

# PROJECT ASSISTANCE: PROFESSIONAL ARTS FESTIVALS

## Program Guidelines 2025/26

### Grant Program Summary

**Applications – Open:** September 3 | **Close:** October 22 | **Results:** early February 2026

**Who Can Apply:** Arts and Culture Organizations, Arts and Curatorial Collectives; Indigenous Community Organizations, Indigenous Governments, Municipal Governments or Post-secondary Institutions in B.C. that offer dedicated arts and culture programs. Applicants must meet eligibility criteria detailed in the [Who Can Apply](#) section below.

**Program Purpose:** To support the development, enrichment, and creation of new or unique public programming **through a specific project, component, or programming initiative within an existing consecutive multi-day festival.**

**Maximum grant amount:** \$25,000

**Next Intake:** This grant program is expected to open again in fall 2026. A [Grant Program Calendar](#) showing our annual grant program schedule is available on our website.

### Contact us. We are here to help.

If you have questions after you have reviewed these program guidelines and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the BC Arts Council web page, contact a Program Advisor.

**Kaitlyn Reining** | Performing Arts | 778-405-3973 | [Kaitlyn.Reining@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kaitlyn.Reining@gov.bc.ca)  
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For general information, contact: 250-356-1718 | [BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca)  
BC Arts Council office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Pacific Time), Monday to Friday.

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**Program guidelines are reviewed and updated annually.**

Be sure you are working with the most current guidelines for each intake.

Updates to guidelines made after the grant program opens will be highlighted.

## 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 pay our respects to the Elders and Knowledge Keepers, past and present, descendants and custodians of these lands and waters. We are grateful for the continuing relationships with Indigenous people that develop through our work together. We acknowledge and raise our hands to the lək'wəŋən (Lkwungen) people, known today as the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Kosapsum) Esquimalt Nations, on whose lands we operate our main offices.

## About Project Assistance: Professional Arts Festivals

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**Project Assistance: Professional Arts Festivals** supports eligible organizations and arts or curatorial collectives in the development, enrichment, and creation of new or unique public programming **through a specific project, component, or programming initiative within an existing festival**.

A festival is an event of **two or more consecutive days** that includes related arts and culture activities and programming. Grants received through this program are intended to encourage specific art forms or practices, increase the availability of arts in the community, and support the artistic programming of festivals.

**\*\*Grants are not available through this program to support a festival in its entirety, or festivals being offered for the first time, or single-day festivals. These activities may be supported through other Project Assistance grant programs.\*\***

Community arts organizations, for example, community arts councils, are not eligible for this program. Community arts organizations that produce festivals should apply to the [Project Assistance: Community Arts Festivals](#) program.

## Examples of Eligible Projects

You are encouraged to discuss the eligibility of your project with a Program Advisor before applying. Applications for projects that do not meet the eligibility criteria in these guidelines will not be forwarded for assessment.

BC Arts Council project assistance grant programs provide **one-time grants for specific projects**. Project grants are not meant to cover operating or ongoing expenses.

Applications requesting funds for a **specific project within a festival** should clearly describe the project and discuss how the project fits within the overall festival.

**Examples of a *specific project* include but are not limited to:**

- A visual arts exhibition within a multidisciplinary festival.
- A specific screening series with B.C. filmmakers within a Media Arts festival.
- A series of writing workshops for emerging novelists within a larger literary festival.
- A showcase for young audiences within a music festival.

Applications requesting funds for a **specific programming expense or component** should clearly describe the importance or relevance of that component to the overall festival and describe in detail how it fits within the overall context of the festival.

**Examples of a *specific component* include but are not limited to:**

- Artist fees for performing and contributing artists as a component of overall festival expenses.

- Expenses related to accessibility and accessible programming.
- Fees for Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

**Examples of activities that are not eligible for support include:**

- Festivals in their entirety.
- Festivals being offered for the first time, and single-day festivals (these activities may be supported through discipline-specific project grant programs).
- General operating expenses and activities, ongoing expenses, or annual suites of programming, unless the entirety of an organization's activities are producing and presenting a single festival in a year.
- General marketing expenses as a primary focus of activities.
- Equipment and capital asset purchases or maintenance expenses.
- Projects or activities that do not involve or benefit artists or arts and culture practitioners.
- Projects or activities that do not have a clearly defined arts and culture focus.

