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# BC Arts Council Arts Impact Grant Frequently Asked Questions

*Updated: March 19, 2024*

## Overview

This is a sample of some of the most frequently asked questions about the BC Arts Council [Arts Impact Grant](#).

The most recent program guidelines are posted on the program page on the [BC Arts Council website](#).

If you have questions after you have reviewed the Program Guidelines and the Frequently Asked Questions, contact a program advisor.

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## How do I decide which category to apply to?

There are four categories to select from and you can only choose one for your project. We understand projects may intersect with more than one category, so we advise asking yourself “What will be most impacted on the completion of my project”? The examples listed in our guidelines under each category are not an exhaustive list of what can be funded, and just intended to provide examples of projects that may align with that category.

## How might my choice of category impact the review of my application?

The category you choose is the one your project will be assessed in. So, if for example you choose “Community Impact”, your project will be assessed alongside other projects where that is the primary focus.

## Does BC Arts Council have a specific priority for the types of projects funded by Arts Impact?

No. The Arts Impact grant is intended to provide flexible funding to arts and culture organizations allowing them to prioritize the project that will have the most meaningful impact for their organization, practice or community. As the applicant, it is then up to you to make a compelling case to the assessors for the urgency of the project and why it needs to be a priority.

## Does my project need to be completed within a year?

No. While you cannot apply for activities starting before intake deadline of April 2, 2024, your project can start any time after this date, there is no requirement to complete projects by a specified date, and your project can be of any duration.

## When will I find out if my application has been funded?

You will be informed of the results of your application by the end of July 2024. If you choose to start your project before you receive the results and you are successful, you can apply the funds retroactively. All applicants will be notified at the same time, regardless of when they submitted their application.

## What is the maximum amount I can request?

The maximum request amount is \$30,000. The request may be up to 100% of the total project budget and matching funding is not required for this program. However, if your project does have other revenues, please indicate if those revenues are confirmed or pending in your project budget.

## I am an individual artist working with an organization on a project. Can I apply as an individual?

No, individuals cannot apply to the Arts Impact grant. If the organization you are working with is an eligible Arts and Culture non-profit organization or an eligible Arts or Curatorial collective, they could submit the application.

I am part of a group of volunteers that have an idea for an arts and culture project, but we are not a collective of artists nor a registered non-profit society, can we apply?

No, but you could seek out an eligible arts and culture non-profit society or eligible arts collective to partner with on the project and they could submit an application.

I work in a school that wants to apply for an arts and culture project. Can the school apply?

No, schools are not eligible to apply. Please look to the [Artists in Education](#) grant program and the [Artists in the Classroom](#) program, funded by the BC Arts Council, and administered by ArtStarts in Schools.

My municipality/town/community has a project in mind. Can we apply?

No, but you could seek out an eligible arts and culture non-profit society or eligible arts collective to partner with on the project and they could submit an application.

I am an artist collaborating on a project with a group of artists who I consistently work with. Can we apply as an arts collective?

To be eligible as an arts or curatorial collective, your collective must be established and readily identified as a collective consisting of three or more individuals who are professionally active in their field of practice, each of whom must meet the eligibility criteria listed on page 8 and 9 of the [program guidelines](#). We recommend you contact a program advisor to establish if your collective is eligible before you apply. To establish eligibility, you will need to provide names of each member; examples to demonstrate how they meet the criteria; and examples of a demonstrated history of creation and public presentation of work by the current collective, for which artist fees were received.

Collectives with two members or ad hoc collectives may be eligible to apply to Individual Arts Grant programs for a collaborative project.

## My organization receives Operating Assistance from the BC Arts Council. Can my organization apply to the Arts Impact grant?

Yes, organizations which receive Operating Assistance are eligible. You cannot apply for projects that are already directly funded through your Operating Assistance grant. However, if – for example – the primary focus of your project is the strengthening, expansion, or stabilization of the organization (Foundational Impact), you can apply for related operating expenses such as funding to hire staff as your organization moves from a working board to a governing board.

## How many applications do you receive and what will be the success rate?

Because this program is very flexible, we receive a high volume of applications (over 300 in 2023) and a high demand for funding, making it a very competitive program. The BC Arts Council typically targets a 20-40% success rate across all programs and currently our success rate is at the lower end of the range.

## How is the impact of my project assessed?

Applications will be reviewed and scored against each of the assessment criteria listed on page 13 of the [program guidelines](#). These are: Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access (30%), Impact (50%), and Feasibility (20%).

Successful applications show how the project will address the criteria for each assessment area.

## Can I apply for artistic equipment such as a kiln for our community art program?

No, capital expenses are not eligible for Arts Impact. [Capital expenses](#) are typically for items that will continue to have value after a project has completed. Examples include technical equipment, office equipment and furniture, computers, and artistic tools and equipment like a kiln or printmaking press. Consumable supplies such as ink, paint, or paper are eligible

If you are looking for funding for specialized equipment such as audio, video, lighting, exhibition, or other equipment that is primarily used for artistic programming, please look

to the [Arts Infrastructure](#) program which supports the acquisition of specialized equipment under Category 3.

**My project includes hiring someone but it's not the main focus of the project. Do I need to submit a job description?**

The reference to a 1-page job description in the Support Material section of the [program guidelines](#) is only applicable to applications that centre around new hires and is not necessary if hiring is only a part of a project.

**In the last two years, our organization received one Arts Infrastructure grant from BC Arts Council for \$70,000 and no other grants. Does this mean we must upload a Review Engagement report to our online profile before submitting our application?**

If applying as a non-profit arts and culture organization, you must upload signed financial statements for your two most recent completed fiscal years to your online Organization Profile. The type of financial statements that are required are based on the single largest BC Arts Council grant received in the organization's previous two fiscal years, **not including** Resilience Supplements, Pivot Program grants, Arts Impact grants, or Arts Infrastructure Program grants.

The table on page 12 of the [program guidelines](#) outlines the type of financial statements required depending on the type of BC Arts Council grant previously received. So in this example, the organization is only required to provide internally prepared financial statements based on relevant grant awards.

**Our organization is working on a project that was funded through another BC Arts Council program. Can we still apply to Arts Impact?**

Yes, you can apply even if you have other currently active BC Arts Council-funded projects. However, if you have an overdue Final Report for that project, you will not be able to submit your Arts Impact application.

Our organization is holding a conference/symposium next year. Can we apply to the Arts Impact program to fund this event?

No. Conferences and symposia are not eligible activities for this program.

I would like to apply for three separate events that our organization is holding throughout the year. Is this eligible?

No, you may apply for a single project or event with one application. You should pick the event that best matches the priorities of the Arts Impact program and that best aligns with the Assessment Criteria as outlined in the [program guidelines](#).

If multiple activities are directly related and/or connected to each other, this may be eligible. For example, multiple components or stages of a single art exhibit such as commissioning fees, accessibility expenses, staffing costs, and travel expenses. We recommend that you contact a Program Advisor for confirmation.