

Extending Foundations

ACTION PLAN FOR THE BC ARTS COUNCIL 2022-2024



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

The BC Arts Council acknowledges it carries out its work on the traditional territories of Indigenous nations throughout British Columbia. We pay our respects to the Elders, past and present, descendants and custodians of these lands. We honour the knowledge keepers and the continuing relationships with Indigenous peoples in B.C. that develop through our work together. The BC Arts Council is grateful to the ləkʷəŋən (Songhees) and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) ancestors and families, on whose ancestral lands we operate our main offices.

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Message



Together, we are proud to launch *Extending Foundations: An Action Plan for the BC Arts Council 2022-2024*.

In the summer of 2021, Parliamentary Secretary Bob D'Eith led a series of roundtables with arts and culture leaders, artists from various disciplines, and practitioners from around the province, focusing on COVID-19 recovery priorities, and looking ahead to the

future. Themes from these meetings, along with input we have received directly from the sector, have been used to develop a new concept for action and renewal for the BC Arts Council.

This new action plan reflects what we heard and reaffirms our commitment to real action.

The *Extending Foundations Action Plan* rebalances and renews the BC Arts Council, forging a more equitable and socially just role for public arts funding in the province. We are responding to the need for systemic change by reducing barriers, increasing accessibility, and making space for those that have been traditionally left out. We will actively and intentionally embed reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion, and access across all programs and will be expecting the same from the organizations we fund.

Under the Action Plan we have already introduced both the Arts Infrastructure and Arts Impact Grant programs. We now invite you to join us as we introduce seven pivotal changes to funding programs and processes over the next two years and as we look ahead, together, to build a vision for the future through our next round of strategic visioning, to take place beginning later this year.

Sincerely,

Sae-Hoon Stan Chung, Chair, BC Arts Council

Dana Claxton, Vice Chair, BC Arts Council

HLI HAYKWHL WII XSGAAK, Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

Bob D'Eith, Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film

Background

How we got here

The BC Arts Council was founded under the *Arts Council Act*, which defines its purposes as:

- providing support for 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.

New Foundations Strategic Plan

In July 2018, the BC Arts Council released its strategic plan, *New Foundations: 2018-2022*.

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.



Values

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 Extending Foundations

In April 2022, the BC Arts Council announced the extension of its current strategic plan to 2024 and the launch of *Extending Foundations: Action Plan 2022-2024*. The plan is intended to support the arts and cultural community to navigate through a period of renewal and recovery as it emerges from the health, economic, social, and cultural impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and addresses calls for social justice.

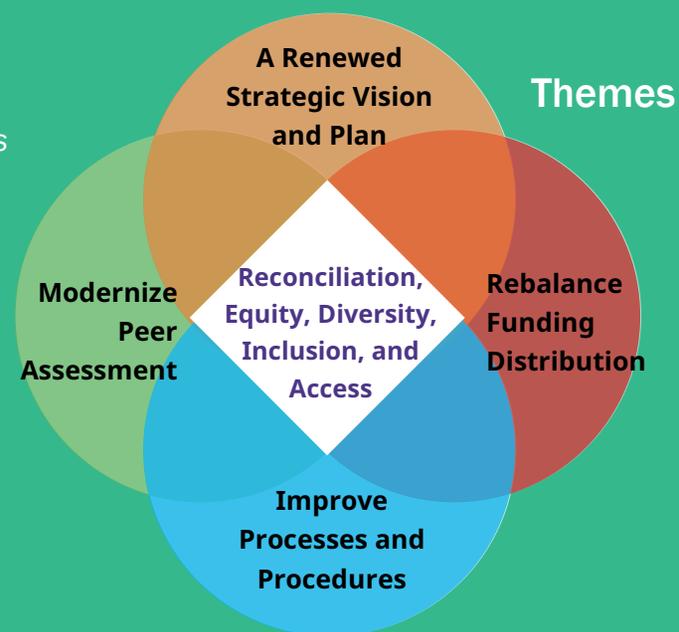
The Action Plan has been developed to support the need for stability, rebalancing, and renewal across the sector while forging a more equitable and socially just role for public arts funding in the province as the sector recovers from the pandemic.

