

# INDIVIDUAL ARTS AWARDS: VISUAL ARTISTS

## Program Guidelines 2022/23

### Acknowledgement

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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

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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](#).

### Designated Priority Groups

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

### About Individual Arts Awards: Visual Artists

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**Individual Arts Awards: Visual Artists** assists professional visual artists, contemporary and traditional craft artists, and independent critics and curators with the creation of specific projects.

Awards are available to support the creation of new works. Applications may be made by individuals or on behalf of a collaboration of two or more artists sharing creative control of a project.

Independent curators and critics may apply to develop their practice independently from art organizations or institutions. Applications may investigate visual and media arts and/or museum practice.

Funding is provided in two levels based on the scale and scope of the project.

## When and How to Apply

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Applications can be submitted through our online system at any point before **December 1, 2022, no later than 11:59 p.m.** We are unable to accept any applications after this date. If you have any questions, contact the Program Advisor. The BC Arts Council office hours are 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Submit your application through the [Grant Management System](#). Ensure that all information (including address verification) and documentation in your 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 applications.

Ensure the email address [NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca](mailto:NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca) is on your safe senders list and check your spam folders.

## Accessibility

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Individuals who self-identify as Deaf or having a disability, and organizations with a primary mandate to serve Deaf or disability arts practice 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 or developing a project funded by a BC Arts Council 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 the assessment panel's evaluation of a grant application. Contact Accessibility Coordinator Clayton Baraniuk at 250-978-9839 or [Clayton.Baraniuk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Clayton.Baraniuk@gov.bc.ca) to request assistance.

**Find out more about accessibility support at [BCArtsCouncil.ca/accessibility](https://BCArtsCouncil.ca/accessibility).**

## Who can apply

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Assistance through this program is available to professional artists, critics and curators. For collaborative applications, each individual applicant must meet the eligibility criteria. Ineligible applications will not be reviewed.

## Applicant Eligibility

### To demonstrate professional status, an applicant must:

- Be a professional visual or craft artist or independent critic or curator, who has completed all basic training (not necessarily in academic institutions).
- Have completed two or more years of artistic practice after basic training.

### AND

- As a visual or craft artist, had two or more professionally curated exhibitions for which they have received exhibition fees (CARFAC or equivalent).

### 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.

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.

### To be eligible, an applicant must also:

- Be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Have been a resident of British Columbia for at least 12 months immediately prior to the application deadline, and ordinarily reside in B.C.  
For more information, see the [Determining B.C. Residency](#) page.
- Compensate artists and arts, museums, and culture practitioners fairly in keeping with community contexts and industry standards within the field of practice including adhering to international intellectual property rights standards and cultural ownership protocols.
- Have submitted any outstanding final reports on previous BC Arts Council grants by the submission closing date for this program.
- Have final creative control over the proposed work.
- Be applying for either the first or second time with a project; if an applicant has twice applied unsuccessfully for the same project, the proposal must be substantively changed to be considered.

## Eligible Costs

### Awards are available to support:

- [Subsistence costs](#) of up to \$500 per week for the applicant; recipients of awards are expected to devote most of their time to their practice for the duration of the project.
- Costs of materials directly related to the project.
- Rental of equipment or space.
- Funds paid to other professionals to help realize the project (e.g., editor, sensitivity reader, etc.).
- Travel expenses relevant to realizing the project.

## Exclusions

### **Awards are not available to support:**

- Projects previously assisted through this or other BC Arts Council programs.
- Sponsored or commissioned works.
- [Capital expenditures](#) (construction, renovation, or purchase of property or equipment).
- Projects or activities funded through other BC Arts Council programs or its third-party delivery partners, including First Peoples' Cultural Council, BC Touring Council, or Creative BC.
- Expenses incurred prior to the application submission closing date.

## Grant Amounts

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Applicants should apply to the appropriate level based on the above eligibility requirements.

Support from this program may form up to 100% of the project budget.

**Level 1:** Awards up to \$7,500 | **Level 2:** Awards up to \$15,000

Applicants may submit only one application per discipline per intake. Assistance through this program is possible once per BC Arts Council's fiscal year (April 1 – 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.

