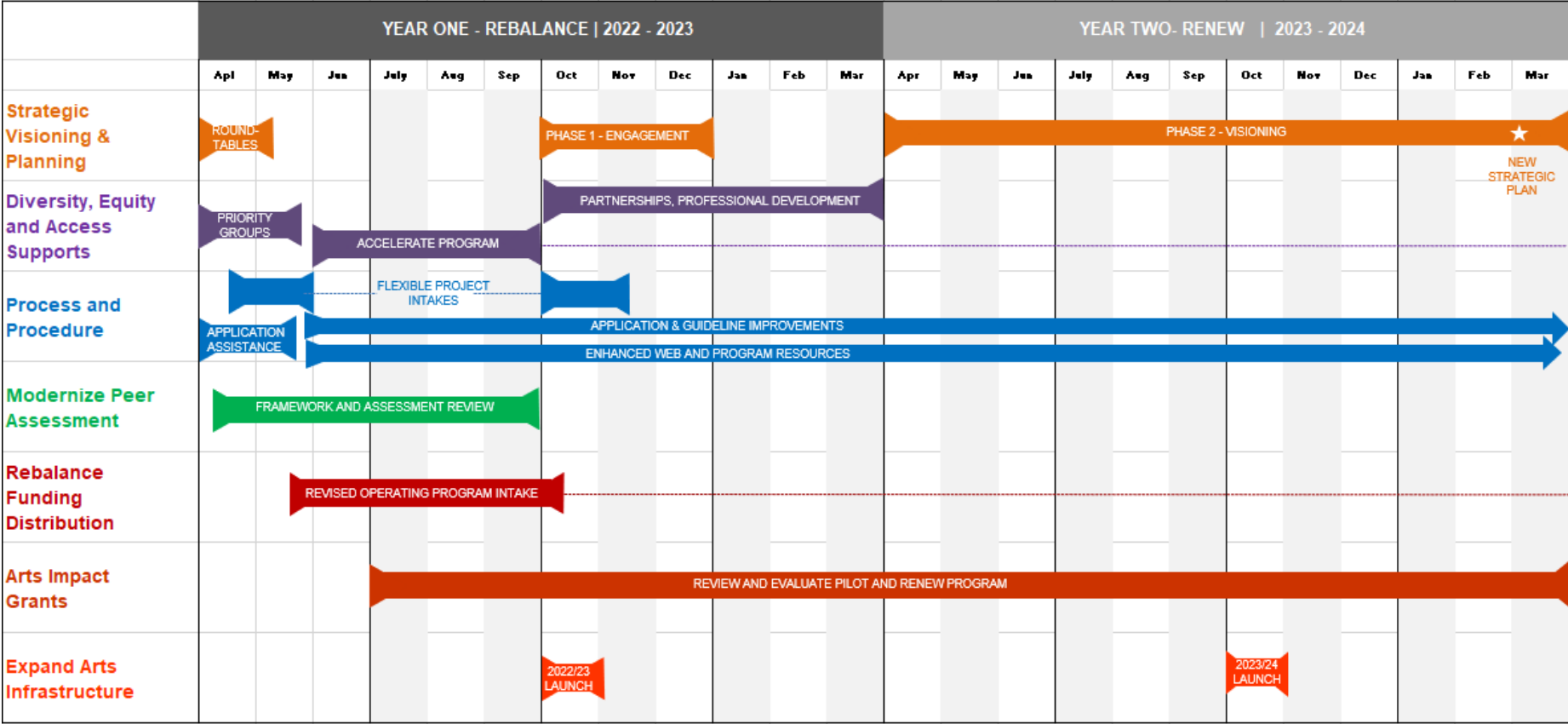# Extending Foundations Action Plan – Activity Tracker

Implementation

This Activity Tracker provides an overview of the actions to be implemented over the next two years and includes specific activities and initiatives as they are confirmed, developed and completed.