With a timeline of just two years, the Action Plan is focused on transparency and accountability to activate key changes in the short term while providing a road map for the next round of strategic visioning for the BC Arts Council.

Action Areas

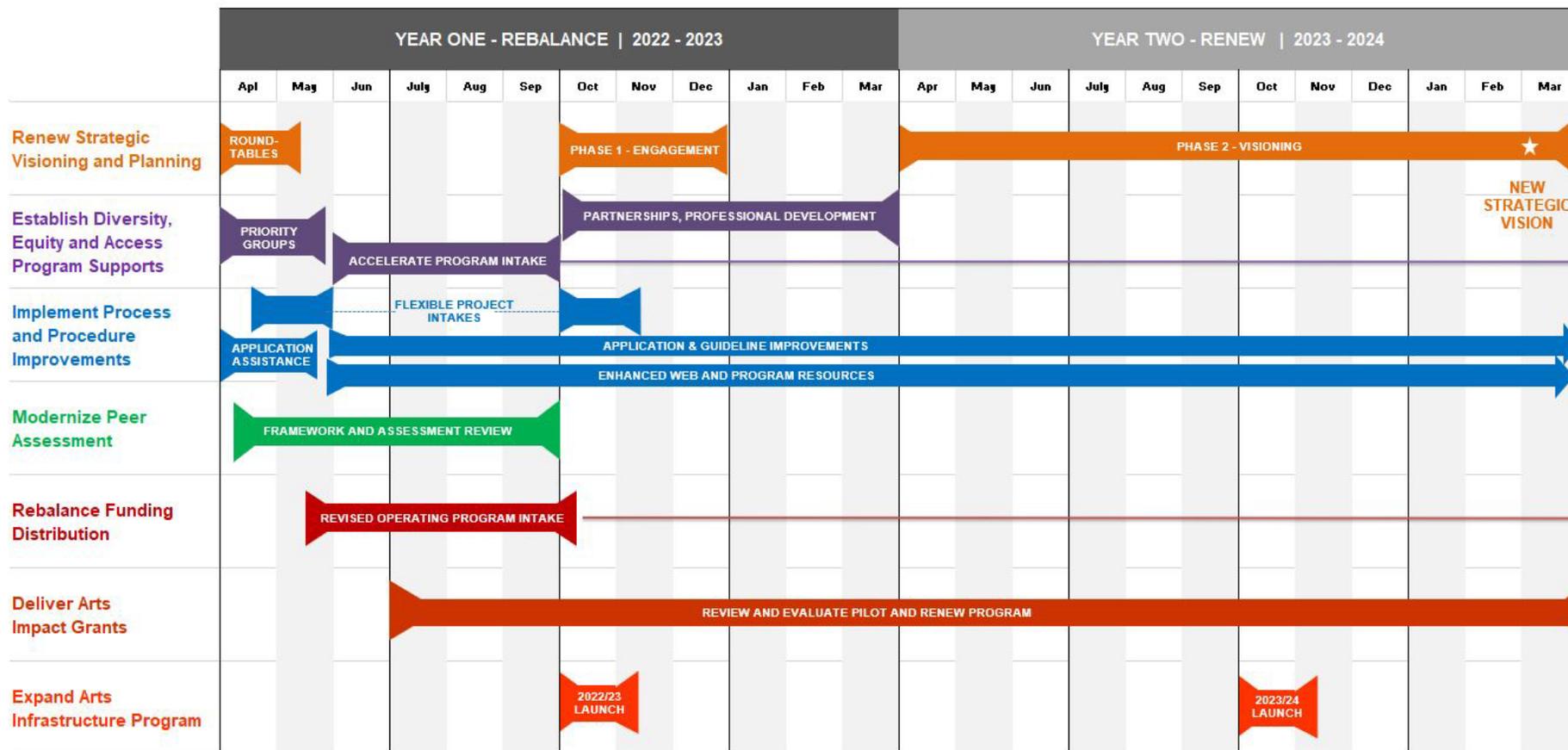
The Action Plan incorporates commitments and actions from *New Foundations* alongside significant new activities driven through seven key action areas.