## Application Requirements

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It is the applicant's responsibility to submit 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:**

- A detailed written statement (up to 750 words) that includes:
  - a precise description and summary of the proposed project.
  - a description of how an award will assist with the project. In this description consider responding to these questions: Why This Project? Why You? Why Now?
- Description of equitable and ethical approaches in the project or your practice.
- A balanced project budget using the table provided. Include notes on the budget and indicate whether revenues are confirmed or pending.
- Voluntary self-identification as a person from a designated priority group, if applicable, in order to be considered for prioritization.
- All required support material as per the list below.

## Support Material

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

The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all support material is in a readable format. Poor quality files may adversely affect an applicant's success. Applicants are encouraged to test all materials before submitting their application. Requested supporting material must be submitted via the online system unless otherwise indicated.

### Required Support Material includes:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV) detailing professional training and related artistic activities (maximum 3 pages), with paid professional presentations clearly indicated;
- Letters from partners or collaborators, if applicable, confirming the nature of their participation.

AND

- **Visual and Craft Artists:**
  - a maximum of 12 images, or
  - a maximum 5 minutes of video documentation.
- **Independent Critics and Curators:**
  - up to three published texts, articles or catalogues (maximum 20 pages total); or
  - up to 12 images or maximum 5 minutes of video documenting the work of the artists who will be the focus of the research or project, or up to 12 images or maximum 5 minutes of video documenting a previous exhibition.

Do not submit material beyond what is requested; it will not be presented for assessment.

## How Applications Will Be Assessed

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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 address historic funding inequities and modernize peer assessment. Assessment criteria are designed to support and prioritize the contributions of diverse individual artists across the province. The areas of assessment are described below along with their relative weight. While your application should address how your activities fulfil each area of assessment, you may 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 the [Extending Foundations Action Plan](#) by considering, as applicable:

- The level at which the project will advance awareness of equity-deserving and under-represented communities;
- The contribution to communities located outside major urban centres;
- The project's potential for advancing reconciliation; and
- The significance of the project relative to the priorities of equity, diversity, inclusion, and access.

## ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTION, SIGNIFICANCE, AND IMPACT (60%)

The assessment panel will evaluate the project's contribution and significance by considering the:

- Quality of proposed project, level of artistry, originality, and overall contribution to the form;
- Integrity of the creative processes including ethical approaches and consideration given to:
  - Research methods;
  - Use of source and physical materials;
  - Equitable collaboration processes;
  - Matters of cultural appropriation and representation; and
  - Appropriate protocols and practices.
- Potential benefits to the development of the applicant's practice, the applicant's own identified communities, and the professional arts community in B.C.

## FEASIBILITY (20%)

The assessment panel will evaluate the viability of the project by considering:

- Achievability of the project as demonstrated by sound budgets, planning, and resource allocation; and
- Level of experience in realizing comparable projects at a professional standard.

## Assessment Process

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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:**

- Program staff receive online applications and reviews each one for eligibility;
- The assessment panel evaluates the applications using the assessment criteria outlined above and recommends the level of funding and conditions on payment of awards;
- Funding allocations approved; and
- The BC Arts Council informs each applicant of the final decision in writing.
- Applicants are encouraged to contact program staff for feedback after results have been released.

## Notification of Awards

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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 will not be provided in advance.

Ensure the email address **NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca** is on your safe sender list and check your spam folders.

## Payment of Awards

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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.
- The project undergoes major changes in artistic or administrative direction.
- The recipient does not meet its obligations as a grant recipient, including submission of final reports.
- The recipient fails to comply with legal obligations.
- The recipient 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 are issued T4As for the year in which the grant payment is processed.

## Final Reports

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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

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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

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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

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Julia Pauselius – Program Advisor | 250 940-8550 | [Julia.Pauselius@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Julia.Pauselius@gov.bc.ca)

A full list of Program Advisors is available on [our website](#).

For general information or further assistance, please contact:

Telephone: 250 356-1718

Email: [BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca)

**Program guidelines are reviewed annually. Be sure that you are working with the most current guidelines for each intake.**