### Required artist compensation within project activities

Eligible projects must include appropriate payment to the artists, arts and culture practitioners, and other members of the project team engaged in the proposed activities. At a minimum, payments to artists should be at the recommended rates set by the relevant arts service organization, professional association, or by established practitioners within the field of practice. Payment structures that are not guaranteed, or that risk low or non-payment to artists do not meet this compensation requirement (for example, commission-based sales of artworks, percentage of door sales).

**RESOURCES:** The following links provide guidelines on what artists should be paid for their copyright and other professional services.

CARFAC (Canadian Artists' Representation / Le Front des artistes canadiens) <https://www.carfac.ca/>

CAEA (Canadian Actors Equity Association) <https://www.caea.com/>

CFM (Canadian Federation of Musicians) <https://cfmusicians.afm.org/>

CADA (Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists) <https://cadawest.org/>

IMAA (Independent Media Arts Alliance) <https://www.imaa.ca/>

IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) <https://iatse.net/>

**UBCP-ACTRA Minimum Rate Sheet** provides guidelines on what screen performers and talent should be paid for their days on a production.

### Compensation to Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Applicants can determine compensation to Elders and Knowledge Keepers according to community context and appropriate protocols. Applicants should describe the approach used to determine the fair rate in their application.

**RESOURCE:** The First Peoples' Culture Council **Working with Elders** document was developed as a free resource to support anyone interested in engaging with Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

### Exclusions - What Will Not Be Funded

**Grants are not available to support:**

- Project phases or activities that begin prior to the application closing date.

- Projects or activities that are not based upon artistic or curatorial decision making, or where arts and culture is not the primary focus.
- Projects or activities that are primarily intended for or focussed within creative industries or commercial sector (with the exception of book publishers), including architecture, commercial fashion design, commercial film and television, screenwriting, commercial music activities, culinary arts, games, sports, recreation, mass media, journalism, podcasts, graphic design
- Activities that require payment from artists to participate without compensation; fundraising activities; conferences and conventions; family, religious, anniversary, or community celebrations.
- Contests and competitions, except if competition is integral to the art form or cultural practice, for example: hip-hop and street dance, rap battles, poetry slams, powwows.
- Podcasts and radio programming that are not embedded within established artistic practice or specifically dedicated to the dissemination of artistic works.
- Projects where arts therapy, health or therapeutic work is the primary project focus or outcome.
- Projects that are focused on professional development or arts education.
- Curriculum-based activities or projects, including those related to continuing education or post-secondary programs (except in the case of professional arts training organizations)
- Projects or activities that do not involve or benefit artists or arts and culture practitioners.
- Activities already funded through other BC Arts Council grant programs.
- Activities funded with BC Arts Council funds received through third-party delivery partners: ArtStarts, First Peoples' Cultural Council, BC Live Performance Network, or Creative BC

**Grants are also not available to support the following expenses:**

- Operating expenses
- [Capital expenses](#) (for example, construction, renovation, or purchase of property)
- Equipment purchases over \$2,500
- [Subsistence](#) (living costs) paid to artists or arts and culture practitioners
- Feasibility studies, start-up costs, or seed money
- Project deficits, budget deficits or contingency funds

## Project Budgets

**For all applications, project budgets should **only include expenses and revenues related to the specific project, or programming initiative** identified within the written application.**

Applications requesting funds for a specific expense or component can include other directly related amounts in the project budget. For example, a request for artist fees should also include any related travel, accommodations, protocols, hospitality, or accessibility expenses.

**Do not include your organization's entire operating budget or a budget for the festival in its entirety as the project budget.** See specific instructions in [What is Needed for the Application](#) section below.

## Grant Amounts

**Maximum funding amount is \$25,000.**

Applicants may request:

- a grant up to 50% of the total eligible project budget; OR
- a grant up to 65% of the total eligible project budget from applicants that are considered part of the BC Arts Council's [designated priority groups](#).

Applicant contributions to the project budget can include both cash and in-kind contributions.

We encourage you to submit a realistic budget outlining the funds required to feasibly carry out the project. BC Arts Council intends to support successful applications at 100% of the request. However, in some cases grants may be awarded for less than requested.

BC Arts Council grant programs are highly competitive, and we are not able to support all eligible projects. Success rates in BC Arts Council grant programs are generally between 20% to 40%. Visit the [BC Arts Council Grant Recipients](#) page to review a list of successful applicants.

