

VISUAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Project Assistance Program Guidelines 2022/23

Acknowledgement

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

About the BC Arts Council

For more information about the BC Arts Council's mandate, vision, values, and strategic directions, visit the [About](#) and [Priorities](#) sections on the BC Arts Council website.

In the [Extending Foundations: Action Plan for 2022-2024](#), the BC Arts Council reaffirms its commitment to principles of reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion and access in all of its programs and processes. The Council conducts its own operations and funding activities in accordance with legislation such as the [BC Human Rights Code](#), [Accessible BC Act](#), [Accessible Canada Act](#), the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) and [Action Plan](#), and the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), as well as the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#).

In addition to the integration of equity criteria across all funding programs, consideration will be given to [designated priority groups](#) identified by the BC Arts Council. These groups have been identified in order to achieve strategic direction commitments and correct funding gaps illuminated through recent evaluations and consultations. The designated priority groups consist of applicants who are:

- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit);
- Deaf or experience disability;
- Black or people of colour; or
- Located in regional areas (outside [greater Vancouver or the capital region](#)).

Organizations whose statement of purpose includes support for and who are led by arts and cultural practitioners rooted in communities as listed above are considered a designated priority group.

About Project Assistance: Visual Arts Organizations

Projects Assistance: Visual Arts Organizations supports the development, enrichment, and creation of new or unique public programming and community engagement initiatives through activities including exhibitions, documentation and dissemination projects, new works, artists' residencies, exploration of new artistic or curatorial practices, and audience development.

When and How to Apply

Applications can be submitted through our online system at any point before **October 17th, 2022, no later than 11:59 p.m.** We are unable to accept any applications after this date. If you have any questions, contact a Program Advisor. The BC Arts Council office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Submit your application through the Grant Management System. Ensure that all information (including address verification) and documentation in your organization's online profile is up to date before submitting an application.

New applicants [must register and create a profile](#) in the online system. **Once the registration request is submitted, it may take up to four business days to process your request.** BC Arts Council will email you once your registration is processed and you are able to access grant applications.

Ensure the email address noreply@bcartscouncil.ca is on your safe senders list and check your spam folders.

Applicants can submit a portion of their application by way of an audio or video recording. See instructions within the application on this option.

Accessibility

Organizations with a primary purpose to serve Deaf or disability arts practices are eligible for the BC Arts Council's Accessibility Programs:

[Application Assistance](#) – pays for support services for creating and submitting grant applications.

[Access Support](#) – additional funding that supports access costs associated with creating, developing, or executing a project funded by a BC Arts Council Project Assistance grant.

These programs do not provide funding for audience accessibility or day-to-day access costs outside of the scope of a project. Accessibility requests are confidential and will not be part of assessment panels evaluating grant applications. Contact Accessibility Coordinator, Clayton Baraniuk, at 250-978-9839 or clayton.baraniuk@gov.bc.ca to request assistance.

Find out more about accessibility supports at bcartscouncil.ca/accessibility

Who Can Apply

Submissions from applicants who do not meet eligibility criteria will not be forwarded for assessment. **To be eligible, an applicant must:**

- Provide public arts and culture programming and engagement, or service to the arts and culture sector in B.C., and have done so for a minimum of one year.
- Engage professionals in artistic, curatorial, administrative or project leadership.
- Fairly compensate artists, arts and cultural practitioners, technicians, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers. Compensation must align with project and community contexts and industry standards within the field of practice, including adhering to international intellectual property rights standards and cultural ownership protocols.

- Adhere to the Criminal Records Review Act which requires that people who work with or may have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults must undergo a criminal record check by the Criminal Records Review Program.
- Not currently receive Operating Assistance from the BC Arts Council.
- Have completed and submitted any overdue final reports on previous BC Arts Council grants by the submission deadline for this program.
- Provide programs that benefit the community and not solely its members' interests.

Organizational applicants must also:

- Be registered and in good standing as a non-profit society or community service co-op in B.C. for at least one fiscal year prior to application with:
 - The majority of key staff and members based in B.C.; and
 - A dedicated arts and culture purpose/mandate; or
 - A purpose/mandate to provide services to the arts and culture sector in B.C.

OR

- Be an Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) community organization or Indigenous government in B.C., offering dedicated arts and culture activities.

OR

- Be a professional visual arts organization operated by a local government in B.C. for at least one fiscal year prior to application, with a community-based board of management that sets policy for the organization's programs and services, and that offers public programming by professional arts and cultural practitioners.

OR

- Be a professional visual arts organization operated by a public post-secondary institution in B.C. for at least one fiscal year prior to application, which offers public programming by professional arts and cultural practitioners in a dedicated gallery facility with regular ongoing access to the non-academic community.

