



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.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE – ARTS-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Awards are available to assist with projects that develop and extend the practice and understanding of arts-based community development through the processes of creating art; producing events; and developing resource materials for arts-based community development practitioners.

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

Description



In arts-based community development work, professional artists assist communities¹ - through arts-centred activity - to gain awareness of their own power as culture makers and contribute to that community's advancement of creative productivity, celebration, human dignity and health and well-being. These include activities that: transfer knowledge; celebrate uniqueness; improve infrastructure; nurture and heal and inspire and motivate a specified community.

Support may be provided for projects that: create new work; advance the practice of arts-based community development; and enhance the capacity of artists to provide leadership in this field. In acknowledgement that community processes can be lengthy, long-term or phased projects will be considered if indicated on the first application form requesting support. Applications are required annually for phased projects, and support is not guaranteed in subsequent years.

This program provides support based upon the following principles:

- a. That art can be an effective mechanism for social transformation; one that can be less polarizing and create deeper connections than other avenues of social change.
- b. That arts-based community development is a respectful, collaborative process whereby professional artist(s) working as a catalyst, engage the community in the creation of art in various disciplines.
- c. That arts-based community development can better realize its full potential through partnerships between professional artists and community organizations as equal contributors.
- d. That the quality of the work's outcome is as important as the process.
- e. That the community is involved at every level including the development of the creative ideas, and in the creation and/or presentation of the artwork.
- f. That participating in collective creation is a powerful act of civic involvement.

Categories

There are **two** categories of support offered through the Arts-based Community Development Program:

1. **New Work** – the purpose of this category is to support one-time projects that create new artistic work through community-based arts and cultural activity. It is expected that these projects will have a specified public outcome.

Proposals must show evidence of the advancement of community aspirations, and effective community participation in the creative process, direction and management of the project.

2. **Skills Development and Knowledge Transfer** – The purpose of this category is to enhance the capacity of artists to provide leadership to the field by offering them an opportunity to explore and discuss their creative practice and/or to create opportunities for arts-based community development practitioners to realize new ways of presenting the outcomes of existing best-practice models to new audiences.

Individuals, organizations and communities may apply to this category for a project that will assist in developing skills to initiate and conduct arts-based community development activities.

¹ For the purposes of this program, a **community** is a group of people with common interests defined by place, tradition, intention or spirit.

Proposals must show:

- That access to information about arts-based community development practice is improved.
- That the project will lead to improved skills as well as future projects and activities.
- Clearly identified goals, strategies and expected outcomes, including an evaluation plan for the project.
- Effective and appropriate arts-based community development processes and a commitment to improving community ownership of cultural projects.
- A capacity to contribute to the understanding and progression of arts-based community development among new audiences, or sectors new to the practice.
- An effective plan to share information and skills with the broader arts community.

Who Can Apply?

Proposals are invited from:

1. **Registered not-for-profit community or professional arts organizations, or**
2. **Registered, not-for-profit community organizations whose focus is not arts or culture in collaboration with professional² artist(s)** in any discipline, traditional or contemporary, who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents residing in BC for at least one year prior to the time of application, or
3. **First Nations Band Councils or Friendship Centres.**

General Assessment Criteria

- The originality and artistic quality of the concept.
- The potential for the project to further the practice and understanding of arts-based community development.
- The calibre of the identified project team members, with skills appropriate to the proposed activities.
- Evidence that the proposal:
 - Is well planned and achievable.
 - Has adequate resources and support from a range of key partners.
 - Includes strategies for the evaluation of the expected outcomes.
 - Clearly articulates a post-project follow-up plan to support participants who may be considered vulnerable. (if applicable)

Exclusions

The BC Arts Council **will not** accept applications from teams of people lacking either one of the following:

- Confirmed professional artistic expertise, or
- Community development expertise.

Proposals from other government agencies are not eligible, and assistance for repeat activities will not be provided (with exception of projects which have previously indicated a phased approach).

² For the purposes of this program, an **artist** is considered to be a **professional** if he or she:

- a) has completed their basic education, which may have been an apprenticeship or internship, instruction from elders, study at an art school or university, or other forms of guided learning;
- b) has produced a body of work;
- c) is recognized by his or her peers through public presentation of work; and
- d) would, if it were feasible, work full-time at their art practice.

Application Deadline

- July 30, 2010 (by online application system or postmarked)

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

Maximum and Minimum Assistance

Awards will not exceed 50% of the professional costs associated with the project. There is no posted maximum request. The minimum request eligible under the program is \$500.00.

Application Requirements

Applicants must discuss their project proposals with the Program Officer prior to submitting an application.

Applications must include evidence of a confirmed collaboration with a professional artist including a completed Arts-Based Community Development **Professional Artist Information Form** for each member of the creative team to be engaged in the project. If available, this should include support material documenting artist(s)' previous related work. Only applications containing a self-addressed stamped envelope with sufficient postage will have support materials returned.



Contact BC Arts Council:

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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, [click here](#) and select Download printable form.