## Who Can Apply

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New applicants are encouraged to discuss eligibility with a Program Advisor before applying. Applications from organizations or collectives that do not meet eligibility criteria in these guidelines will not be forwarded for assessment.

## Organization Eligibility

**To be eligible, an organization must be:**

- A **professional arts and culture organization** 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 board members based in B.C.
  - Creative control and decision making for programming and engagement primarily maintained within the organization and by leadership based in B.C.
  - A purpose or mandate dedicated to arts and culture programming and activities.or
  - A purpose or mandate to provide services to the arts and culture sector in B.C.
  - Operations and activities that reflect this dedicated purpose or mandate.

**OR**

- An **Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) community organization** 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 board members based in B.C.
  - A commitment to offering regular arts and culture activities.

**OR**

- An **Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) government** in B.C. that offers regular arts and culture activities.

**OR**

- A **professional arts and culture organization** operated by a local government in B.C. for at least one fiscal year prior to application, that:
  - Maintains an ongoing arm's length, community-based board of management or advisory structure that sets policy for the organization's programs and services.
  - Holds a dedicated programming space and has at least one dedicated staff person in an artistic, curatorial, or administrative leadership position who is responsible for programming and engagement.

- Offers ongoing public programming by arts and culture practitioners.
- Primarily operates with autonomy, holding creative control and decision making for programming and engagement within the organization, with separate financial records for operations. See Financial Statement Requirements section below for more detail.

**OR**

- A **professional arts and culture organization** operated by a public post-secondary institution in B.C. for at least one fiscal year prior to application, that:
  - Holds a dedicated programming space and has at least one dedicated staff person in an artistic, curatorial, or administrative leadership position who is responsible for programming and engagement.
  - Offers ongoing public programming by arts and culture practitioners, the majority of which is not programming of faculty or student works.
  - Primarily operates with autonomy, outside of curriculum, holding creative control and decision making for programming and engagement within the organization, with separate financial records for operations. See Financial Statement Requirements section below for more detail.

**An eligible organization must also:**

- **Not currently receive Operating Assistance Program grants from the BC Arts Council.**
- Provide public arts and culture programming (or service to the arts and culture sector) in B.C., as a primary activity, and have done so for a minimum of one year prior to the application closing date.
- Offer programs that benefit the community at-large and not solely the interests of its nonprofit society members.
- Engage and compensate artistic, curatorial, and administrative leadership for project or service delivery.
- Fairly compensate artists, arts and culture practitioners, technicians, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers. Compensation must align with project context and industry standards within the field of practice.
- Follow international intellectual property rights standards and cultural ownership protocols.
- Follow 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 have any overdue final reports on previous BC Arts Council grants.

**Arts or Curatorial Collective Eligibility****To be eligible, an Arts or Curatorial Collective must:**

- Be established and readily identified as a collective of a minimum of 3 independent artists, curators, or arts and culture practitioners who are active in their field of practice and who meet the criteria below. NOTE: The collective may include additional members who do not meet the criteria below as long as at least 3 eligible core members have been identified and meet the following:
  - Have a minimum of two years of practice in their field following basic training, with roles that hold creative control of projects.
  - Have a demonstrated body of previous work as an individual practitioner, including at least one public presentation of work for which an artist fee or equivalent was received.
  - 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. At a minimum, the collective must have:

- A demonstrated body of previous work by current members of the collective.
- At least one public presentation of work by the current collective, for which artist fees or equivalent were received.
- Intention to continue working together with current members as a collective on future projects.
- Apply under the name of an individual member of the collective who acts as the key contact person and is listed as the submitting representative or “Primary Contact” within the online grant system. **If the application is successful, this person will:**
  - Be responsible for submitting the final report.
- Designate a member of the collective as Payee who is registered with an Individual Practitioner account. Their name and email address (that is associated with their system account) must be listed in the application. **If the application is successful, this person will:**
  - Receive payment of the grant on behalf of the collective.
  - Be issued a T4A for the full grant amount.

**An eligible Arts or Curatorial Collective must also:**

- Engage and compensate artistic, curatorial, and administrative leadership for project or service delivery.
- Not be applying on behalf of the activities of a for-profit business.
- Offer programs that benefit the community at-large and not solely the interests of the collective’s members.
- Fairly compensate artists, arts and culture practitioners, technicians, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers. Compensation must align with project context and industry standards within the field of practice.
- Follow international intellectual property rights standards and cultural ownership protocols.
- Follow 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 have any overdue final reports on previous BC Arts Council grants.