Arts or Curatorial Collective applicants must also:

- Be established and readily identified as a collective of independent B.C. artists, curators, or cultural practitioners, consisting of three or more individuals who are professionally active in their field of practice, **each of whom must:**
 - Have a minimum of two years of professional practice in their field, following basic training.
 - Have a demonstrated body of previous work as an individual practitioner.
 - Be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident.
 - Have been a resident of B.C. for at least 12 months immediately prior to the application deadline, and ordinarily reside in B.C. See [Determining B.C. Residency page](#).
- Have a demonstrated history of creating or presenting work as a collective and have a clear commitment to a current practice.
 - Apply under the name of an individual member of the collective who acts as the key contact person and be listed as the submitting representative within the online grant system. If the application is successful, this person receives payment of the

award on behalf of the group, be issued a T4A, and be responsible for submitting the final report.

- Note: Collectives are encouraged to confirm their eligibility with program staff prior to submitting an application.

Exclusions

Awards are not available to support:

- Operating costs.
- Project phases or activities that have begun prior to the submission deadline.
- Project or budget deficits and contingency funds.
- [Capital expenditures](#) (construction, renovation, or purchase of property or equipment).
- Feasibility studies, start-up costs, or seed money.
- Fundraising activities, conferences, conventions, or projects where arts are secondary to other activities (e.g., competitions, or family, religious, or community celebrations or anniversaries).
- Subsistence to artists or cultural practitioners.
- Costs of producing commercial recordings or demo reels.
- Private or for-profit entities (except in the case of for-profit book publishing companies).
- Member-funded societies.
- Projects or activities funded through other BC Arts Council programs including BC Arts Council funds delivered through third-party delivery partners: First Peoples' Cultural Council, BC Touring Council, or Creative BC.

Grant Amounts

The request amount to this program:

- Must be 50% or less of the total eligible project budget; or
- May be up to 65% of the total eligible project budget for projects from applicants that align with the BC Arts Council's designated priority groups.

Applicant contributions to the project budget can be composed of both cash and in-kind contributions. The project budget must balance in-kind revenues with in-kind expenses.

There is no maximum request amount, but grants typically range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Requests for larger grants will need to articulate a clear rationale for why the project requires a higher amount. Visit the [BC Arts Council Recipients](#) page to review a list of previously successful applicants and the range of awards for this program.

Applicants may submit only one application per discipline per intake. Applicants may apply to both Spring and Fall intakes, however an organization that receives an award in the Spring will not be eligible to apply in the Fall. An organization may receive only one award per discipline each fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).

Applicants are encouraged to submit realistic proposals for the funds required to feasibly carry out the project. Grants may be awarded for less than requested, however the BC Arts Council endeavours to support funding successful applications at 100% of the request when possible.

What is Needed for the Application

The applicant is responsible for submitting a complete application. The BC Arts Council will not contact applicants to address errors or missing requirements. Eligible applications are assessed as submitted.

A complete online application must include:

- Details outlining the proposed project including:
 - a summary of the proposed project, including rationale, objectives, and outcomes.
 - project timeline or work plan.
 - a biography for each member of the project's team (maximum 100 words each).
- A balanced project budget using the budget table provided in the online application. Include notes on the budget and indicate whether revenues are confirmed or pending.
- All required support material as per the list below.

Support Material

Review and adhere to the [Upload Requirements for Support Material](#).

Required support material includes:

- Letters from partners or collaborators, if applicable, confirming the nature of their participation (maximum two letters, one page each). Do not include general letters of support.
- Examples of previous work relevant to the proposed project, **up to a maximum of***:
 - **5 images or 5 minutes total of video or audio**, with identified excerpts to be viewed; OR
 - **3 pages of critical writing or documentation** (do not submit testimonials or reference letters).

***NOTE:** Items in excess of the listed maximums, including multiple links to materials within a single uploaded document, will not be reviewed. Other examples of previous work, such as publications, must be discussed with the program officer prior to submission to determine whether they are appropriate.

For applicants who have not previously received funding through this program:

- Two letters of reference from established arts and cultural practitioners familiar with the applicant's work.

Additional Information Needed from Organizations

To apply, the applicant's online Organizational Profile must be up to date and include:

- A current list of the organization's board of directors, editorial advisory board, trustees, or board of management, including their board position, occupation/expertise and start date.
- A current list of administrative and artistic/editorial staff or significant contractors, including name, position, and employment status (e.g., permanent; part-time).
- A copy of the constitution if the applicant is a not-for-profit organization, OR a statement of the primary purpose of the organization for all other applicants.
- A completed Designated Priority Group Questionnaire and Equity Data Tool to be eligible for strategic funding.
- Signed financial statements for the two most recently completed fiscal years, as per below.

Financial Statements must include:

- Balance sheet, income statement and notes, following standard accounting formatting.
- An itemized list of grants identified by funder, either in the income statement or attached schedule.
- A breakdown of operating net assets, distinguishing between unrestricted net and capital assets.
- Signatures of the preparer and of two Board members affirming Board approval.

Financial Statements are based on the single largest grant received in the organization's previous two fiscal years, excluding Resilience Supplements, Pivot and Arts Infrastructure Program grants. If you did not receive any applicable grants in your previous two fiscal years, internally prepared financial statements are acceptable.