- Action 1 | Renew Strategic Visioning and Planning
- Action 2 | Establish Diversity, Equity, and Access Program Supports
- Action 3 | Implement Process and Procedure Improvements
- Action 4 | Modernize Peer Assessment
- Action 5 | Rebalance Funding Distribution
- Action 6 | Deliver Arts Impact Grants
- Action 7 | Expand Arts Infrastructure Program



Implementation

This document provides an overview of the actions to be implemented over the next two years. A companion online Activity Tracker will be updated regularly as specific activities are confirmed and initiatives developed.



Extending Foundations Action Plan

ACTION



Renew Strategic Visioning and Planning



Establish Diversity, Equity, and Access Program Supports

PRIORITIES

CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN EXTENSION

STRATEGIC VISION FOR 2024

TARGETED INVESTMENT IN UNDERSERVED AND EQUITY DESERVING ORGANIZATIONS

EQUITY SUPPORT INITIATIVES

ACTIVITIES

- Launch *Extending Foundations: Action Plan 2022-2024*.
- Continue implementation of existing strategic directions.

- Advance opportunities for further renewal in 2024.
- Continue engagement to set the stage for next round of visioning.

- Create multi-year capacity building program for underserved and equity deserving organizations.
- Provide suite of supports through partnerships and research.
- Introduce designated priority groups policy based on existing strategic directions and identified gaps.

- Develop new partnerships for program delivery.
- Expand professional and organizational development activities.
- Create equity advisory structures to enhance voices of Indigenous and equity-deserving communities in policy, program, and processes.

Extending Foundations Action Plan

ACTION



Implement Process and Procedure Improvements



Modernize Peer Assessment

PRIORITIES

REDUCED BARRIERS TO FUNDING PROGRAMS

INCREASED ACCESS TO SERVICES

TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE PEER ASSESSMENT PROCESS

ACTIVITIES

- Streamline program intakes for flexibility and accessibility.
- Simplify program guidelines.
- Reduce barriers in application process.

- Introduce application assistance funding for applicants requiring service provider.
- Launch webinar and regional outreach series.
- Enhance web resources to increase transparency and accessibility.

- Conduct evaluation and review of peer assessment process to enhance transparency and fairness.
- Introduce revised peer assessment framework.
- Introduce designated priority groups to address gaps and support transparency.

Extending Foundations Action Plan

ACTION



Rebalance Funding Distribution



Deliver Arts Impact Grants



Expand Arts Infrastructure Program

PRIORITIES

FUNDING REDISTRIBUTION
WITHIN EXISTING BUDGET TO
SUPPORT EQUITY

FLEXIBLE STRATEGIC
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SPACES THAT SUPPORT THE
WORK OF B.C.'S ARTS AND
CULTURAL PRACTITIONERS

ACTIVITIES

- Launch revised Operating Assistance program with single deadline for all professional organizations.
- Reduce barriers in eligibility.
- Focus on equity and transparency in processes.
- Highlight outcome and impact across funding programs, including pandemic recovery and renewal.

- Offer continued support for pandemic recovery and renewal.
 - Focus on outcomes and impact.
- Program introduced 2021/22.*
- Evaluate program and renew for future years.

- Increase budget to support larger grant amounts.
 - Expand eligibility of applicants and activity.
- Program expanded 2021/22.*
- Evaluate program and renew for future years.

Tracking Success

Measuring our performance and impact is critical to renewal and rebalance.

The BC Arts Council will use indicators to track and benchmark progress to inform current activities and future planning under the following anticipated outcomes:



Support for pandemic recovery and renewal.



Reduction of barriers to BC Arts Council funding for underserved communities.



Collaboration with and increased support for equity-deserving communities.



Increased capacity for arts and culture production and spaces.