## Ineligible Applicants

The following types of organizations are **not** eligible to apply for this grant:

- Organizations currently receiving BC Arts Council Operating Assistance Program grants.
- Arts and culture organizations eligible within BC Arts Council Community Arts Organization grant programs.
- Organizations or collectives applying on behalf of a private or for-profit entity such as a registered business or sole proprietorship (except in the case of for-profit book publishing companies).
- Collectives with less than 3 members or ad hoc collectives. These types of collectives may be eligible to apply to Individual Arts Grant programs for a collaborative project.
- Member-funded societies
- Social service organizations
- Industrial sites, archaeological sites, heritage sites, or historic places
- Organizations dedicated to archives.

## When and How to Apply

Submit your application through the [online grant system](#).

**Applications – Open:** September 3 | **Close:** October 22 | **Results:** early February 2026

**Applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time) on Wednesday, October 22, 2025.**

Organizations and collectives may submit only one application to this grant program per intake.

**New applicants:**

- Register and create a profile in the online system to access the online application. Instructions are on our website: [How to Apply Online](#).
- We recommend you register at least 2 weeks before the application closing date.
- **Additional information may be requested in order to process registration requests. Register early to avoid delays.**
- It may take up to 5 business days to process your registration request after we have received all required documents.
- Add the email address **NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca** to your safe senders list and check your spam folders.

You will receive an email when your registration request is approved. Once approved, you will be able to create your profile and access the online application.

**All applicants:**

- Once you are registered in the online system, you will be able to access the online application.
- We encourage you to read through these guidelines to make sure your organization and activities are eligible before you apply. Contact a Program Advisor if you have questions.

**Registration questions?** Contact [BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca) or 250-356-1718 for registration assistance. The BC Arts Council office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

### Accessibility Support

Organizations with a primary purpose to serve D/deaf or disability arts practices, or collectives led by individual artists or arts and culture practitioners who self-identify as D/deaf or disabled, may be eligible for the BC Arts Council's accessibility support programs.

**Application Assistance** pays for support services for creating and submitting grant applications.

**Access Support** provides additional funding for access costs related to 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 the scope of a project. Accessibility requests are confidential and will not be part of the assessment panel's evaluation of a grant application.

For more information or to request assistance, contact:

**Clayton Baraniuk, Accessibility Coordinator at 250-978-9839 or [BCACaccess@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCACaccess@gov.bc.ca)**

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

### What is Needed for the Application

You are responsible for submitting a complete application. You will not be contacted to address errors or missing requirements. Eligible applications are assessed as submitted.

As part of our commitment to accessibility, the BC Arts Council is now accepting parts of applications in audio and sign language formats. See instructions within the application.

An application checklist is included at the end of these guidelines.

**A complete application must include:**

- Details outlining the proposed project including:
  - Summary of the proposed project with rationale, objectives, and outcomes.
  - Project Start Date (which must be after the application closing date) and a realistic Project End Date.
  - Detailed project timeline or work plan.  
**Note: Notification of results is generally 16 weeks after the intake closing date so plan accordingly if your project is dependent on this grant funding.**
  - Completed Project Team Table, including name, responsibility, current location, confirmation of participation, and 100-word biography for each member of the project's team.
- Balanced project budget.
- All required support material as listed below.

**Required Support Material – All Applicants**

Review and follow the [Upload Requirements for Support Material](#) before uploading support material to your online application.

Only submit support material that is related to your proposed activities. Do not submit any additional support material outside of what is required below. Excess support material, including multiple links to materials within a single uploaded document, will not be reviewed and may negatively impact the assessment of your application.

You are encouraged to test all materials before submitting your application.

**Required support material for this application includes:**

- An operating budget for the fiscal year in which the project takes place (organizations only)
- Letters from up to two project partners or collaborators (as applicable) confirming the nature of their participation in the proposed project (maximum two letters, one page each). **Do not include general letters of support.**
- The program from your most recent festival (as URL or PDF).
- Examples of work related to the proposed project, **up to a maximum of:**
  - **5 images**
  - OR
  - **5 minutes total of video or audio**, noting timecodes of specific excerpts to be viewed (if applicable)
  - OR
  - **3 pages of critical writing or documentation.** Do not submit testimonials or reference letters.

