
PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2019/20

PROJECT ASSISTANCE FOR VISUAL ARTISTS

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

About Project Assistance for Visual Artists

Awards are made to assist Professional Visual Artists, Contemporary and Traditional Craft Artists and Independent Critics and Curators with the creation of specific projects by providing funds towards subsistence, materials, and/or other related project costs.

Application Deadline and Submission

The deadline for the Project Assistance for Visual Artists Program is **November 15, 2019, no later than 11:59 p.m.** All applications will be submitted via online application.



Applicants need to register on the new online system *before* submitting an application. **Please note that approval of a new registration request may take up to 4 business days.** New registrants will be notified of approval and access to grant applications. Applications by mail, email or fax will not be accepted.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility Criteria

An eligible 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 all basic training (not necessarily in academic institutions) and is not 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 for which they have received exhibition fees; or, as an independent curator or critic, curated two or more exhibitions or professionally published two or more works of critical writing for which they have received professional fees.
- Be applying for the first or second time with the same new work, or, if the applicant has applied for the same project twice before, have substantively changed the proposal.
- Have final creative control over the proposed work.
- Compensate artists and arts and cultural professionals at industry standards and adhere to international intellectual property rights standards and cultural ownership protocols (see Considering Cultural Context, below).

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

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

Applicants who have received at least one grant to assist with the creation of work through the First Peoples' Cultural Council Indigenous Arts Program, and have submitted a final report for that grant, may also apply.

Eligible Costs

Under normal circumstances, awards are available to support:

- Subsistence (recipients of awards are expected to devote most of their time to their practice for the duration of the project).
- Costs of materials of the project.
- Equipment and space rental (as applicable).
- Funds to be paid to other creative artists required for the project.
- Travel expenses relevant to realizing the project.

Ineligible Activities

Under normal circumstances, awards are not available for:

- Projects previously assisted through this program.
- The mass reproduction or exhibition expenses of existing works.
- Expenses incurred prior to the application date.
- Promotional expenses.
- Purchases of equipment or other capital costs.
- Commissioned works.
- Projects substantially funded through other provincial government agencies.

Grant Amounts

There are two categories of awards in this program:

Category 1: Awards up to \$7,500

Category 2: Awards up to \$15,000

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

Assistance through this program is possible only once per BC Arts Council fiscal year (April 1- March 31).

Application Requirements

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

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure applications are complete. The BC Arts Council will not contact applicants to address errors or to request missing application requirements, including support material. Eligible applications will be assessed as they have been submitted.

All applicants must create an Applicant Profile by registering with the new online system *before* they can submit an application and should ensure all information and documentation in their online Profile is up-to-date with each subsequent application.

Applicants must submit a complete online application including a budget and all requested information and support material. All support materials must be submitted via the online system unless otherwise indicated.

Support materials to be included in the online application:

- A Curriculum Vitae of the applicant(s) that includes professional training, related artistic activities and a detailed publication/exhibition/production history including titles and dates (3 page maximum).
- Images/Media List: listing dimensions, materials, and dates of production of works. Presentation order of images is important – chronological order is preferable.
- Portfolio of recent completed work, as follows:

Visual and Craft Artists:

- a maximum of 15 images, or
- a maximum 10 minutes of video documentation

Independent Critics and Curators:

- up to three published texts, articles or catalogues (maximum 20 pages total), and/or
- up to 15 images or maximum 10 minutes of video documenting the work of the artists who will be the focus of the research or project, or
- up to 15 or maximum 10 minutes of video images documenting a previous exhibition

The maximum file size is 2GB.

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 areas of assessment are set out below, along with their relative weighting.

Throughout the application, applicants should discuss how the project fulfills their artistic objectives in each area of assessment.

The Jury will consider a number of possible criteria under each area of assessment; not all will apply to every applicant but rather, they are aspects that will be considered, and should be addressed in the application if relevant to the applicant and their work. 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 detailed written statement and support material provided. Applicants are encouraged to critically assess the challenges faced and the creative solutions under consideration.

ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTION AND SIGNIFICANCE (75%)

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 consider the following:

- Clarity, focus, and vitality of the proposed project.
- Artistic 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.
- The applicant’s artistic practice in the context of B.C.’s geographic, Indigenous and cultural diversity.
- Clear statements about compensation to every professional artist and 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.
- Consideration of cultural context in the artistic activity.

FEASIBILITY AND IMPACT (25%)

Applicants should define and demonstrate the feasibility and impact of the project. Applicants should present related past works and proposed plans. Jurors may consider the following:

- Demonstrated capacity to realize the project, including presentation of realistic budget assumptions and projections.
- The inclusion of and engagement with appropriate protocols and practices, particularly in regard to Indigenous artists and communities.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND AGILITY

Although not a scored assessment criterion, when working with artists, practitioners and communities from a diversity of cultural backgrounds, it is expected that applicants will work respectfully, knowledgeably and effectively. Cultural competency and agility has particular implications in considering reconciliation and the cultural safety and self-determination of Indigenous peoples.

Applicants should consider and speak to, where required, the following factors, which may be considered with respect to the assessment criteria:

- 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 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.

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 via online system
- 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 the Jury's decision in writing.
- Applicants are urged to contact their program officer for feedback on their applications. Due to the volume of applications received, the level of specific feedback on applications may vary.

Notification of Awards

Decisions will be made within sixteen weeks of the application deadline. Notification will be sent via email to the contact provided in the online application. 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.

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.

Grants are taxable income and must be reported as such. Individuals receiving grants on their own behalf or on behalf of a collective are issued T4As for the year in which the grant payment is processed.

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 must be submitted through the online system.

Future applications to project assistance programs will be ineligible if all reporting requirements are not met.

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 <https://www.bcartscouncil.ca/bcartscouncil/funding/logo-and-acknowledgement/>. 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.

Funded projects with a website are encouraged to add a link to the BC Arts Council website.

Contact Information

All applicants must discuss their request with their program officer prior to submission.

Walter Quan – Program Officer
Phone number 778-698-3527 | walter.quan@gov.bc.ca

A full list of program officers is available at <https://www.bcartscouncil.ca/bcartscouncil/about/staff-directory/>.

For general information or further assistance, please contact:

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