by the program deadline date.
- The Council acknowledges receipt of applications in writing.
- The Council's staff review applications for eligibility, completeness and accuracy.
- The discipline-specific Projects Jury then evaluates the applications on the basis of the assessment criteria below and determines the level of funding and conditions on the payment of awards.
- The Council informs each applicant of the decision in writing. Applicants are urged to seek feedback on applications.

Please note that the following weighting will apply in the jury's assessment of your application.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The Jury will consider each application according to three areas: artistic achievement, community engagement, and feasibility.

Artistic Achievement (50%)

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, collective, ensemble or organization. Jurors will consider the following points:

- 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 participant(s) individually and/or as a collective, ensemble, or organization.
- The applicant's artistic practice in the context of BC's geographic, aboriginal and cultural diversity.
- Clear statements about compensation to every professional artist participating in the project.

Community Engagement (25%)

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 and to show how the project will offer stimulating and varied forms of engagement. Engagement may include performance, artistic development, participation, discourse and/or education. Jurors will consider the following points:

- Knowledge of the project's audience plus insight and strategies that will lead to further audience development.
- Commitment to work created by 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 (25%)

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

- Abilities in project management, including planning, audience development, marketing, communications (i.e. with collaborators, funders, media, peer artists) and financial management.

Application Requirements

All applicants should contact the program officer with any questions.

Applicants must provide a signed, completed application form; all requested information; and clearly identified support materials.

NOTE: For unincorporated groups, collectives and ensembles, the application is to be signed by a key contact person ("submitting officer"), who will be held responsible for the application. If the application is successful, this person will receive payment of the award on behalf of the group.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that recordings are playable and in DVD, CD, MP3 or MP4 formats.

All applications must include (see Application Checklist on application form):

- A signed, completed *Professional Project Assistance- Performing Arts* application form, including detailed project budget.
- A written statement of no more than six pages, font 11 or greater.
- Maximum 250-word bio for each member of the project's creative team.
- Material supporting the history of the applicant's creation, development, production, or dissemination of their discipline in British Columbia, including any appropriate press or critical documentation.
- Optional: Audio/visual support material. Material will be accepted in the following formats only: DVD, CD, MP3, MP4 and should be pre-cued, no longer than 2 minutes in length. (No more than two contrasting recordings are required for music applicants). If you are submitting support material, a Performing Arts Support Material Sheet is required.
- Applicants requesting support for a new work are **strongly** encouraged to submit a script, score (samples to be no longer than 20 pages), or examples of preliminary movement research. Again, if you are submitting support material, a Performing Arts Support Material Sheet is required.
- Up to two letters of reference from established professionals familiar with the artist's or company's work (optional for previous recipients of awards under this program).

For professional organizations, the following additional information is required:

- A list of the organization's current board of directors or trustees, including their occupations.
- A list of principal administrative and artistic staff or significant contractors, giving name and title or responsibility.
- One copy of the organization's most recent Financial Statements (see Essential Information).

Only applications containing a self-addressed stamped envelope with sufficient postage will have media support materials returned.

Maximum Assistance Levels for the Project Assistance Program

Project assistance will not exceed 50% of the total project budget.

Application Deadline (by online application system, or postmarked)

The deadline for *Professional Project Assistance- Performing Arts* applications is:

- April 15, 2010



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.

To download a printable version of the application form select Download printable from at http://www.bcartscouncil.ca/guidelines/artists/performingarts/project_assistance.html.