NOTE: You may submit a combination of the above types of examples to best serve your application. Total examples must not exceed the maximum amount allowed in a single format (for example, 3 images and 2 minutes of video can be submitted). Contact a Program Advisor with questions about the maximum amount of support materials.
- Completed Inventory Form (available in the online application). Use this form to list information about the image, video, audio, or text files you are uploading.

**Applicants who have not previously received funding through this grant program must also submit:**

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

## Online Profile Updates and Uploads Required from Organizations

### Before you apply, you must update your online Organization Profile with the following:

- Current list of the organization's board of directors, editorial advisory board, trustees, or board of management, including their board position, occupation/expertise, start date, and place of residence.
- Current list of administrative, artistic, or editorial staff and significant contractors, including name, position, place of residence, and employment status (for example, permanent or part-time).
- **Do not include by-laws.**
- Required upload(s):
  - **For non-profit societies:** a PDF copy of the organization's certified constitution.
  - **For extraprovincial non-share corporations:** PDF copies of the organization's official Certificate of Incorporation under the Canada Not-for profit Corporations Act, Form 4001 Articles of Incorporation, and bylaws.
  - **For community service cooperative associations:** a PDF copy of the organization's certified Memorandum of Association and Rules.
  - **For all other applicants,** a statement of the primary purpose of the organization
- Completed Designated Priority Groups information section (required for funding prioritization).
- Answers in the Equity Data Tool that are relevant to your organization (required for funding prioritization). You are not required to answer every question.
- Signed financial statements for your **two** most recent completed fiscal years. See details below.

## Online Profile Updates Required from Collectives

### Before you apply, you must update your online Organization Profile with the following:

- Current mailing address and primary contact information.
- Shared purpose, creative goal, or mandate of your collective.
- Current list of Collective Members including name, example of previous work, place of residence, and length of time in collective.
- Completed Designated Priority Groups information section (required for funding prioritization).
- Answers in the Equity Data Tool that are relevant to your collective (required for funding prioritization). You are not required to answer every question.

## Financial Statement Requirements

All organizations (except collectives) must upload to their online profile signed financial statements for their **two** most recent completed fiscal years.

**Following standard accounting formatting, financial statements should include comparative information for the prior fiscal year.** If a comparative year is not included within a single set of statements, then ensure a set of financial statements for each year has been uploaded to your profile.

### Not-for-profit organization financial statements, including those internally prepared, must include:

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

**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.
- A signature of the umbrella organization's financial officer.

- Notes indicating if the applicant entity may accrue assets, surpluses, or deficits from one year to the next.
- An itemized list of grants received that are related to the applicant, not the entire umbrella organization, and identified by funder, either in the income statement or attached schedule.

Note: Balance sheets and/or ledgers alone are not considered complete financial statements.

**RESOURCE:** Samples of a Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expense Statement (Income Statement) is available through [Community Gaming Grants application resources, under Example Documents](#). **The type of financial statements that are required are outlined in the chart below.**

NOTE: 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.

If you did not receive an applicable grant in the previous two fiscal years, internally prepared financial statements are acceptable.

BC Arts Council 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) | Type of Financial Statements Required                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| \$0 to \$15,000                                        | Internally prepared financial statements                                                              |
| \$15,001 - \$40,000                                    | Independently prepared financial statements:<br><b>Notice to Reader/Compilation Engagement Report</b> |
| \$40,001 - \$100,000                                   | Independently prepared financial statements:<br><b>Review Engagement</b>                              |
| Greater than \$100,000                                 | Independently prepared financial statements: <b>Audit</b>                                             |

## How Decisions Are Made

### Assessment Process

The following process is used to evaluate every application to this grant program:

- The BC Arts Council receives applications and reviews each one for eligibility.
- Eligible applications are forwarded to independent peer assessment panels.
- Assessment panels include individuals with broad artistic knowledge, experience, geographical representation, and diverse aesthetic, institutional, and cultural viewpoints, including those from Indigenous perspectives.
- Assessment panels evaluate eligible applications using the assessment criteria above and determine the level of funding and any conditions on payment of grants.
- Funding prioritization may be applied to applicants considered part of a designated priority group.
- The BC Arts Council informs each applicant of the assessment panel's decision in writing.
- Applicants may check the status of their application at any time through the online system.
- All results are final.