Updated Nov 2023

Original Timeline:

			YEAR ONE - REBALANCE | 2022 - 2023										YEAR TWO- RENEW | 2023 - 2024											
	Apl	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Strategic Visioning & Planning	ROUND-TABLES						PHASE 1 - ENGAGEMENT						PHASE 2 - VISIONING											NEW STRATEGIC PLAN ★
Diversity, Equity and Access Supports	PRIORITY GROUPS		ACCELERATE PROGRAM				PARTNERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT																	
Process and Procedure	APPLICATION ASSISTANCE			FLEXIBLE PROJECT INTAKES					APPLICATION & GUIDELINE IMPROVEMENTS / ENHANCED WEB AND PROGRAM RESOURCES															
Modernize Peer Assessment		FRAMEWORK AND ASSESSMENT REVIEW																						
Rebalance Funding Distribution		REVISED OPERATING PROGRAM INTAKE																						
Arts Impact Grants							REVIEW AND EVALUATE PILOT AND RENEW PROGRAM																	
Expand Arts Infrastructure							2022/23 LAUNCH												2023/24 LAUNCH					

Renew Strategic Visioning and Planning

CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN EXTENSION

- **Launch *Extending Foundations: Action Plan 2022-2024.***
  - ✓ Announcement and community gathering with Minister Melanie Mark, Parliamentary Secretary Bob D'Eith and BC Arts Council Chair Stan Chung and Vice Chair Dana Claxton - April 2022.
- **Continue implementation of existing strategic directions.**
  1) *Sustainability and Creative Development*
  2) *Equity, Diversity and Access.*
  3) *Indigenous Arts and Culture*
  4) *Regional Arts and Community Arts*
  - ✓ Complete progress evaluation on New Foundations strategic plan – April 2022.

STRATEGIC VISION FOR 2024

- **Advance opportunities for further renewal in 2024.**
  - ✓ Virtual regional roundtables hosted by Parliamentary Secretary D'Eith and BC Arts Council – April/May 2022.
- **Continue engagement to set the stage for next round of visioning.**
  - ✓ Launch approach for next round of strategic visioning in Fall 2023.

ACTION

PRIORITIES

ACTIVITIES

Establish Diversity, Equity and Access Program Supports

TARGETED INVESTMENT IN UNDERSERVED AND EQUITY DESERVING ORGANIZATIONS

- **Create multi-year capacity building program.**
  - ✓ Open Accelerate program for equity-deserving and regional arts and cultural organizations and collectives – September 2022.
  - ✓ Accelerate program provides the first installation of $2.5 million in funding annually over two years to 145 regional and equity deserving organizations for 2022/23 and 2023/24 – Spring 2023.
- **Provide suite of supports through partnerships and research.**
  - ✓ Introduce Equity Data Tool to better support program evaluation and research – September 2022.
  - ✓ Review and revision of Equity Data Tool – ONGOING.
  - ✓ Participation in National Research Group - ONGOING

EQUITY SUPPORT INITIATIVES

- **Develop new partnerships for program delivery.**
- **Expand professional and organizational development activities.**
  - ✓ Develop learning pathways to support equity competencies in collaboration with community - Winter 2022/23.
  - ✓ Launch learning pathways program with Arts Service Organization partners – June 2023.
- **Create equity advisory structures to enhance voices of Indigenous and equity-deserving communities in policy, programs and processes.**
  - ✓ Implement Equity Advisory Network to inform assessment, implementation and policy – October 2022.
  - ✓ Expand and continue to develop Equity Advisory Network approach – ONGOING.
  - ☐ Introduce BC Arts Council Elder in Residence – Winter 2023/24.

