
PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2019/20

PROJECT ASSISTANCE: Professional Arts Festivals

Important Update for 2019/20:

In July 2018, the BC Arts Council (BCAC) released the [New Foundations: Strategic Plan for the BC Arts Council 2018-2022](#). As part of the implementation of *New Foundations*, BCAC will be revising existing program eligibility and assessment criteria over the coming year to fully align with the new strategic directions and priorities. However, in order to best serve BCAC clients, accommodate existing program deadlines and honour the plan's commitment to consultation, BCAC is taking a phased approach in rolling out these changes.

As there have been preliminary changes to the program guidelines and application form this year to reflect the new strategic directions and priorities, please ensure you review all program materials thoroughly.

All applicants are encouraged to review [New Foundations: Strategic Plan for the BC Arts Council 2018-2022](#) in order to acquaint themselves with the BCAC's priorities for the coming years.

Territory Acknowledgement

The BC Arts Council acknowledges that it carries out its work on the land of Indigenous nations throughout British Columbia. We are grateful for the continuing relationships with Indigenous people in B.C. that develop through our work together. We acknowledge and raise our hands to the Lkwungen people, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose ancestral lands we operate our main offices.

General Information

Professional Project Assistance provides one-time grants that contribute to the successful realization of activities by professional B.C. organizations, collectives and individuals not currently in receipt of Operating Assistance.

The maximum contribution within the Project Assistance Program is 50% of the total budget of the project. Receipt of funding does not guarantee assistance in subsequent years.

About Project Assistance: Professional Arts Festivals

Project Assistance: Professional Arts Festivals supports initiatives in the development, enrichment and creation of new or unique public programs within existing arts festivals. Awards are available once each fiscal year on a project basis to assist with the activities of professional arts festivals in British Columbia. Awards under this program are intended to encourage specific art forms or practices, increase the availability of professional arts to the community, and build the artistic programming of festivals.

Applicants must apply for support for a specific project, component or programming initiative within their existing festival that responds to one or more of these intentions. The project, component or programming initiative must be clearly identified and described in the application. Applicants must also provide a clear rationale for the project, component or programming initiative within the overall context and history of their existing festival. The program is not available to recipients of Operating Assistance from the BC Arts Council.

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BC Arts Council program guidelines and application forms are revised annually.

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

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant Eligibility – General Criteria

An eligible applicant must:

- Be a professional arts organization registered and in good standing as a non-profit society in the Province of British Columbia for at least one year.
- Be based in British Columbia and offer programming in B.C.
- Engage competent, professional artistic/curatorial and management leadership, as demonstrated in 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 currently receive Operating Assistance from the BC Arts Council.
- Have operated and offered public programming for a minimum of one year as a non-profit society.

General Exclusions for Professional Project Assistance

Awards are not available for:

- Operating costs.
- Projects that have begun prior to the application deadline.
- Project/budget deficits.
- Capital expenditures (construction, renovation, or purchase of property or equipment).
- Fundraising.
- Start-up costs or seed money.
- Feasibility studies.
- For-profit entities.
- International travel costs of foreign artists visiting British Columbia.
- Travel to international symposia.
- Conferences or competitions.
- The creation or preparation of work for competitions.
- Projects that are secondary to other purposes (e.g. fundraising events, conventions, or family, religious or community celebrations or anniversaries).
- Subsistence to artists, curators or other arts professionals.
- Projects or activities that are funded through other programs of the BC Arts Council or its third party delivery partners.

Ineligible applications will not be reviewed by the Jury.

Application Requirements

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

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

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure applications are complete and all application requirements are included. The BC Arts Council will not contact applicants to address errors in applications or missing application requirements, including support material, other than that required to determine eligibility. Eligible applications and any supporting material will be assessed as they have been submitted.

All applications must include:

- A completed Project Assistance online application including:

- A statement of intent. Please see application form for full requirements.
- One copy of your organization’s most recent Financial Statements.
- Maximum 250-word bio for each member of the creative team. Please do not send CVs.
- A budget for the festival in which your proposed project/component/programming initiative takes place.
- A completed Summary of Festival Activities Form.
- Six copies of the program from the applicant’s most recent festival.

Support material will not be returned.

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; and,
- a breakdown of operating net assets, distinguishing between unrestricted net assets and capital assets.

The type of Financial Statements required is based on the recipient’s last BC Arts Council award (excluding special projects); in the case of new applicants, internally prepared financial statements are acceptable. Internally prepared financial statements must show two years of activity and be signed by two board members of the organization. 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 All Financial Statements must be signed by the auditor/bookkeeper/accountant with Board approval (two Board member signatures)
Up to \$10,000	Internally prepared Financial Statements
\$10,001 - \$25,000	Independently prepared 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:

- For organizations: Consider and discuss how the project addresses the applicant’s mandate, mission and values in each area of assessment.
- For all applicants: Consider and discuss how the project fulfills the applicant’s artistic/training objectives in each area of assessment.

In evaluating each application, the Jury is asked to consider a number of possible criteria under each area of assessment. It is important to note that not all of the criteria will apply to each application; rather, they are examples of aspects that might be considered and should be addressed in the application if relevant to the applicant, the applicant’s history and/or the proposed project. 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 project will advance the art form or practice that is central to their work.

Jurors may discuss the following:

- 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 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 potential benefits to the development of the applicant, 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 to show how the project will offer stimulating and varied forms of engagement. Engagement may include supporting the creation or publication of literary work or social, cultural, or intellectual commentary or inquiry; the development of literary and related artists or professionals; audience engagement and participation; organizational development; discourse; and/or education.

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. arts professionals.
- 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 criterion considers the achievability of the project. Applicants should present the related past achievements and current practices and plans in place that demonstrate 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, other arts professionals) 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 quality of working conditions for artists and cultural workers, including the commitment to cultural safety.
- The applicant's financial position, including appropriate management of surplus or deficit situations, reserve and/or restricted funds, and working capital ratio.

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.
- Consideration of the impact of proposed artistic activity, including who will benefit from it.

Application Deadline and Submission

The deadline for the Project Assistance: Professional Arts Festivals is **October 15, 2019**.

NEW!

Applications are accepted via our **NEW** online system **no later than** 11:59 p.m. on October 15, 2019.

Please note that you will have to register to our new online system *before* you can submit and application to this program. **The registration period can take up to 2 days**, so please plan accordingly.



Applications by mail, email or fax will not be accepted.

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 and acknowledges receipt by email within 2 weeks of the deadline date.
- 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 its decision in writing.
- Applicants are urged to contact their program officer for feedback on their applications.

Grant Amounts

Project assistance will not exceed 50% of the total project budget. Assistance through this program is possible only once per BC Arts Council fiscal year (April 1- March 31).

Notification of Awards

Decisions will be made within sixteen weeks of the application deadline. All applicants will be notified by letter. 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 are available at: <http://www.bcartscouncil.ca/forms.htm>.

Future applications to project assistance programs will be ineligible if all reporting requirements are not met. Final reports may be scanned and submitted electronically to BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca or by mail or courier.

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 at <http://www.bcartscouncil.ca/mediaroom/logoanduse.htm>. 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

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

A full list of program officers is available at <http://www.bcartscouncil.ca/about/coordinators.htm>.

For general information or further assistance, please contact:

Telephone: 250 356-1718
Email: bcartscouncil@gov.bc.ca

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