## Designated Priority Groups

The BC Arts Council has committed to targeted investment in underserved and equity-deserving organizations and the development of equity support initiatives, including a policy to support [designated priority groups](#). These identified groups will be the focus of BC Arts Council strategic measures, through dedicated programs, funding prioritization processes, partnerships, and outreach.

The BC Arts Council's designated priority groups include applicants and arts and culture practitioners who are:

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

Identifying as a designated priority group means the majority of your activities, programming, and financial and human resources are dedicated to one of the groups listed above. This may be demonstrated in one or more of the following areas: purpose statement, practices, practitioners, staffing, leadership, and engagement.

If your organization or collective would like to be considered for strategic measures including priority funding under the Designated Priority Groups policy, you must complete the Designated Priority Groups and Equity Data Tool sections in your online Organization Profile.

## Assessment Criteria

**The assessment criteria are the primary lens through which the assessment panel will review and score your application.**

The [Extending Foundations: Action Plan for 2022-2024](#) includes the BC Arts Council's commitment to placing reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion, and access at the centre of its activities with the intention to address historic funding inequities. Equity considerations are embedded throughout the assessment criteria and the assessment process.

Keep these criteria in mind as you complete your application. Some of the specific points listed below may not apply to your project. However, your application should clearly explain how the proposed project generally addresses each area of assessment.

**Your application will be evaluated by a peer assessment panel based on the following criteria:**

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

The assessment panel will evaluate how the project aligns with the priorities of the BC Arts Council as outlined in the [Extending Foundations Action Plan](#) 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).
- The significance of the project in pursuing equity, diversity, inclusion, and access as relative to the applicant's context, including its region, capacity, community served, available resources, purpose, and mandate.

- The level of accessibility and safety of engagement, including but not limited to physical spaces, intellectual accessibility, cultural and emotional safety, affordability, and support for those who experience barriers or disability.

### 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:

- How clearly the applicant can identify the communities it serves.
- The relevance of the project to the communities the applicant serves, as demonstrated through programming, audience development, outreach, editorial, or curatorial choices.
- 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.
- The impact on, and contribution to, the development of B.C. artists, arts and culture practitioners, and artistic communities (as applicable).
- Integrity of the project including ethical approaches to:
  - Research, collaborative processes, source materials, cultural considerations, and protocols.
  - Engagement with Indigenous people, communities, practices, materials, beliefs.
  - Meaningful contribution to equity-deserving and under-represented artistic practices, arts practitioners, and cultural communities.
  - Following appropriate practices and protocols to eliminate cultural appropriation.

### FEASIBILITY (30%)

The assessment panel will evaluate the project's feasibility based on 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 leadership, including artistic leadership, management, and the board (as applicable) in fostering a healthy, sustainable work environment.
- The applicant's level of experience in realizing comparable projects.
- Rigour of human resources practices related to providing fair pay, equitable employment, cultural competency, cultural safety, and a safe and respectful work environment.

### Notification of Results and Feedback

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The BC Arts Council intends to inform each applicant of the assessment process results approximately **16 weeks after the application closing date**.

Notification is sent by email to the primary contact linked to the application.

Emails are sent through the online system. Be sure the email address **NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca** is on your safe sender list.

Results will not be shared before the official notification letters are sent.

Contact a Program Advisor for feedback on the assessment of your application after you have received notification of the results.

### Payment of Grants and Reporting Requirements

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Grant 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.
- Makes 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 will be paid by cheque and sent to the mailing address listed in the individual or organization profile in the online system unless registered for direct deposit.

**Grants are taxable income and must be reported.** Individuals receiving grants on their own behalf or on behalf of a collective are issued T4As for the year the grant payment is processed.

### Final Reports

Grant recipients must submit a final report of the completed project to the BC Arts Council within 30 days of the Project End Date stated in the application.

Final Reports must be submitted through the online system.

Future applications from the applicant to BC Arts Council grant programs will not be accepted if reporting requirements are not met.

### Recognition of Grants

In recognition of grant funding, the support of the BC Arts Council and the Province 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.

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

### 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 grant recipients may be published, along with the amount of the grant, in the Annual Report of the BC Arts Council as well as in various communications and promotional vehicles of the BC Arts Council and Province of British Columbia. Social Insurance Numbers are provided to Canada Revenue Agency through the issuance of T4As.

### About the BC Arts Council

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The BC Arts Council is an agency of the Province of British Columbia under the Arts Council Act, nurturing and supporting arts and culture activity in communities across British Columbia. 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 BC Arts Council conducts its operations and funding activities in accordance with legislation and other guiding documents 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](#).