- **Introduce designated priority groups policy based on existing strategic directions and identified gaps.**
  - ✓ Introduce designated priority groups policy and web page – April 2022.
  - ✓ Implement a designated priority groups questionnaire within registration profile to support eligibility and access to strategic programs and funds – September 2022.
  - ✓ Work with Equity Advisory Network and First Peoples' Cultural Council in the development and implementation of designated priority groups policy and validation of applicants - ONGOING
  - ✓ Implement revised voluntary self-identification mechanisms to support data collection - September 2022/ONGOING.
  - ✓ Implement improvements to Designated Priority Group policy and tool based on feedback – Spring 2023.

ACTION

PRIORITIES

ACTIVITIES

Implement Process and Procedure Improvements

REDUCED BARRIERS TO FUNDING PROGRAMS

- **Streamline program intakes for flexibility and accessibility.**
  - ✓ Introduce two deadlines per year for Professional Project Assistance Programs, providing greater flexibility for timing of projects and funding – April 2022.
  - ✓ Implement new program for individual artists in performing arts – April 2022.
  - ✓ Combine Literary and Publishing project programs – April 2022.
  - ✓ Move all Professional Operating Assistance to one intake deadline for Fall 2022 – June 2022.
  - ✓ Re-introduce two year funding cycles for Operating Assistance for 2022/23 – June 2022.
  - ✓ Introduce flexible funding opportunities including sector-based activities through Arts Impact Grants – October 2022.

INCREASED ACCESS TO SERVICES

- **Introduce application assistance funding for applicants requiring service provider**
  - ✓ Launch Application Assistance – April 2022.
  - ✓ Launch Access Support funding – April 2022.
- **Launch webinar and regional outreach series.**
  - ✓ Information session on new accessibility initiatives – May 2022.
  - ✓ Community Connections session in Prince George – October 2022; Kelowna – May 2023; Surrey – November 2023.
  - ✓ Participate in regional community convenings including: Kamloops – February 2023; Kootenays – Summer 2023; Prince Rupert – November 2023.
  - ✓ Launch topic-based webinar series – Winter 2023.
- **Enhance web resources to increase transparency and accessibility.**
  - ✓ Add accessibility resources page – April 2022.
  - ✓ Add glossary of terms – April 2022.

- **Simplify program guidelines.**
  - ✓ Modernize fields of practice groupings within Operating Assistance guidelines to streamline program offerings – June 2022.
  - ✓ Simplify and streamline Operating Assistance program guidelines – reduced to 8 pages from 13 – June 2022.
- **Reduce barriers in application process**
  - ✓ Introduce opportunities for video/oral components within project applications – April 2022.
  - ✓ Implement Accessibility Coordinator staff position(s) –ONGOING
  - ✓ Implement regionally-based Program Advisor position – ONGOING
  - ✓ Change Program Officer title to Program Advisor – April 2022.
  - ✓ Integrate plain language approach across application materials and communications. ONGOING
  - ✓ Collaborate with sector to respond to Operating Assistance survey – March 2023.

- ✓ Launch ASL resource and informational videos – April 2022.
- ✓ Launch series of recorded information sessions to be posted online – August 2022.
- ✓ Launch online resources and policy section of the website – Spring 2023.

Modernize Peer Assessment

TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE PEER ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- **Conduct evaluation and review of peer assessment process to enhance transparency and fairness.**
  - ✓ Initiate third party fairness review of assessment processes – August 2022.
  - ✓ Third party evaluation of peer assessment process complete, finding process to be transparent and fair, and providing opportunities for continuous improvement – December 2022.
  - ✓ Ongoing monitoring of assessment processes and improvement implementation – Fall 2023.
  - ☐ Develop fairness review monitoring framework – Spring 2024.

- **Introduce revised peer assessment framework.**
  - ✓ Revise assessment and ranking process to be introduced for 2022/23 programs – October 2022.
  - ✓ Implement recommendations from fairness review – ONGOING

- **Introduce designated priority groups to address gaps and support transparency.**
  - ✓ Introduce designated priority groups policy and web page – April 2022.
  - ✓ Implement designated priority groups policy in funding allocations – November 2022.