For applicants operating under the umbrella of a local government, an Indigenous government, or a post-secondary institution, financial statements must include a statement of income and expenses for the applicant's activities alone, signed by the umbrella organization's financial officer, and notes indicating if the applicant entity may accrue assets, surpluses or deficits from one year to the next.

BC Arts Council staff reserves the right to request audited financial statements if deemed appropriate, regardless of the amount of the applicant's previous funding.

| Previous BC Arts Council Grant Received (as per above) | Minimum Documentation |
|--|--|
| Up to \$15,000 | Internally prepared Financial Statements |
| \$15,001 - \$40,000 | Independently prepared Financial Statements: Notice to Reader/ Compilation Engagement Report |
| \$40,001 - \$100,000 | Independently prepared Financial Statements: Review Engagement |
| Greater than \$100,000 | Independently prepared Financial Statements: Audit |

How Applications Will Be Assessed

In [Extending Foundations: Action Plan for 2022-2024](#) the BC Arts Council commits to placing reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion and access at the centre of its activities, with the intention to rebalance historic funding distribution and modernize peer assessment. Assessment criteria are designed to speak to the diversity of ways organizations across the province can be achieving and contributing. The areas of assessment are described below along with their relative weight. While your submission should address how your activities fulfil each area of assessment, you should expect to be stronger in some areas than in others.

RECONCILIATION, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESS (20%)

The assessment panel will evaluate the project's alignment with the priorities of Extending Foundations by considering:

- The level at which the project will advance opportunities for and service to equity-deserving and under-represented communities;
- The contribution to communities located outside major urban centres, as applicable;
- The project's potential for advancing reconciliation, as applicable; and
- The significance of the project in pursuing equity, diversity, inclusion, and access depending on the applicant's region, capacity, community served, size, and purpose/mandate.

ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION, ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT (50%)

The assessment panel will evaluate the project's overall artistic and cultural contribution, engagement, and impact by considering:

- The relevance of the project to the communities the applicant serves, as demonstrated through programming, audience development, outreach, editorial, or curatorial choices;
- How well the applicant can identify the communities it serves;
- How the project will contribute to the development of the art form(s) and cultural practices in B.C.;
- The level of artistry, risk, originality and production values achieved in programming, in accordance with the organization's purpose;
- The impact on and contribution to the development of B.C. artists, cultural practitioners, and artistic communities;
- The integrity of the creative and artistic processes; including research, collaborative processes, the ethical treatment of contributors, and source/physical materials;
- The level of accessibility and engagement, including but not limited to physical spaces, cultural safety, affordability, and support for diverse participants or those who experience barriers or disability; and
- The effectiveness of practices that eliminate cultural appropriation and support meaningful representation, using appropriate protocols and practices.

FEASIBILITY (30%)

The assessment panel will evaluate the project's feasibility by considering the:

- Achievability of the proposed activities as determined by sound budgets, planning, resource allocation, and the applicant's overall financial health and capacity.
- Role of artistic leadership, including management and the board, as applicable, in fostering a healthy, sustainable work environment.
- Level of experience in realizing comparable projects at a professional standard.
- Rigour of human resources practices related to providing fair remuneration, equitable employment, cultural competency, cultural safety, and safe and respectful work environment.

Assessment Process

Merit-based, independent peer assessment is the primary method of evaluation for all applications to this program. Assessment panels are comprised of individuals with broad professional

knowledge, experience, geographical representation, and diverse aesthetic, institutional, and cultural viewpoints, including those from Indigenous perspectives.

The following process is used to evaluate applications:

- The BC Arts Council receives online applications and reviews each one for eligibility.
- The assessment panel evaluates the applications using the assessment criteria outlined above and determines the level of funding and conditions on payment of awards.
- The BC Arts Council informs each applicant of the assessment panel's decision in writing.

Applicants are encouraged to contact program staff for feedback after results have been released.

Notification of Awards

Decisions will be made within sixteen weeks of the application deadline. Notification will be sent via the online system to the contact linked to the online application, and to the organizational and governance leadership contacts provided in the organizational profile (as applicable). Results cannot be requested in advance.

Ensure the email address noreply@bcartscouncil.ca is on your safe sender list and check your spam folders.

Payment of Awards

All award payments are subject to an authorizing appropriation under the *Financial Administration Act*.

The BC 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.
- 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

Recipients must submit a final report with the required documentation of the completed project to the BC Arts Council within 30 days of the Project End Date in the application. Final Reports must be submitted through the online system.

Future applications to BC Arts Council programs will be ineligible if reporting requirements are not met.

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 assessment panel. 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 Revenue Agency through the issuance of T4As.

Recognition of Assistance

In recognition of funding, the support of the BC Arts Council and the Government of British Columbia should be acknowledged in all promotional materials, both print 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.

Funded applicants with a website are encouraged to add a link to the [BC Arts Council](#) website.

Contact Information

If you still have questions after you have completely read these Program Guidelines and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the BC Arts Council web page, please contact a Program Advisor.

Sheryl Jones – Program Advisor, Visual Arts and Media Arts Organizations
778 698-3522 | Sheryl.Jones@gov.bc.ca

A full list of program staff is available on [our website](#).

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.