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.

## Project Assistance: Professional Arts Festivals - Application Checklist

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Be sure you have included or completed the following before you submit your application.

### Before you apply:

Plan to submit your complete application at least two days before the deadline to avoid last-minute technological issues.

- ❑ **New applicants:** Register in the BC Arts Council online system to gain access to the online application. **Registration requests can take up to 5 business days to process.**
- ❑ **Existing applicants:** [Complete all required updates to your Organization or Collective profile](#)
- ❑ Ensure you have completed and submitted any overdue final reports for previous BC Arts Council grants.
- ❑ Review the Program Guidelines and Application Preview on the [BC Arts Council website](#) for specific requirements for this program.

### In your application:

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Be sure to read all information outlined in the grey text boxes on the online application, which includes instructions, suggestions, and criteria considerations.

- ❑ Complete each section and answer all questions that are applicable to your project. Questions with the **red \*** are mandatory.
- ❑ Ensure your Project Start Date is after the intake closing date; include a realistic Project End Date.
- ❑ Clearly describe your project, including who is involved, which component or project is being funded, how it will impact your organization and the arts sector, and how it will happen.
- ❑ Try to be as clear as possible and fully respond to each question. Use of short, clear sentences, or point form is encouraged.
- ❑ Upload a detailed project timeline or work plan that includes significant milestones and/or benchmarks. Add details wherever possible and identify which activities will be covered under this grant if there are multiple phases.

### Pop-out forms to complete in the application:

Make sure you open and complete the pop-up forms within the application.

- ❑ Project Team Table, including name, responsibility, current location, confirmation of participation, and 100-word biography for each member of the project's team.
- ❑ Project Budget (see below for details).
- ❑ Inventory Form on the Support Material tab, including details about the uploaded media files or URL links.

### Budget pop-out:

Use the Project Budget Table provided in the application to submit a balanced budget.

- ❑ Include all expenses and revenues described within the Project Information tab.
  - For specific projects, include budget for that project only, not the full festival
  - For component applications, include budget for the whole festival and make sure to indicate which component of the budget you're requesting funding for
- ❑ Include detailed notes for each expense. It should be clear which expenses are covered by the request to this program. Break down any large expenses, where possible.
- ❑ Ensure any ineligible expenses listed within program guidelines are covered by other revenue sources.

- ❑ Indicate whether revenues are confirmed or pending. For pending revenues, note if you have previously received this funding in the past.
- ❑ Balance in-kind revenues with in-kind expenses.
- ❑ Make sure Amount Requested in the application matches the requested amount in the Project Budget Table.

### Support material to upload:

Information and materials included on the Support Material tab should directly relate to and support the project for which you are seeking funding. The operating budget and letters contribute towards demonstrating feasibility and support for the project.

- ❑ Letters from partners or collaborators, if applicable, confirming the nature of their participation (maximum two letters, one page each – as applicable).
- ❑ An operating budget for the fiscal year in which the project takes place (organizations only).
- ❑ **Applicants who have not previously received funding through this grant program must also submit:** two letters of reference from established arts and culture practitioners familiar with the applicant's work, who are not directly involved in this project.

### Examples of previous work:

Previous work samples should highlight the contribution, impact, and feasibility of the proposed project.

- ❑ Upload examples of previous work relevant to the proposed project, up to the maximums listed in the guidelines and application form.
- ❑ Complete the Inventory Table to provide details about the image, video, audio, or text files you are uploading.

### Before you submit your application

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Ensure you have not submitted material beyond what is requested. Excess material, including multiple links to materials within a single uploaded document, will not be reviewed and may negatively impact the assessment of your application.

- ❑ Review and proofread your application.
- ❑ Make sure you have uploaded all support material and test that all videos, audio clips and links are working.
- ❑ Ask a friend or trusted advisor to review your application for clarity, omissions, errors, etc.

### After you submit your application:

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- ❑ Be sure that [NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca](mailto:NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca) is included in your safe senders list. Notification of results will come from this system email roughly 16 weeks after the intake closing date.
- ❑ Keep your mailing address up to date in your online Organization Profile (or Personal Profile for the designated Collective Payee). Grant payments will be mailed to this address.
- ❑ Once you've received notification of results, contact a Program Advisor for feedback on the assessment of your application.