Rebalance Funding Distribution

FUNDING REDISTRIBUTION WITHIN EXISTING BUDGET TO SUPPORT EQUITY

- **Launch revised Operating Assistance program with single deadline for all professional organizations.**
  - ✓ Shift all Professional Operating Assistance to one intake deadline for 2022/23 – June 2022.
  - ✓ Revise funding allocation process to incorporate Designated Priority Groups – October 2022.
  - ✓ Revise assessment criteria groupings and weightings to include assessment of Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access (30%); Artistic and Cultural Contribution, Engagement and Impact (40%); and Organizational Capacity and Governance (30%) – June 2022.
- **Reduce barriers in eligibility.**
  - ✓ Reduce timeframe requirement for how long an organization had been registered as a non-profit society and offered arts and culture programming to one year across programs – June 2022.
  - ✓ Reduce requirement for past BC Arts Council funding as part of eligibility for Operating Assistance from two discipline-specific grants to one Project Assistance grant and list of programs that could provide a pathway to Operating Assistance expanded to include Arts Based Community Development and Arts Impact – June 2022.
- **Focus on equity and transparency in processes.**
  - ✓ Update assessment criteria related to Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access across programs – June 2022.
  - ✓ Revise Fair Notice Policy for Operating Assistance programs to include equity-based criteria – September 2022.
- **Highlight outcome and impact across funding programs, including pandemic recovery and renewal.**
  - ✓ Deliver one-time provincial pandemic recovery funding – March/April 2022.

- ✓ Implement new voluntary and required data collection mechanisms to support Designated Priority Groups policy, program evaluation and GBA+ Analysis – October 2022.
- ✓ Allocate funding and grant amounts to align with overall budget distribution – Winter 2023.
- ☐ Develop benchmarks based on evaluation of New Foundations, equity policy framework consultancy and new data collection mechanisms – Winter 2023 -UNDERWAY.
- ✓ Continue to redistribute funding and resources across programs and operations to meet Extending Foundations priorities – ONGOING.

ACTION · PRIORITIES · ACTIVITIES

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.
  - *Arts Impact Grants allowed applicants to define the most meaningful impact to their organization, practice, and/or community during recovery, renewal, and change.*
  - *A total of $8.03M was distributed through 310 grants across three components:*
    Artistic/Cultural Practice
    Community and Sector Impact
    Organizations/Collectives
  - *Over 50% of recipients self-identified as being led by or serving Indigenous or equity-deserving communities and/or located in a regional area.*

- **Evaluate program and renew for future years.**
  - ✓ Relaunch Arts Impact Grants for 2022/23, integrating feedback from the 2021/22 program and roundtables – October 2022.
  - ☐ Relaunch next round of Arts Impact Grant – Winter 2023/24.

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.
  - *The $4 million BC Arts Council Arts Infrastructure Program develops and enhances arts and cultural spaces in B.C. The second year of the program launched November 12th 2021 and closed January 14th 2022.*
  - *The base program budget increased by $2M*
    - *Introduced new program stream to support planning projects ($25K max.)*
    - *Expanded Capital Improvements maximum grant to $250K.*
    - *Specialized Equipment stream ($40K max.)*
  - *Total dollars were distributed through 84 grants*
  - *50% of recipients self-identified as being led by or serving equity-deserving organizations and/or from rural and/or remote communities.*

- **Evaluate program and renew for future years.**
  - ✓ Relaunch Arts Infrastructure Program for 2022/23, integrating feedback from the 2021/22 program and roundtables – October 2022.
  - ✓ Align further with Clean BC and greening of the arts initiatives – October 2022/ONGOING.
  - ✓ Deliver an additional $4.525 million through the Arts Infrastructure Program in 2022/23 – March 2023.

☐ Work with local, provincial, and national community partners to explore innovative and generative approaches to cultural infrastructure - ONGOING