Extending Foundations

ACTION PLAN FOR THE BC ARTS COUNCIL  2022-2024
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 lək̓wəŋən (Songhees) and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) ancestors and families, on whose ancestral lands we operate our main offices.
Table of Contents

Message ..................................................................................................................4
Background .............................................................................................................5
About Extending Foundations ................................................................................6
Action Areas and Themes .......................................................................................6
Implementation .........................................................................................................7
Extending Foundations Action Plan .......................................................................8 – 10
Tracking Success ......................................................................................................11
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


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.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rebalance Funding Distribution</th>
<th>Deliver Arts Impact Grants</th>
<th>Expand Arts Infrastructure Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RENEWED OPERATING PROGRAM INTAKE</td>
<td>REVIEW AND EVALUATE PILOT AND RENEW PROGRAM</td>
<td>2023/24 LAUNCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRAMEWORK AND ASSESSMENT REVIEW</td>
<td></td>
<td>2023/24 LAUNCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLICATION &amp; GUIDELINE IMPROVEMENTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLEXIBLE PROJECT INTAKES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCELERATE PROGRAM INTAKE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIORITY GROUPS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROUNDTABLES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHASE 1 - ENGAGEMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHASE 2 - VISIONING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW STRATEGIC VISION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENHANCED WEBSITE AND PROGRAM RESOURCES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR ONE - REBALANCE | 2022 - 2023

YEAR TWO - RENEW | 2023 - 2024
### Renew Strategic Visioning and Planning

#### CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN EXTENSION
- Continue implementation of existing strategic directions.

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

### Establish Diversity, Equity, and Access Program Supports

#### TARGETED INVESTMENT IN UNDERSERVED AND EQUITY DESERVING ORGANIZATIONS
- 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.

#### EQUITY SUPPORT INITIATIVES
- 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.
### Implement Process and Procedure Improvements

**REDUCED BARRIERS TO FUNDING PROGRAMS**
- Streamline program intakes for flexibility and accessibility.
- Simplify program guidelines.
- Reduce barriers in application process.

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

**TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE PEER ASSESSMENT PROCESS**
- 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.

### Modernize Peer Assessment

**ACTIVITIES PRIORITIES ACTION**

- Modernize Peer Assessment
**Extending Foundations Action Plan**

### Rebalance Funding Distribution

**FUNDING REDISTRIBUTION WITHIN EXISTING BUDGET TO SUPPORT EQUITY**

- 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.

### Deliver Arts Impact Grants

**FLEXIBLE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

- Offer continued support for pandemic recovery and renewal.
- Focus on outcomes and impact.

*Program introduced 2021/22.*

- Evaluate program and renew for future years.

### Expand Arts Infrastructure Program

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

- 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.